

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday – November 7, 2019
4:00 PM – Room A**

PRESENT: Michael Alberts, Frank Olah and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Miller, Kevin Withers, Victor Peabody, Linda Auger and others.

1. **Call to Order:** First Selectman Michael Alberts called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Alberts led the Board of Selectmen and members of the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Approve the Minutes of the October 17, 2019 and October 23, 2019 Special Board of Selectmen's Meetings:**

Motion was made by Chandler Paquette to **approve** the October 17 and October 23, 2019 Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes with one revision to the October 17 minutes. Specifically, page 6, 4th para., 2nd line: change date of November 11 to November 9 for the Hazardous Waste Day. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. **Consider the Appointment of Victor Peabody as a Full Member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agency for the Term November 7, 2019 through December 31, 2021:**
Select Board members thanked Mr. Peabody, who was present for the meeting, for offering to serve on the IWWA.

Motion was made by Frank Olah to **approve** the appointment of Victor Peabody as a full member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Agency for the term November 7, 2019 through December 31, 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. **Consider Tax Abatement Application for Dairy Farms and Fruit Orchards from Taylor Brooke Winery Effective with the Tax Year Beginning July 1, 2020 in the Amount of \$169.30:**

First Selectman Mike Alberts referenced Linda Auger's application for Dairy Farm Orchard Tax Abatement. He stated that Ms. Auger had provided evidence that Taylor Brooke Winery's operation qualifies under farms and fruit orchards. Once approved by the Board of Selectmen, the application will go before the Board of Finance for its consideration.

Motion was made by Frank Olah to **approve** the tax abatement application as submitted by Taylor Brooke Winery in the amount of \$169.30. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Annual Review of Bloodborne Pathogens Policy:**

First Selectman Alberts asked Office Manager Crystal Adams to provide a summary of the Bloodborne Pathogens Policy. Ms. Adams explained the annual review of the policy serves as a reminder to town employees to treat all blood and/or bodily fluids as potentially infectious. Annually, employees are made aware of the safety equipment locations within the town hall and are trained on the protocol. Custodian Walter Josephson has completed his annual training on the use

of the equipment. Ms. Adams completed the video training required, as well, and will serve as the back-up during normal business hours. It was recommended she print a copy of her certification. Highway Department staff are also made aware of the protocol and some of the staff are already trained as first responders. The Bloodborne Pathogens Policy is brought before the Board of Selectmen annually for its review and was duly noted for the record.

7. Tax Rebates: Mr. Alberts referenced items 1-4 relating to tax rebates. The list includes:

- #1 tax rebate to JP Morgan Chase Bank in the amount of \$71.59
- #2 tax rebate to Enterprise FM Trust in the amount of \$377.23
- #3 tax rebate to JP Morgan Chase Bank in the amount of \$85.56
- #4 tax rebate to Daniel P. Mahoney in the amount of \$449.45

Motion was made by Chandler Paquette to **approve** the tax rebates as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Correspondence and Announcements:

First Selectman Alberts referenced the NECCOG Animal Services Program Activity Report from July-October 18, 2019. Woodstock had 37 investigations, 16 adopted/redeemed animals, and 19 animals impounded. At the meeting, elected officials from the towns within NECCOG voted to move forward with a plan to acquire the shelter from the town of Killingly. Next steps is for a Purchase & Sales Agreement to be negotiated between Killingly and NECCOG, but the group approved financing through a traditional bank loan and it should end up being under \$300,000.

Selectman Alberts referenced the NECTD Ridership Activity Report from July-October 18, 2019. Ridership decreased from 12 in July to 4 in the first half of October. Thirty riders participated in all. Last, the Paramedic Intercept Program Activity Report from July-September 2019 indicates 58 intercept transports in Woodstock during that period.

Mr. Alberts shared an email from Eric Gould of Savage Systems who explained to town employees that email addresses changed to a new format. Staff email addresses have switched from role-based to name-based (firstname.lastname@woodstockct.gov), which will make it easier to identify senders and is a best practice for security and accountability reasons.

Crystal Adams provided a brief update on the town's website updates. Mr. Alberts shared that an unexpected expenditure occurred to help address an IT problem in the Treasurer's Office. This led to a review of the associated costs for the remainder of the year for the existing website. On Tuesday, Mr. Alberts will be asking the Board of Finance to authorize the BOS to over-expend this line item in an amount less than \$20,000 over budget. Once approved, the website contract will be signed for upgrades to begin with an expected launch date of 3-4 months thereafter.

Mr. Alberts was copied on correspondence from Woodstock Academy to the Woodstock Board of Education regarding the facility fee which was included in the tuition figure charged to member communities. Board of Finance Chairman, Mike Doherty, received a copy as well. The facility fee included in the 2020-2021 tuition rate will be reduced by \$5.00 per student. Additionally, WA has a \$4.5 million project to address the historical building. As a result, the facility fee will be set at \$500 per student for the 2021-2022 school year and will cover the capital project portion of the tuition.

A letter from the WA Head of School was received requesting the BOS re-propose the Bingo Ordinance which was recently defeated at a town meeting. The letter suggests that Family Related Effective Solutions for Humanity (FRESH), a student-run nonprofit operating out of the Woodstock Academy that works towards poverty relief and awareness in the Quiet Corner of CT, is one

organization which would have benefitted from the new ordinance. The town's legal counsel, Atty. Rich Roberts, commented on this topic from a reintroduction standpoint and offered that he is unaware of any legal or statutory prohibition that would prevent the bingo ordinance from being reintroduced for consideration at a future town meeting. As a result, this topic will be discussed at the next BOS meeting.

Mr. Alberts referenced the Town Clerk Receipts and stated that, in general, they are higher than last year at this time.

The Board of Selectmen received a letter from Iride Pearce who will resign from the Beautification Committee due to recently moving from her residence on Center School Road. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Ms. Pearce from the Board of Selectmen's Office.

Announcements shared included Hazardous Waste Day on November 9th and a Public Safety Forum with the CT State Police on November 19th.

9. **Citizens Comments:** Mr. Withers stated that the November 11th Ceremony, beginning at 11 am, has moved from the common to Palmer Auditorium.

Woodstock Agricultural Commission is hosting an annual event on November 12 in the town hall from 6:30-8:30 pm regarding climate change and the impact on agriculture.

10. **Other from Committee:** Chandler Paquette thanked Mike Alberts and Frank Olah for their service as members of the Select Board. Mr. Alberts and Mr. Olah echoed the sentiment. Mr. Paquette noted the Woodstock Volunteer Fire Department Toy Drive on November 11. They will be accepting new, unwrapped toys or monetary donations for children.

Mike Alberts met with a young man regarding a project he is working on at the intersection of Routes 169 and 171. Mr. Alberts felt the concept—a flashing sign erected on Route 171 from Putnam toward South Woodstock before the curve to serve as a visual alarm in lieu of erecting a stop light in that area—had potential. This was forwarded to Rep. Pat Boyd who will send it to District 2.

11. **Adjournment: Motion** was made by Frank Olah to **adjourn** the meeting at 4:35 pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Brown
Recording Secretary