

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
November 21st, 2024
9:30AM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

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

Staff: Eric Duffy

Public: Roger Logan

Call to order

1. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the Selectboard meeting of November 21st to order at 9:30AM

B. Addition to & deletions from posted agenda -none

C. Citizen Comments – none

D. Discussion

Discussion and vote on the allocation of Vondell and capital project funds

Eric Duffy provided an update on the status of the allocation plans & mentioned a bond vote scheduled for December 10th

The original idea was to have the Elm Street pipe and the new well being paid for by only users, and splitting costs for 1B and Vondell between all taxpayers based on house appraisal.

At the last meeting a Selectboard member made a presentation which summarized having all four of the capital projects being a paid for by users, Vondell would be paid by all taxpayers, hydrant fees would be increased to \$270 a quarter to help offset some of that cost.

The board was given time to consider and possibly propose their own alternatives.

Susan Ford discussed the challenges of using hydrant fees and the potential need for adjustments based on interest rates and grants.

Susan Ford's proposed payment from the bond be a percentage: 23% all taxpayers, 27% local option tax payment, and a 49.6% water user.

Eric Duffy clarified Susan Ford's proposal, noting that the local option tax payment would remain constant while user and taxpayer payments would adjust annually.

Greg Fullerton asked for a breakdown of the percentage split between non-users and users.

Susan Ford explained that 23% would be paid by all taxpayers, including users, and 49.6% users via the water rate, which has not been decided.

Susan Ford clarified that all the capital projects would be paid through these percentages and the Vondell would be paid by all taxpayers.

The board discussed the implications of this proposal, including potential dissatisfaction among users and non-users.

A board member suggested decreasing the economic development fund contribution to the Vondell project.

Susan Ford argued that Vondell is not immediate economic development and should not use EDC funds.

Ray Bourgeois preferred keeping the entire 1% tax for all infrastructure projects.

Eric Duffy summarizes the board is leaning toward Susan Fords proposal: Vondell will be paid by all taxpayers based on house appraisal. Elm Street Bridge, 1B, New well- 23% for all taxpayers, 27% for local option tax, and 49.6% for water users in the first year. With the allocation decreasing every year as the interest rate decreased.

Susan Ford emphasized the importance of keeping options open for future adjustments based on interest rates and grants.

Eric Duffy opens the floor for public comment, with Roger Logan expressing satisfaction with the compromise.

Motion: by Keri Cole to approve the allocation of Vondell will be paid by all taxpayers based on house appraisal. Elm Street Bridge, 1B, New well- 23% for all taxpayers, 27% for local option tax, and 49.6% for water users (9:47AM)

Seconded: by Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Adjournment

Motion: by Susan Ford to adjourn the meeting at (8:49AM)

Seconded: by Greg Fullerton

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Mears Koar