

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board Special Meeting
August 1, 2023
9:30 am
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Ray Bourgeois, Susan Ford, Mary Riley, Keri Cole, Eric Duffy, Nikki Nourse, Jill Davies, Jon Spector, Jeffrey Kahn, Benjamin Brickner, Tess Hunter, Zoie Parent

A. Call to order

1. Chair Bourgeois called the Select Board Special Meeting of August 1, 2023, to order at 9:30 am.

B. EDC's discussion about emergency funds for the flooding disaster

1. Mr. Spector discussed the marketing program and its funding requirements. The advantages of the current marketing investments were highlighted, allowing quick adjustments to messaging. A nominal additional funding request of \$5,000 was made to increase the reach of messaging through paid advertising, though it was emphasized that the majority of funds are allocated to content creation rather than advertising.
2. The focus of the meeting shifted to the next initiative which was wage support for local employees. The decision-making process included discussion on different ways to provide support to businesses and employees. It was ultimately decided that supporting employees directly would have the greatest positive impact on businesses.
3. Two tiers of support were determined: \$500 for those who lost at least 20 hours of work and \$250 for those who lost at least 12 hours of work. The mechanics of how the support would be disbursed were also discussed, with the approach streamlined to ensure efficiency. The one-week application window was set, with plans to prioritize those who lost more hours initially.
4. Concerns were raised about employees who had taken vacation time and subsequently lost hours. The clarification was provided that vacation time was not discussed as a lost wage, but it definitely could be included.
5. A final discussion on the financial aspects of the initiatives addressed the available budget and its forecasted allocation. The total request for funds amounted to \$50,000, with the anticipation that by the end of 2023, approximately \$50,000 would be encumbered.
6. Mr. Duffy will manage the funding disbursement process.

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve \$5,000 for the marketing program, and \$45,000 to the Employee Wage Support Program with vacation being included as a lost wage.

Seconded: by Ms. Rile.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

C. Other business – none.

D. Adjournment

Motion: by Ms. Ford to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 am.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*