

Town & Village of Woodstock
Town Selectboard & Board of Trustees Joint Meeting
December 4th, 2024
3:00 PM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

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

Present Trustees: Chair Seton McIlroy, Jeffrey Kahn, Brenda Blakeman, Frank Horneck, Lisa Lawlor

Public: Roger Logan

Staff: Eric Duffy, Robert Densmore, Chief David Green, Chris Barr, Charles Degener

Call to order

1. Select Board

- a. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the joint meeting of December 4th to order at 3:00PM.

2. Trustees

- a. Chair Seton McIlroy called the joint meeting December 4th to order at 3:00PM.

B. Discussion

Department Head Presentation for FY26 Budget

Eric Duffy explained the goal of zero budgeting, which was not fully achieved due to time constraints.

A hybrid approach of standard budgeting and zero budgeting is being used.

Fire Chief David Green

David Green highlighted the success of having no fatalities and the challenge of maintaining personnel. He discussed the need for equipment replacement and the tentative union agreement for contract year employees.

Medical testing for firefighters will increase due to a requirement for cancer screening. Medical testing costs will increase from \$250 per year to \$5,550 per year.

David Green explained the increase in uncollected accounts to \$98,000.

Ambulance vehicle maintenance and paramedic class costs are discussed.

The importance of having paramedics is emphasized, with only two currently available in Woodstock.

New technology for ambulance communication, including cell service for tablets, is proposed.

David Green mentioned the delayed arrival of the 2023 ambulance. He discussed the possibility of increasing the capital budget to avoid taking out a loan on the ambulance.

Laura Powell questioned the possibility of sending unpaid ambulance bills to collectors. David Green explains the challenges and that three letters are sent out with the bill. Residents

can also ask about a payment plan for their bill. Eric Duffy asked who makes the calls for payment plans, and David Green confirmed he sometimes handles difficult cases.

David Green discussed the increase in fire prevention costs for certification classes.

Rescue One maintenance costs are expected to rise due to inspection needs.

The need for emergency services building repairs is emphasized.

Chris Barr – Director of Public Works

Chris Barr highlighted the challenges of being understaffed.

The highway budget increases for street line painting and decreases for crosswalk maintenance and paving. Rubbish removal from the village is discussed and funding for overtime during the busy season.

Chris Barr discussed the need to move funds from parks to capital funds for equipment replacement.

Streetlight and replacement of the bulbs to LED was discussed.

Rogan Logan asked about selling the second town garage, and the maintenance of crosswalks.

Chris Barr explained the increase in salaries and wages for sewer department employees.

The budget includes costs for sewer line cleaning and manhole repair.

Robert Densmore – Director of Finance

Robert Densmore discussed the challenges of time management and the successful implementation of the paycheck software.

The budget is based on actuals from previous years, with increases in communication costs. A new way of tracking healthcare costs is introduced, with significant increases in the Selectboard budget.

The childcare contribution credit for taxes is a new addition to the budget.

Charles Degener – Town Clerk

The clerk's office budget includes increased costs for machinery and equipment.

The office needs more space due to high traffic and limited space.

The importance of preserving historical records is emphasized.

The budget includes costs for restoring and maintaining these records.

C. Other Business – None

D. Adjournment

1. Selectboard

Motion: by Laura Powell to adjourn the meeting at 4:00PM

Seconded: by Greg Fullerton

Vote: 3-0-0, passed

2. Trustees

Motion: by Seton McIlroy to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM

Seconded: by Brenda Blackman

Vote: 3-0-0, passed

*Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Mears Koar*