

**Town of Woodstock  
Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 17, 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:** Dawn Adiletta, Megan Bard Morse, Diane Miller and Paul Gohn

**1. Call to Order:** First Selectmen Jay Swan called the meeting to order at 4:02pm.

**2. Approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2020 Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting:** Selectmen Chandler Paquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Consider the Appointment of Paul Gohn as Member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Term of September 17, 2020 through June 19, 2025:** Paul Gohn stated that he lives in the sewer district and felt that it was important to have a resident of the sewer district as a member of the Authority.

Selectmen Greg Kline made a motion to appoint Paul Gohn to the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Term of September 17, 2020 through June 19, 2025. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Discuss Town Clerk's Office Needs for the General Election:** Mr. Swan stated that due to the COVID-19 the 2020 Presidential Election will be much different than Presidential Elections in the past, increasing the workload in the Town Clerk's Office. Four people have been hired on a part-time as needed basis to help with the significant increase in Absentee Ballot requests that is expected. Three of the people hired are currently part-time employees of the Town. The staff will work less than 29 hours a week and are being paid \$15.00 an hour. The employees will help with collating ballot sets, open mail, do data entry and operated the postage machine. The employees are aware that they may be asked to work during the evenings and on the weekends.

Mr. Swan and the Registrars of Voters met at the Woodstock Middle School with the Superintendents of Schools, the custodians and the Chief of the Constables to go over the logistics of holding the election at the Middle School. The election will be held in the gym. There will be access to the polls through the outside doors entering the gym, and there will be no other entry into the rest of the school. There will be one way into the parking lot of the school, and one way out of the parking lot. As the election draws closer there will be heavy advertising to make the voters of the Town aware of the change in the polling place.

Mr. Kline asked if the new employees were equally split between party affiliations. Mr. Swan stated that he did not ask the new hires what their party affiliations were.

**5. Tax Rebates:** None.

**6. Correspondence and Announcements:** The monthly activity report from State Police Barracks D has been received.

A letter from Jean Rocheleau was received resigning as a member of the Arboretum Committee.

Mr. Swan stated that he has been in communication with Richard Roberts, the Town Attorney, regarding the logistics of holding a Town Meeting in the near future to take care of such issues as the purchase of the development rights of Maple Crest Farm and amending ordinances. Mr. Roberts thought that if the meetings could be held at the Woodstock Middle School gym that social distancing protocols could be observed. Both Mr. Paquette and Mr. Kline felt that this would be a good idea to pursue.

**7. Public Comments:** Megan Bard Morse stated that she believed that no more than 25 people could gather at a meeting. Does the limit apply to a Town Meeting? Mr. Swan stated that Mr. Roberts believed that a Town Meeting did not fall under the 25 in person gathering guideline but that he would check with Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts felt that if a Town Meeting was conducted by Zoom that the Town could be in a position of being accused of disenfranchising people who qualify to vote at Town Meeting if they are unable to use a computer or phone into the Meeting. There would also be no way to ensure that the people who were voting on the topic were citizens qualified to vote at Town Meeting.

Mr. Swan also stated that the Governor's Executive Orders have been extended until November 9<sup>th</sup>, and some of the Executive Orders may carry on into February of 2021.

**8. Other from Committee:** Mr. Paquette stated that if Mr. Swan was sitting back in his chair and speaking the audio was difficult to hear. Mr. Swan said that he would try to sit closer to his computer when he spoke.

Mr. Kline stated that he has gotten many calls from people concerned about the advertising of a firing range on Rocky Hill Road. Mr. Swan stated that the person who placed the advertisement in the Shopper's Guide placed it to see if people in the area an interest have in having a firing range. If he gets enough interest, he plans to apply for a permit to run a shooting range.

**9. Adjournment:** Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine G. French  
Recording Secretary

**To watch the video of this meeting follow the link:**

[https://youtu.be/cS\\_nxeDnrjM](https://youtu.be/cS_nxeDnrjM)