

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
September 17th, 2024
6:00PM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

Present: Chair Ray Bourgeois, Susan Ford, Keri Cole, Laura Powell, Greg Fullerton

Staff: Eric Duffy, Chris Barr, Chief David Green

Public: Ella Harper Shield, Jesse Werner, Jill Davies, Peter Pickett, Seton McIlroy, Karen McGee, Jon Spector, Jeff Kahn, Greta Calabrese, Tom Ayres

Call to order

1. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the Selectboard meeting of September 17th to order at 6:00PM

B. Addition to & deletions from posted agenda

Deletion of the Turkey Trot permit

C. Citizen's Comments

Ella Harper Shield introduces herself as a new prevention consultant for the Vermont Department of Health and offers support for substance misuse prevention.

D. Manager's Update

- Eric Duffy shares sad news about the passing of Eddie English, a long-time fixture in Woodstock.
- Updates on bridge repairs behind the Welcome Center and Vail field are provided, with progress expected by winter and spring.
- Eric Duffy introduces Wija from Indonesia, who is working on waste management and affordable housing projects through an ICMA fellowship.
- Wija explains her background and the two projects she is working on: flood management and affordable housing.

E. Votes

Liquor License – Ottauquechee Yacht Club - Outdoor Consumption

Liquor License – Ottauquechee Yacht Club – 1st Class

Liquor License – Ottauquechee Yacht Club – 3rd Class

Motion: by Susan Ford to approve the outdoor consumption, first-class, third-class liquor licenses for the Ottauquechee Yacht Club based on the assumption that the state is reviewing the applications (6:07pm)

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Cannabis Application Sunday Drive

Motion: by Susan Ford to approve the Sunday Drive Cannabis permit (6:10PM)

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Cannabis Application Woolly Mammoth

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve Woolly Mammoth retail cannabis license.
(6:11PM)

Seconded: by Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Fire Truck purchase

Eric Duffy introduces Chief Green to discuss the purchase of two fire trucks.

Chief Green explains the financial and logistical reasons for leasing rather than purchasing the trucks.

Discussion of the priority of replacing the engine versus the ladder truck.

Motion: by Susan Ford to approve the replacement of engine two (6:19PM)

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

South Woodstock Wastewater plant design update

Ray Bourgeois provides a brief history of the South Woodstock Wastewater Plant and the committee's efforts to improve its appearance.

The board proposes moving the fence and painting the cement tank to reduce the plant's visual impact.

Discussion of the practical benefits of the proposed changes, including cost savings and improved maintenance.

Motion: by Susan Ford to authorize the expenditure of the ARPA funding for the fence and paint project. (6:31PM)

Seconded: by Greg Fullerton

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Gravel, Sand, Paving bid recommendation

Chris Barr – Head of the Department of Public Works presents the bids

Aggregate -³/₄ Hard Pack- Pike wins the bid at \$19.20 a ton

Sand- Pike wins the bids with a guarantee of enough products

Chris Barr discusses the additional materials and services included in Pike Industries' bid.

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the bids (6:34PM)

Seconded: by Keri Cole

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Paving

Vermont Roadworks had the lowest bid for paving.

Motion: by Ray Bourgeois to approve the bid up to \$45,000 (6:35PM)

Seconded: by Keri Cole

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Purchase of the Skid steer

Chris Barr recommends purchasing a John Deere skid steer due to its better serviceability, longer warranty, and cost savings.

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the purchase of the Skid Steer (6:35PM)

Seconded: By Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Sewer project at Elm Street

Eric Duffy discusses the need for urgent repairs to a manhole at the beginning of Elm Street Bridge.

The estimated cost for the repairs is \$117,000, with the work to be completed before the end of October.

Motion: by Ray Bourgeois to approve the proposal from Daniel's Construction (6:43PM)

Seconded: By Laura Powell

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

EDC funding recommendation - Trustee Foliage Package

Jon Spector presents the EDC's proposal for funding picnic tables and umbrellas to address food service issues during foliage season mid-September through Mid-October at a total of \$7,000.00

The board expresses concern about the timing and planning of the proposal.

Discussion of addressing the issue of budgeting in advance for the picnic table etc., and the potential impact on the business community.

Discussion of a wastewater employee working over the weekend on trash collection and control due to wildlife in the area.

Discussion of timing of the EDC proposal and how it could be handled better in the future.

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the picnic tables and umbrellas (7:04PM)

Seconded: By Ray Bourgeois

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Jon Spector presents the proposal for a pilot test of a Visit Woodstock app and brochure to provide information on restaurants, restrooms, and parking

There will be an online part with QR code available online on October 1, with printed brochures distributed by October 7.

The board discusses the potential success of the pilot test and the importance of addressing visitors' needs.

Motion: by Ray Bourgeois to approve the leaflet if they can be printed by October 7th (7:13PM)

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 2-2-0, (no action taken)

Chris Barr Public Works update

Chris Barr, the new Director of Public Works, provides an update on ongoing projects, goals and priorities, including ditching and culverts.

Chris discusses the importance of maintaining reliable equipment and infrastructure, and the need to get back on a routine schedule for equipment maintenance.

He emphasizes the need to fill the two spots open in the DPW department.

Discussion Goals

The Trustee and Selectboard have met two or three times about goals including housing development, effective and efficient government affordability, climate resiliency, purchase the Woodstock Aqueduct water system, capital projects, the main wastewater plant upgrades, potential mergers with the village, redirect and condensing of the boards, granted capital plan, using new technology like permit software, traffic calming. One or two more meetings will be planned.

FY26 Budget discussion

Too early in the year to review FY 25 budget. Time to begin discussion of the FY26 budget. In early October a Joint board meeting will set a budget schedule for the year. Discussion on trying a zero budgeting for FY26
Eric encourages the public to attend the budget meeting for discussion goals setting and feedback.

Main Wastewater plant project update

Eric talks about the winding down of the Aqueduct and Wastewater negotiations. Hoping for a vote at town meeting in March
Hoyle Tanner is currently looking at development questions of who pays for this upgrade and how that is allocated between users and non-users.

F. Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

Motion: by Ray Bourgeois go into Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313(7:34PM)

Seconded: Laura Powell

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

G. Approval of Minutes

- a. 8.20.24
- b. 8.26.24
- c. 9.11.24

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the minutes of 8.20.24,8.26.24, 9.11.24

(8:01PM)

Seconded: by Chair Ray Bourgeois

Vote: 4-0-0, passed

H. Adjournment

Motion: by Laura Powell to adjourn the meeting at (8:01PM)

Seconded: by Chair Ray Bourgeois

Vote: 4-0-0, passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Mears Koar