

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday – June 20, 2019
7:00 PM – Room A**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Highway Foreman John Navarro, Kevin Withers, Paul and Diane Miller, Dorothy Durst, Ruby Senkowski, Bungay Fire Brigade Chief Roy Chandler, Muddy Brook Volunteer Fire Department Chief Seth Spalding, Deputy Emergency Manager Joshua Bottone, Michael Dougherty, Tim Rainville, Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Chief Eric Young, Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Deputy Chief William Skene, Stu Morse and Lori Farrell

1. Call to Order: First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Alberts led the Board of Selectmen and member of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approve the Minutes of the June 6, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:
Selectmen Frank Olah made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 6, 2019 Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented. **Motion passed.**

4. Consider the Appointment of Ruby D. Senkowski as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term June 20, 2019 through March 31, 2022: Ms. Senkowski explained that she spent her career as an attorney, both in Florida and in Massachusetts. Before that she worked in public relations for both profit and non-profit companies. She retired to Woodstock two and half years ago, and she appreciates the rural character of Woodstock. Now that she has recouped her energy, she would like to join the Conservation Commission to help preserve that character.

Mr. Olah made a motion to appoint Ruby D. Senkowski as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission for the Term June 20, 2019 through March 31, 2022. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. Consider the Reappointment of Timothy Rainville as a Full Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Term of June 20, 2019 through June 19, 2024:
Selectmen Chandler Paquette asked Mr. Rainville if the WPCA had been able to determine if the rain infusion into the system was getting less. Mr. Rainville stated that the WPCA was still trying to determine where the water was getting into the system, and that they hoped to be able to get to the bottom of the issue without the need to hire a contractor to determine where the problem is.

Mr. Olah stated that he was impressed with the WPCA's volunteer commission members' dedication to their job.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to reappoint Timothy Rainville as a Full Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Term June 20, 2019 through June 19, 2024. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. Discuss CME Status Update on the Local Bridge Replacement: Highway John Navarro stated that he has received a tentative schedule for the bridge replacements from Pete Parent from CME. CME hopes to have 30% of the design plans submitted to the State by late July, and to begin construction in Spring of 2020. Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick is comfortable with beginning the bond or bond in anticipation note process in December of 2019.

Mr. Navarro stated that Peake Brook Road will be the first bridge to be started. The bridge will be partially open during the demolition process and closed during the replacement. will be at an The Town of Putnam will be working on a bridge near the Peake Brook Road bridge at the same time that work will be done on the Peake Brook Road bridge, but he does not think this will prove to be a problem with people who are familiar with the area. He can possibly work on the Hopkins Road bridge at the same time. County Road will be the last of the bridges to be done.

7. Discuss QV Radio/Communications Issues: Bungay Fire Brigade Chief Roy Chandler and Deputy Emergency Management Director Josh Bottone stated that there is still a problem with communications in the Bungay area, and that Quinebaug Valley Dispatch has done nothing to correct this problem, though they promised to look into and correct this problem by last Fall. Both stated that QV is slow to respond to complaints, if they respond at all, and that they often respond with an "attitude".

Muddy Brook Volunteer Fire Department Chief Seth Spalding stated that his department sometimes has trouble with communications, but they do not seem to have the issues that Bungay does. His biggest complaint at this moment is that QV has over-ridden his standing order on how to handle motor vehicle accidents. He has instructed QV that all motor vehicle accidents be treated as a Priority 1 situation, and that an ambulance should always be dispatched. This order has repeatedly been ignored. An EMT responding to the scene needs to be the person making decisions about the condition of the patient's condition not someone by phone. Mr. Spalding feels that if his membership voted again as to whether to stay or leave QV, Mr. Spalding believed that the membership would vote to leave.

Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Chief Eric Young and Deputy Fire Marshall William Skene, who is a member of the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department, stated that the only time the department has communications issues is when the department is assisting other departments. Both agreed that QV should not be overriding a fire chief's standing order.

The Board of Selectmen were quite concerned about the continuing problems between the fire departments and QV, and disappointed that QV has not followed through with promises made last year at the meeting held about this issue. It was decided to invite the management of QV

Dispatch to attend the July 19th Regular Board of Selectmen's meeting, and to have Town Attorney Richard Roberts review the contract to see if there is a method to exit the contract early.

8. Tax Rebates: Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve a tax rebate to Nissan Infiniti LT in the amount of \$53.64 and to Nissan Infiniti LT in the amount of \$97.25. **Motion passed unanimously.**

9. Correspondence and Announcements: Correspondence from Troop D has been received apprising the Selectmen of monthly police services for the Town of Woodstock for the month of May.

Mr. Alberts forwarded correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to the High Foreman. This correspondence regarded the installation of pedestrian signs and pavement markings on roads. Once the State has completed this project the care and replacement of these signs is the responsibility of the Town.

Cheryl Stadig has resigned her position as Executive Administrator to the WPCA. She is however willing to keep her position as recording secretary for the commission.

Mr. Alberts shared a letter from Democratic Town Committee Chair Charles Super who would like to know what Woodstock has done and will do to protect the voting process from hacking and other threats. It was decided to invite the Registrar of Voters and the Town Committee chairs to a future Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss this issue.

The chairman of the Crystal Pond Park Commission has sent a memo regarding a timber harvest at the park. The commission will keep the Conservation Commission informed.

There was discussion among the Board and the audience about the many dead trees along the roadside. Mr. Alberts stated that at a recent meeting with the Governor the selectmen in attendance discussed this issue. The group asked that the Governor to make LOCIP funds more flexible, so that this issue could be addressed.

NECOGG sent in a report for the May, 2019 activities.

The Town Clerk's office sent a report detailing the fees received for the month of May.

NECOGG has released its "Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Enhancement Study", conducted by HG Holdsworth. Mr. Alberts stated that based on the aging demographic of the area population there would be more trips made to the hospital by ambulance. The study thought it would be most cost effective if the area regionalized the ambulance service. The study also stressed that this possibility should be researched now, and not in the future.

Mr. Alberts announced that he met with Jeffco, a company based in Webster, Massachusetts. They are interested in purchasing the Crabtree & Evelyn property.

10. citizens Comments: Lori Farrell owns a campsite at Meadowside Campground, and she approached the campground Board of Directors about holding Bingo games in the community center. The Meadowside Campground Board of Directors asked Ms. Farrell to gather any information on permits the Town or the State may require in order to have Bingo at the campground. Mr. Alberts explained that until recently the State of Connecticut regulated Bingo games, but that the State had recently turned that over to the Towns. Because Woodstock does not have an ordinance with regards to Bingo games, the Town must follow the State law. The State law governing Bingo games only allows non-profits to hold Bingo games. In speaking with Richard Roberts, the Town Attorney, Mr. Roberts suggested that an ordinance could be drafted to allow campgrounds to become permitted for Bingo games. It was the consensus of the Board to explore this option.

11. Other From Committee: None.

12. Adjournment: Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary