

**Town of Woodstock
Select Board Special Meeting
January 8, 2024
6:00 pm
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Ray Bourgeois, Susan Ford, Keri Cole, Greg Fullerton, Laura Powell, Eric Duffy, Nikki Nourse, Timon Malloy, Scott Smith, Adriana Curutchet, Charlie Kimbell, Charles Schaller, Lauren Dorsey, Tom Meyerhoff, Cynthia Volk, Daniel Kogut, Alex Mulley, Patrick O'Hare, Wendy Wannop, Gabe DeLeon, Greta Calabrese, Chris Clyde, Toby Clyde, Kathy Washburn, Roger Logan, Sophie Friedman, Jon Spector, Lisa Lawlor, Jeffrey Kahn, Jill Davies, Wendy Marrinan, Michael Sargent, Roy Bates, Kevin Lynch, Antonia Richie, Carol Wood, Charlie Degener, Fire Chief Davie Green, Stuart Mathews

A. Call to order

1. Chair Bourgeois called the Select Board special meeting of January 8, 2024, to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

1. Addition – executive session

C. Citizen comments – none.

D. WAC Working Committee presentation

1. Background on the WAC's formation.
2. Committee's extensive work over three months, contacting various groups for information.
3. Discussion on fees and usage percentage for residents and hospitality sectors.
4. Concerns about the rate schedule and impending fee increase for hydrants.
5. Clarification on the Committee's role, not specifically to advise on purchasing but to understand intentions and strategic issues.
6. The urgency to determine the purchase's impact on the Town's growth and ability to secure Federal and State funds.
7. Management of a trail system on Aqueduct property, seeking easements for trail management.

E. Town Meeting Day

1. Format

- a. Discussion on potentially changing the voting format to Australian ballot.

Motion: by Ms. Powell to enact Act 1 to change voting for Town Meeting to Australian ballot for 2024.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 3-2-0, passed. (Chair Bourgeois for, Ms. Cole for, Ms. Powell for, Ms. Ford against, Mr. Fullerton against)

2. 1% sales tax

- a. Exploring the possibility of special articles on the ballot and the implementation of a local options tax.
- b. Reviewing historical decisions related to local options tax implementation.
- c. Confirming tax for commercial fuel sales.

- d. The Board discussed the potential revenue this tax could generate and its role in addressing the Town's increasing infrastructure expenses.
- e. There was clarification sought on the criteria for businesses to fall under this tax, considering whether it would be based on sales exceeding \$100,000 or 200 transactions to Woodstock residents within a 12-month period.
- f. Concerns were raised about the potential impact on local businesses and customer reactions, drawing from past experiences when similar taxes were implemented.

Motion: by Ms. Ford to add the 1% sales tax to the Town Warning to be voted on with funds being used for infrastructure.

Seconded: by Ms. Powell.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

F. Other business

1. Executive session

Motion: by Ms. Ford to enter executive session to discuss real estate negotiations at 8:04 pm.

Seconded: by Mr. Fullerton.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

The Select Board exited executive session and resumed the public meeting at 8:16 pm.

Motion: by Ms. Ford to allow Mr. Duffy to enter the next steps and discuss negotiations for the potential purchase of the water company.

Seconded: by Mr. Fullerton.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

G. Adjournment

Motion: by Ms. Ford to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Seconded: by Ms. Cole.

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nikki Nourse*