

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board Meeting
February 15, 2022
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Mary Riley, Ray Bourgeois, John Doten, Joe Swanson, William Kerbin, Nikki Nourse, Alita Wilson, Tess Hunter, Susan Ford, Roger Logan, Thomas McCaughey, Beth Finlayson, Bill Corson, Jill Davies, Karim Houry, Fred Hunt, Richard Kozlowski, Wendy Marrinan, Phillip Neuberg, Wendy Spector, David Green, Charlie Degener, Antonia Richie

A. Call to order

1. Chair Riley called the Select Board Meeting of February 15, 2022, to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Meeting protocols

1. Chair Riley discussed meeting protocols.

C. Town Hall Rejuvenation Committee Interviews

1. Fred Hunt

- a. Mr. Hunt stated that he is a big fan of Pentangle. Jon and Wendy Spector did a great job in keeping everyone aware of all the activities of the first committee. He moved here full time in 2003. His wife got a job at Pentangle as the Volunteer Coordinator. They got to know the building really well while working with Pentangle during all the events.

2. Richard Kozlowski

- a. Mr. Kozlowski stated that he and his wife moved to Woodstock in 2015. He has been working and involved here since 1997. He is fascinated with this project. He has a finance background.

3. Phillip Neuberg

- a. Mr. Neuberg stated that he is the Vice President of the Pentangle Board. He is an architect. He has four decades of experience in planning, design, construction, and restoration of performing arts but also higher education, scientific research, and public facilities. He works for the federal government in the Department of Commerce. He participated a fair bit with the leadership team before.

4. Thomas McCaughey

- a. Mr. McCaughey stated that he was on the Town Hall Rejuvenation Project Leadership Team for a number of months. He is on the Pentangle Board. He is the Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee. He has a key interest in making sure that we get this project going. The Town Hall as it is needs rejuvenation. There are three main priorities which are HVAC, ADA access, and new seating and to come up with an economical plan. They need to make sure they achieve Pentangle's and also the Town's goals. He is able to make the meetings anytime. It is a delicate task to try to make sure they can accomplish the goals at a reasonable cost.

5. Charlie Degener

- a. Mr. Degener stated that he has a unique perspective as a Woodstock resident with an interest in history and architecture but also as an elected official with a physical office in this building. He has worked in this building full-time since 2008. He has a background in historic preservation. He has training with historic buildings and architecture. He is most interested in working on the offices and community space.

6. David Green

- a. Mr. Green stated that he is fairly intimate with the Town Hall. This is a grand building in Woodstock. They need to ensure easy access to the public and their officials. They also have a wonderful partner, Pentangle. They need to ensure that they foster their feasibility and growth in the future. Making sure Pentangle and the municipal work run hand in hand should be a priority to this building's rejuvenation. He is knowledgeable in the permitting process. He would be a great asset. He would love to see this building restored and a place for Woodstock for another 150 years before it needs another rejuvenation.

7. Alita Wilson

- a. Ms. Wilson stated that she has worked at Pentangle for almost nine years. Having a nonprofit housed in a municipal building is different but they have a very collegial cooperative relationship. Times are changing. They need to look at ADA access and all of those things that they do not have.

D. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

- 1. Addition - Annual Road postings

E. Citizens comments - none.

F. Manager's report

1. General report

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that Cody Parkhurst has been hired as our new Wastewater Technician. He is replacing Tim Lynd's who has been promoted to Chief Wastewater Operator. Mr. Parkhurst has been our summer helper. He has done a wonderful job. He is going to continue to be a great asset to the team. The Town Employees Union negotiations continue. The Capital budget Committee met last Thursday night to discuss the Capital Budget presentation for the Informational Meeting. He had a meeting with Daniel's Construction and Hoyle Tanner. Daniel's is the proposed bidder for the South Woodstock Plant. They are hoping to start the project late spring, early summer. He reached out to Katie Buckley, the VLCT ARPA Coordinator and Congressman Welsh's office regarding the Carlton Hill slide to see what type of funding may be available. Good news is they can use ARPA funds for this. He is continuing to explore other funding options.

2. Financial report

- a. Mr. Kerbin discussed the financial report.

