

Town & Village of Woodstock, VT
Select Board & Board of Trustees Joint Meeting
August 31, 2023
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

A. Call to order

1. Select Board – no quorum

2. Trustees

- a. Chair McIlroy called the Joint Meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Woodstock Aqueduct Public Informational Presentation

1. The moderator, Mr. Charlie Kimbell, greeted the audience and thanked them for their patience. He introduced himself as a concerned citizen who volunteered to moderate the event due to its significance for the Woodstock community. He emphasized that the purpose of the forum was to provide information about the Woodstock Aqueduct Company, its financial status, and the outlook for the water system.
2. Mr. Kimbell highlighted the significance of this forum, which was prompted by the disruption of the water system due to heavy rains in July. He provided historical context, mentioning the company's establishment in 1880 by community-minded individuals who believed in the necessity of a public water system. He introduced the first speaker, Mr. Craig Jewett from Otter Creek Engineering.
3. Mr. Craig Jewett discussed the unique aspects of the Woodstock Aqueduct Company's water system compared to typical municipal systems. He explained the challenges related to maintaining water pressure and the need for system improvements to meet State requirements for fire suppression. He outlined potential alternatives for addressing deficiencies in the system, including the possibility of a new tank site.
4. Mr. Jewett also provided insights into the July flooding and explained measures taken to protect the system, particularly the water pipe crossing under the river.
5. During the Q&A session, attendees raised several important questions and concerns. Topics discussed included rate regulation, the potential impact of private equity companies on rates, capacity for future development, the ownership structure of the Woodstock Aqueduct Company, and the possibility of the Town taking over the water system.
6. Senator Allison Clarkson asked about the Town's readiness to manage the system and the history of the sewer district's formation.
7. Speakers addressed the questions providing information on rate regulation, the company's ownership structure, the history of dividends, and the capacity for future development. They also emphasized the need for a public discussion about the Town's readiness to take over the system.
8. Mr. Kimbell acknowledged the importance of the questions raised during the forum and thanked attendees for their participation. He stressed the urgency of reaching a decision

regarding the water system's future. He encouraged further discussion and community involvement in the decision-making process.

C. Other business – none.

D. Adjournment

Motion: by Chair McIlroy to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. DeLeon.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*