

**Town of Woodstock
Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 16, 2020 – 4:00PM**

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order and social distancing guidelines recommended by the CDC, members of the Board of Selectmen participated in the meeting via ZOOM online.

MINUTES

PRESENT: John Swan, Gregory Kline and Chandler Paquette.

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Miller, Lee Wesler, Charlene Perkins Cutler, Jessica White, Dawn Adiletta, Megan Bard Morse, Crystal Adams, Karen Fitzpatrick and Stephen Maceroni

1. Call to Order: First Selectman John Swan called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

2. Approve the Minutes of the July 16, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:

Selectmen Chandler Paquette stated that under **Section 3 Update on Town Hall lobby renovations and protocols** the sentence that said that the renovations would be completed by the end of the week of June 6th, should be **July 6th**.

Selectmen Greg Kline stated that his draft Black Lives Matter statement should be included in the minutes:

D R A F T

The Woodstock Board of Selectmen wants all citizens to know that we support the sentiments behind the peaceful protests against racism and police brutality sweeping across our nation.

We firmly agree that black lives matter. Despite the fact that President Lincoln freed the slaves 155 years ago, systemic racism still exists.

So this is a test of us! We hope that moral, ethical and legal actions of citizens everywhere, backed by government leadership, will guide us to strengthen communities by eradicating racial injustice, hatred and violence.

Please contact us if you ever feel the need for assistance or guidance in these issues.

WOODSTOCK BOARD of SELECTMEN

Jay Swan, First Selectman
Chandler Paquette, Selectman
Greg Kline, Selectman

Mr. Kline made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 2, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider Request from Conservation Commission to Start a Facebook Page: Chairman of the Conservation Commission Lee Wesler stated that the Conservation Commission would like to have its own Facebook page. On that page the Commission plans to post what projects the Conservation Commission is working on and information on local programs and conferences that Woodstock residents may want to attend. Mr. Wesler assured that Board of Selectmen that the Facebook page would not be political and that the Conservation Committee would have the ability to take down inappropriate comments and block people who posted inappropriate content.

Mr. Swan informed the Board and the audience that the Town was drafting a social media policy for other Boards and Commissions who wish to start their own Facebook page, and once it was complete Mr. Swan would bring it to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the Conservation Commissions request to start a Facebook page. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. Consider the Appointment of the Jessica White as a Full Member of the Arboretum Committee for the Term of July 16, 2020 through November 16, 2021. Jessica White stated that she lives next door to the Arboretum and that she would like to help the Arboretum Committee to continue the hard work that it has done to keep the Arboretum a spot of beauty.

Mr. Swan made a motion to approve the appointment of Jessica White as a Full Member of the Arboretum for the Term of July 16, 2020 through November 16, 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.**

The Board thanked Ms. White for volunteering.

5. Consider the Appointment of Crystal Adams and Karen Fitzpatrick as Full Members of the Beautification Committee for the Term of July 16, 2020 through November 16, 2021:

Mr. Swan stated that Ms. Adams and Ms. Fitzpatrick, as well as their sons, volunteered to plant flowers on the south side of the Town Hall and they worked on the roses on the Woodstock Hill common. Ms. Fitzpatrick informed the Board that she and Ms. Adams take turns watering the new plants at the Town Hall during their lunch break and over the weekend.

Mr. Kline made a motion to approve the appointment of Crystal Adams and Karen Fitzpatrick as Full Members to the Beautification Committee for the Term of July 16, 2020 through November 16, 2021. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Ms. Adams and Ms. Fitzpatrick were thanked for their volunteer efforts.

6. Consider the Appointment of Charlene Cutler as Board of Finance Representative to the Open Space Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee for the Term of July 16, 2020 through November 16, 2021:

Mr. Paquette made a motion to approve the appointment of Charlene Cutler as the Board of Finance Representative to the Open Space Land Acquisition and Preservation Committee. **Motion passed unanimously.**

7. To Consider and act upon a resolution to authorize the issuance of bonds to refund in whole or in part the Town's outstanding \$2,415,000.00 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2010, Series A. (See Schedule A Attached)

**RESOLUTION OF WOODSTOCK BOARD OF SELECTMEN
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$1,500,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE TOWN'S \$2,415,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2010, SERIES A, AND RELATED COSTS**

BE IT RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Woodstock issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to be applied by the Town to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer of the Town, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$2,415,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2010, Series A, including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign the bonds by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(b) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. The Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(c) That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds.

(d) That the Selectmen, or a majority of them, and the Treasurer are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Town's \$2,415,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2010, Series A, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents, bond insurers and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(e) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2021.

Treasurer Karen Fitzpatrick and Steve Maceroni, a representative from Day Pitney, stated that this resolution allows the Town to take an existing public bond and convert it into a private bond. By doing this the Town would lower the interest rate from 4% to 2% or less, saving the Town \$100,000.00 in interest. It would also eliminate the need to file a disclosure statement each year with the State of Connecticut. Mr. Maceroni stated that the fees to accomplish this would be approximate \$43,000.00 and these fees would be rolled over into the bond. Because this is an existing bond it only needs to be approved by the Board of Selectmen and does not need to go to Town Meeting or Referendum.

Mr. Kline pointed out two errors. One is in Section A, the written dollar amount says One Million **Five Hundred** dollars and the figure in the parenthesis says **1,500,000.00**. Mr. Maceroni stated that it should be **One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars**, not One Million Five Hundred Dollars. These figures should agree.

Mr. Kline state that in section b third line down **moneys** should be spelled **monies**.

Mr. Kline made a motion to authorize the issuance of bonds not to exceed **One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars** to refund in whole or in part the Town's Outstanding \$2,415,000.00 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2010, Series A. **Motion passed unanimously.**

8. Tax Rebates: None.

9. Correspondence and Announcements: None.

10. Other from the Committee: Mr. Kline expressed his concerns about speeding trucks on New Sweden Road. He stated they were pickups, box trucks and the occasional tractor trailers. Concern was also raised that due to the speeding vehicles he had to occasionally go off the pavement onto the roadside area while walking. Frequently, these areas are covered in poison ivy and brambles. The issue of roadside mowing was brought up and how often it is done. Mr. Swan stated John Navarro, Highway Foreman had a regular schedule of mowing throughout Town, paying special attention to safety i.e. sight lines at intersections etc. Throughout the summer there is usually one man assigned for mowing specifically. During the next week and a half there will be two.

Mr. Kline had concerns regarding what steps were being taken by the film crew of the Hallmark movie to protect Woodstock residents from COVID-19, as well as migrant farm laborers arriving in the fall. Mr. Swan assured Mr. Kline that the film crew was following strict COVID-19 protocols. Mr. Paquette mentioned that the Department of Agriculture would also have strict guidelines for any migrant workers entering the United States.

11. Public Comments: Charlene Cutler stated that she was thrilled to be finally appointed to the Open Space Committee and was ready to start attending in meetings and participating in the committee.

Megan Bard Morse encouraged the Board of Selectmen to put together a strong Facebook page policy. She was concerned that anything posted by Municipal Boards and Commissions Facebook pages would fall under Freedom of Information guidelines.

12. Adjournment: Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:52pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,
Christine G. French
Recording Secretary

The link to the 6/16 meeting is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2BqtAkAQqM&t=2634s>