

Town & Village of Woodstock
Select Board & Board of Trustees Joint Meeting
January 13, 2022
8:30 am
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Mary Riley, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Keri Cole, Joe Swanson, Chair Jeffrey Kahn, Seton McIlroy, Brenda Blakeman, Bill Corson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Wendy Marrinan, Randy Richardson, Devin Coleman, Roger Logan, Jon Spector, Police Chief Robbie Blish, Neal Leitner, Devon Kurtz, Zoie Parent, Alita Wilson, Phil Neuberg, Tim McCarthy, Elijah Lemieux

A. Call to order

1. Select Board

- a. Chair Riley called the Joint Meeting of January 13, 2022, to order at 8:30 am.

2. Trustees

- a. Chair Kahn called the Joint Meeting of January 13, 2022, to order at 8:30 am.

B. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

- 1. Addition – Approve financing for Town police cruiser

C. Old business

1. Park Manager

- a. They will look into grants or possible funding for this position. They may possibly try it as a volunteer position. Will be talked about further at future budget meeting.

2. Certified Local Government Ordinance

- a. Mr. Coleman stated that he is a State Architectural Historian at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. This State division handles historic preservation activities. One of the programs that he oversees is the Certified Local Government Program. This program is a federal program run by the National Park Service. This sets up a partnership between the National Park Service, the office at the State level and the local municipal historic preservation commissions to help put in place at the local level a preservation program. The strongest advocacy efforts for historic preservation and local history are at the local level.

- b. They will get more information and an idea of volunteer interest. This will be put on the next agendas for both Boards.

3. Approve Financing for Town Police Cruiser

- a. Chief Blish stated that the Town funds the cruiser through financing. It would be four annual payments for \$7,800 each. They received quotes from three different places. The lowest one was Mascoma Bank.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the financing of the Town Cruiser with Mascoma Bank for the fixed rate of 2.530% for 5 years.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

4. 1% Local Option Sales & Use Tax

- a. Chair Riley stated that she thinks they need to put it before the voters. It will cost nothing to put it on the ballot.
- b. Ms. Cole and Mr. Swanson are in agreement.
- c. Chair Kahn stated that he does not disagree that it needs to go before the voters. The question on the Trustee side has been about timing. He is concerned with educating the voters and giving them information to make a decision. He has received opposition from merchants and the leadership in the Chamber of Commerce. It is a big decision that affects a bunch a people for a long time period. He thinks they need more time. They want to know how much money they will be getting from infrastructure funds first.
- d. Mr. Bourgeois stated that this is the right opportunity to do this. They cannot rely on ARPA and infrastructure funds.
- e. Ms. Cole stated that no matter how much money they get from other sources of funding they still need this money. If they keep it off the ballot for another year, they will lose momentum.

Motion: by Mr. Swanson to approve putting the 1% Local Option Sales & Use Tax question on the Town ballot with the wording for the Town Warning to be decided at the next Select Board meeting.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Motion: by Mr. Corson to approve putting the 1% Local Option Sales & Use Tax question on the Village ballot with the wording for the Village Warning to be decided at the next Village Trustees meeting.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Discussion: Chair Kahn stated that he does not think the timing is right. He would like the Trustees to be in unison on this.

Ms. McIlroy stated that she is concerned about what the money will go towards. The voters need to understand where the money will go.

Vote: 2-2-0, not passed. (Ms. Blakeman for, Mr. Corson for, Chair Kahn against, Ms. McIlroy against).

D. New business

1. Budget discussion – will discuss during executive session.

E. Emerald Ash Borer Prevention Program

1. Mr. Bourgeois stated that the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Quechee. They have had a couple ash trees taken down locally that they do not know if they had ash borers in them. The procedure to treat them is to bore a hole in a tree and put in systematic pesticide to kill the larvae and beetles before they mature and start destroying trees. To do all the trees in the Village and some outlying trees will cost around \$30,000. They want to do them this spring to protect the trees. Towns that did not protect their trees saw their tourism take a big hit.
2. They will ask the EDC for an emergency loan so they can do this during spring.

F. Other business – none.

G. Executive session to discuss personnel

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to enter executive session at 10:41 am.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Motion: by Mr. Corson to enter executive session at 10:41 am.

Seconded: by Chair Kahn.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0-0, passed. Ms. Blakeman left the meeting.

Motion: by Chair Riley to allow the Town Manager to grant up to a 3% wage increase to employees.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed. Ms. Cole left the meeting.

Motion: by Chair Kahn to allow the Town Manager to grant up to a 3% wage increase to employees.

Seconded: by Mr. Corson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0-0, passed.

H. Adjournment

1. Select Board

Motion: by Mr. Doten to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 am.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. Trustees

Motion: by Ms. McIlroy to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 am.

Seconded: by Mr. Corson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0-0, passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Nikki Nourse