

**Village of Woodstock
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
April 17, 2023
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Seton McIlroy, Jeffrey Kahn, Brenda Blakeman, Gabe DeLeon, Eric Duffy, Tom Ayres, Tom Meyerhoff, Cynthia Volk, Fire Chief David Green, Julie Scribner, Jim Baker, Roger Logan, Susie Stulz, Eric Winston, Nico Seldon

A. Call to order

1. Chair McIlroy called the Village Trustees Meeting of April 17, 2023, to order at 6:03 pm.

B. Citizen comments – none.

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

D. Public forum to discuss Police Chief search

1. Chair McIlroy stated that Police Chief Robbie Blish is moving south in a few months. The Trustees have brought in a consultant to help them find a new Police Chief. Jim Baker is her to discuss this. He and his colleagues have talked to all of the Trustees, Department Heads, officers, and some members of the school. They are now hoping to get public input.
2. Mr. Baker stated that he has been in Vermont since 1978. He spent 31 years with the Vermont State Police. He retired in 2009. He was the Police Chief in Broadley, Vermont for three years and then for three years he was in Washington DC on executive staff for the International Association Chief of Police. About a year ago he served as the Commissioner of Corrections. He overseed probation and parole. In between he has been a consultant since 2009. He does Police Chief searches all over the country.
3. Ms. Scribner stated that she retired from the Vermont State Police in 2021 as a Captain after 21 years working for the State.
4. Mr. Baker stated that they will work with the Municipal Manager to screen out and make sure that people meet the minimum qualifications for this position. The next step is for himself and Ms. Scribner to make phone interviews.
5. Ms. Stulz stated that she thinks they should hire from within Town. They should find someone who has roots in the community.
6. Mr. Logan stated that they need someone with is a good communicator and someone who is willing to do the work to produce regular reporting on reasonable metrics.
7. Other qualities noted by public:
 - a. Want someone who will do more social services.
 - b. Want an individual with good communication and transparency.
 - c. Also want stricter enforcement. Some feel there is a speeding problem in the Village.

- d. The individual needs to have technical skills and be able to be progress.
- e. Need someone to come in with fresh eyes and be able to see what works and what does not and make positive changes.
- f. Want someone who is innovative.
- g. Someone who is able to look at a budget and decide what is truly needed.
- h. Need someone who will be good for the Department. They do not want other officers to leave.

8. Mr. Baker stated that he will be working with the Municipal Manager to get a job ad and description out in the next couple of weeks.

E. Other business – none.

F. Adjournment

Motion: by Mr. DeLeon to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. Blakeman.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*