

**Town of Woodstock  
Select Board Meeting  
September 19, 2023  
6:00 pm  
Town Hall & Zoom  
Minutes**

**Draft minutes are subject to approval.**

**Present:** Chair Ray Bourgeois, Susan Ford, Keri Cole, Greg Fullerton, Eric Duffy, Nikki Nourse, Jill Davies, Tom Ayres, Tess Hunter, Cathy Emmos, Mark Hunter, Michael Caduto, Jeff Grout, Renee Hebert, Roger Logan, Charlie Kimbell, Renee Hebert

**A. Call to order**

1. Chair Bourgeois called the Select Board meeting of September 19, 2023, to order at 6:00 pm.

**B. Finance Committee Interview – Renee Hebert**

Motion: by Ms. Ford to appoint Ms. Hebert to the Finance Committee.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**C. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda**

1. Discussion and decision on purchasing financing for Highway Department excavator
  - a. A proposal to finance the purchase of an excavator for the Highway Department was presented. The plan involved selling the backhoe for \$70,000 and leasing an excavator for \$124,000. The financing would be covered by unused loan payments. The Board discussed the benefits of having an excavator, including its efficiency in various tasks. It was noted that the trade-in value for the backhoe was better than expected.

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve the purchase of an excavator for the Highway Department.

Seconded: by Mr. Fullerton.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

2. Water infrastructure discussion

- a. A discussion about the Woodstock Aqueduct Company took place. The company recently presented its current state and options for the future, raising questions about the Town's involvement. A sense of urgency was felt regarding the need to address these questions. The possibility of either the Town or a private entity acquiring the company was mentioned. It was decided to revisit this topic in two weeks with a committee to explore further.

**D. Citizen comments – none.**

**E. Manager's report**

**1. General report**

- a. Mr. Duffy offered a candidate the position of Finance Director for Woodstock, who has accepted the offer and will start in two weeks. This was seen as a positive step in improving the Town's financial management.

- b. Mr. Duffy mentioned that he would be attending a Manager’s Conference from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> and would participate in the next Select Board meeting via Zoom.

**2. Financial report – no questions.**

**F. Liquor license permit – Ottauquechee Yacht Club – outside consumption**

- 1. The Board briefly discussed the licensing process for the Ottauquechee Yacht Club, which intended to set up an area for alcohol service outside. The Board acknowledged that the State would conduct due diligence after approval.

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve the liquor license permit for Ottauquechee Yacht Club for outside consumption with the assumption that the State is reviewing the permit.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**G. Old business**

**1. Cloudland Road**

- a. It was mentioned that a sign had been placed in front of Billings Farm to inform people that the road was closed. The purpose of this action was to discourage drivers from proceeding down to Cloudland Road when it was not accessible, thus preventing unnecessary traffic and congestion. Additionally, there as a suggestion to implement “no parking” signs to further manage parking issues in the vicinity.

**H. New business**

**1. Schedule for budget hearings**

- a. Starting soon.

**2. Update from National Park Service**

- a. The National Park Service had an agreement with the Town that allowed for closer collaboration on managing parklands and Town lands, particularly those boarding National Park land like Billings Farm. The partnership had been productive and had supported various educational programs, including place-based education initiatives connecting local students with the park.
- b. The presentation highlighted the successful engagement of Woodstock Union Middle and High School students in various projects, such as maple sugaring, designing pollinator gardens, building a maternity bat house, and creating interpretive materials for the park. The speaker emphasized the positive outcomes of this collaboration and expressed gratitude for the support of the Town.
- c. It was mentioned that the National Park Service had awarded a \$4,000 mini-grant to the Town for energy related purposes. This grant could be used for energy studies or to offset the costs of an energy consultant.
- d. Overall, the discussion highlighted the fruitful partnership between the National Park Service and the Town of Woodstock, particularly in the realm of education and environmental initiatives.

**3. Halloween candy discussion**

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve spending \$750 on Halloween candy.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**4. Presentation from Jeff Grout, Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator**

- a. Mr. Grout presented on energy-saving initiatives in the Town, including efficient heating systems, insulation, and the use of electric vehicles. He also highlighted the recent energy assessment awarded to the Town.

**I. Other business – none.**

**J. Board of Sewer Commissioners – deleted.**

**K. Approval of minutes**

**1. 8/29/23 special minutes**

**2. 8/29/23 minutes**

Motion: by Ms. Ford to approve both minutes from 8/29/23 as submitted.

Seconded: by Ms. Ford.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

**L. Adjournment**

Motion: by Ms. Cole to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. Ford.

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Nikki Nourse*