G. Permits

1. Parade Permit - Covered Bridges Half Marathon - CBHM Inc

- a. Chair Riley stated that this will happen on June 5th. They come through Woodstock by about 9:00 am. A lot of people visit. The race starts at Suicide Six. It comes through Woodstock through Route 12 and then towards Taftsville Covered Bridge on Old River Road.

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the parade permit for Covered Bridges Half Marathon as submitted by CBHM Inc.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. Overweight truck permits

a. J Hutchins Inc

- i. Mr. Doten stated that they have a 2 axle weight of 40,000. The max is supposed to be 36,000.

b. New England Quality Service Inc

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the overweight truck permit for J Hutchins Inc with the exception of the 2 axle trucks, and New England Quality Service Inc.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

H. New business

1. Resolution Certificate - EEI Vote

- a. Chair Riley stated that this refers to Article 23.
- b. Mr. Kerbin stated that this certificate is related to the EEI project. Although this is not a bond, because of the nature of the project they may have to get a loan, so they have to go through similar steps. They have to pass this resolution certificate and advertise the warning in the paper which is happening this week. This does not commit us to anything. This is up to the voters to decide.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the Resolution Certificate for the EEI Vote.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-1-0, passed. (Chair Riley for, Mr. Bourgeois for, Mr. Swanson for, Mr. Doten against)

2. Fire Department Union Contract

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that the contract has been negotiated and finalized.
- b. Chair Riley stated that this is a result of a vote of the members of the Fire Department some time ago. The contract has been under scrutiny and negotiation for some time. The firefighters and the Fire Department leaders have finally reached an agreement in their negotiation. They have approved the contract as it is written.
- c. Mr. Kerbin stated that the one difference is the health insurance. The contribution can be up to 15% for members. For the most part they pretty much followed the personnel policy.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the Fire Department Union Contract.

Seconded: by Chair Riley.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 3-0-1, passed. (Chair Riley for, Mr. Bourgeois for, Mr. Swanson for, Mr. Doten abstained)

3. Prepare for Informational Meeting

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Informational Meeting is Saturday, February 26th. It will take the place of their typical Town Meeting. It will be held at the same time on that Saturday morning at 10:00 am. It will be available by Zoom. They will have space in the theater so they can all be socially distanced. Everyone will be required to wear a mask throughout the meeting. Matt Maxham will be here to moderate the meeting and guide them through the Warning. They cannot change anything in the articles. They cannot vote. All of their voting is by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 1st unless you get an absentee ballot. The last opportunity to pick up an absentee ballot is Friday the 25th before 4:30 pm in the Town Clerk's Office.

4. Sewer billing clarification

- a. Mr. Kerbin stated that two years ago the Select Board decided to include a payment towards the bond. The difference between a single person rate is \$60.51 between FY21 and FY22. For a two person the difference is \$90.82. For a family the difference is \$121.10. The metered rate for FY21 was .1193 and for FY22 it is .1314. Without the bond payment included, the single rate increase was \$2.10. The two person was \$3.15. The family was \$4.21. The metered rate without the bond would have been .1197. The current billing is based on usage. It is not based on bedrooms. That will start on July 1st. They will go to a quarterly billing system. The \$96,300 was based on an assumption of what the bond payment would be. It was based on a 2.5% interest rate.

5. Hazard Mitigation Plan

- a. Chair Riley stated that this plan is for if they have an emergency that is town wide. For example, floods or hazard control and protection of infrastructures and facilities in the Town. It is a plan that had to be approved by the State and TRORC prepared it, sent it, received the response back from environmental protection, and they had a couple of minor changes to make. It is now ready for us to accept.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to accept the Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by TRORC.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

I. Other business

1. Annual Road posting

- a. Chair Riley stated that the Highway Department post roads as they get soft, and the thaw happens. This posting is good until May 15th for roads that need to be traveled over under certain restrictions during spring.

Motion: by Mr. Doten to approve the annual road posting in accordance with the statutes of the State of Vermont.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

J. Executive session to discuss appointments

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to enter executive discussion at 7:58 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

The Select Board left executive session at 8:06 pm.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to appoint the seven candidates that interviewed tonight for the Town Hall Rejuvenation Committee.

Seconded: by Chair Riley.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

K. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Swanson.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*