

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board Meeting
January 17, 2023
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Joe Swanson, Ray Bourgeois, Mary Riley, Keri Cole, Susan Ford, Tom Yennerell, Nikki Nourse, Tom Ayres, Benjamin Brickner, Roger Logan, Kathy Avellino, Larry Niles, Kelly Barger, Tess Hunter, Ruth Brisson, Patrick Proctor, Jon Spector, Todd Ulman, Tim McCarthy

A. Call to order

1. Chair Swanson called the Select Board Meeting of January 17, 2023, to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Citizen comments – none.

C. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda – none.

D. Manager’s report

1. General report

- a. Mr. Yennerell stated that they hired a new grader operator. Mr. Yennerell proved Mr. Bourgeois with a salary survey.

2. Financial report

- a. Mr. Yennerell stated that the Town is doing very good. They are under in a lot of categories.

E. New business

1. Town Report discussion

a. Cover

- i. Ice at Lincoln Covered Bridge

b. Dedication

- i. Leanne Tapley

2. Town Meeting discussion

- a. Chair Swanson stated that this will be in person in the auditorium. They can have Zoom for viewers, but participation is only from the floor.

3. EDC funding proposal for childcare

- a. Mr. Spector stated that there are four members of the Childcare Working Group that focused on childcare. Mr. Ulman led the group. The group also consisted of himself, Mr. Niles, and Mica Seely. Increasing childcare capacity is one of their five priorities. They agreed about a year ago to do fewer more impactful things. The proposal is for \$330,000 to create about 75 additional childcare space split between age 6 months to 3 years and afterschool programs. This would be for Woodstock Christian Child Care, Rainbow Playschool, The Community Campus, and Bridgewater Community Childcare. Rainbow Playschool is requesting \$140,000. Bridgewater Community Childcare is requesting \$100,000. 75% of users and the waitlist for Bridgewater Community Childcare are Woodstock residents. Rainbow and Bridgewater and for the younger childcare. WCCC and Community Campus

are offering afterschool programs. WCCC is requesting \$60,000. Community Camps is requesting \$30,000. The EDC will have more rigorous oversight program to monitor these projects.

- b. Mr. Bourgeois stated that he is concerned about funding a facility in Bridgewater.
- c. Ms. Cole stated that childcare is a critical need for our community. It is beneficial to Woodstock.
- d. Mr. Ulman stated that they need childcare for their economy.
- e. Mr. Logan stated that this would be a tremendous win for Woodstock.
- f. Mr. Ulman stated that the majority of Bridgewater's waitlist is from Woodstock residents or people who work in Woodstock.
- g. Mr. Yennerell stated that it is a good investment. He is just concerned if it is legal to invest Woodstock tax dollars on a facility in another town. He recommended speaking to a lawyer first.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to approve the EDC grants for Rainbow Playschool, WCCC, and the Community Campus, and table the grant for Bridgewater Community Childcare until they get a legal opinion.

Seconded: by Ms. Ford.

Discussion: Mr. Bourgeois stated that if it is legal, the EDC would come back to them and a vote would happen at that point.

Ms. Cole stated that she is in support of approving Bridgewater's funning as well. She would prefer a motion that said they would go ahead and approve them if it is indeed legal without the EDC having to come back to the Board.

Motion: by Ms. Cole to approve the EDC grants for Rainbow Playschool, WCCC, and the Community Campus, and if it is legal to do so approve the EDC grant for Bridgewater Community Campus.

First Motion Vote: 1-4-0, failed (Mr. Bourgeois for, Chair Swanson against, Ms. Riley against, Ms. Cole against, Ms. Ford against).

Seconded Motion Vote: 4-0-1, passed (Chair Swanson for, Ms. Riley for, Ms. Cole for, Ms. Ford for, Mr. Bourgeois abstained).

4. Consider replacing Listers with appointed Assessors

- a. Chair Swanson stated that it would be the same day to day operations but under a different title. They would not have to run for office. This seems like a good idea.
- b. Mr. Bourgeois stated that it makes sense to do it now. They can keep the current people interim until a job description is created. The current people are welcome to apply for the position. This gives some stability. They would not have to train someone new all the time. They could have the office open eight hours a day instead of four. This would be one full-time position.
- c. Chair Swanson stated the office may function better with two or three part-time assessors.
- d. Ms. Cole stated that there is some flexibility with how they go forward with this. It can be discussed with Eric Duffy when he comes on board. She thinks it is a strange position to be elected.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to put the Assessor article on this year's Town Warning.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

5. Manager's goals & objectives

- a. Mr. Bourgeois stated that he would like one change. Under Fiscal Infrastructure & Public Works, Eliminate Trip Hazards in the Sidewalks with Emphasis on the Village Business District. He would like to change that to improve the infrastructure of the Town and the Village.
- b. Chair Swanson will talk to Seton McIlroy about it.

F. Other business – none.

G. Board of Sewer Commissioners

1. Sewer abatement request – Sollinger – 20 River Street

- a. Ms. Ford stated that she always votes against these. She thinks it is something that should be handled in a real estate closing where they are advised about sewer. It is the attorney's responsibility.
- b. Mr. Bourgeois is not in favor of it.

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to deny the abatement request for to remove penalty and interest for 20 River Street as submitted by Mr. Sollinger.

Seconded: by Ms. Riley.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

H. Approval of minutes

1. 1/3/23 minutes

- a. Remove Capital Funds from air packs motion

2. 1/10/23 minutes

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve the minutes of 1/3/23 and 1/10/23 with the one change noted above.

Seconded: by Mr. Bourgeois.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

I. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. Bourgeois to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Discussion: none.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*