SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

October 29, 2024

MINUTES

Assembled on stage were Matt Maxham, Moderator; Eric Duffy, Town Manager; Laura Powell, Greg Fullerton, Roy Bourgeois, Susan Ford, and Keri Cole, Select Board; Charlie Degener, Clerk. The theater and second floor conference room were filled with voters.

As this was the first Town Meeting in anyone’s memory not attended by Edwin A. English, the moderator asked for a moment of silence for Eddie.

Matt Maxham as Moderator read out the Warning at 6:00 p.m.

Jill Davies moved the article, and Susy Stulz seconded.

Matt then introduced those assembled on stage. Eric Duffy thanked everyone for coming, noting the good attendance and the fact that this is democracy in action. The main question is whether we want control of our water system. If we vote to acquire the Woodstock Aqueduct Co. the water system would be run like other town departments, including the sewer department. The two sources of funding for this acquisition are grants and a portion of our undesignated fund balance. If we do not purchase soon, we will lose grant opportunities. The assets that come with purchase are valued at $2.1 - $2.3 million. Laura Powell then explained what a yes vote means and what a no vote means.

Doug Leonard asked for a paper ballot, and more than six voters showed support.

Jill Davies proposed limiting discussion to 20 minutes, and Matt explained we could not do that, but after 20 minutes someone could call the vote, and a 2/3 majority would cause discussion to end.

There was discussion about the Village purchasing the Aqueduct. Laura explained that the water users do not align with the Village boundaries. There was discussion about creating a water district and it was explained that we have no sewer district, and this extra layer of bureaucracy is unnecessary.

Bob Holt moved the question, which was seconded by several people. A voice vote of more than 2/3 passed. Matt re-read the motion, and the meeting was recessed for the purpose of voting by paper ballot.

The results of the paper ballot were presented: 382 Yes and 103 No.

Matt Maxham declared the article to have passed.

There being no further business, the Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.