

Town & Village of Woodstock
Town Selectboard & Board of Trustees Joint Meeting
December 5th, 2024
8:15 AM
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: Beth Finlayson, Roger Logan

Staff: Eric Duffy, Kathy Avellino, Robert Densmore, Beth Therrien

Call to order

1. Select Board

a. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the joint meeting of December 5th to order at 8:15AM.

2. Trustees

a. Chair Seton McIlroy called the joint meeting December 5th to order at 8:15AM.

B. Citizen Comments- None

C. Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

Amendment of Chamber of Commerce Permit for Wassail Weekend

Beth Finlayson discussed the request from the Chamber to amend the Chamber's permit for the Wassail event, allowing the Woodstock Fire Department to sell food on the Green.

Motion: by Jeffrey Kahan to amend Chamber of Commerce permit to allow the Fire Department to sell food on the Green on Wassail Weekend. (8:19AM)

Seconded: by Lisa Lawlor

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

D. Discussion

Department Head Presentation for FY26 Budget

Kathy Avellino – Listers

Kathy Avellino explained the CLA updated at 57%.

Kathy Avellino described the common level of appraisal and the process for reappraisal, which will go into effect in 2027.

The listers' budget is discussed, with a focus on the need for reappraisal funds and the slim budget for the office.

Eric Duffy and Ray Bourgeois discussed the budget details, the need for capital reserve funds for reappraisal.

The conversation touched on the legal requirements for maintaining three listers and the current situation with one lister being out for health reasons.

Acting Police Chief Chris O'Keefe

Eric Duffy introduced the police department budget, with Acting Chief Chris O'Keefe presenting the details.

Chris O'Keefe outlined the total budget of \$1,065,000, with a \$67,000 increase from the previous year mostly in salaries.

Chris O'Keefe requested increases for patrol rifles, snow tires for cruisers, medical kits for cruisers, and a new police cruiser.

The discussion included the challenges faced with the current hybrid cruisers, including mechanical issues and the need for snow tires.

The Trustees discussed the potential costs and benefits of different vehicle options, including the F150 police package.

Laura Powell asked about the office supplies and small tools and equipment budget, and Chris O'Keefe explains the need for these items.

The discussion included the Taser contract and the need for ongoing training and maintenance for the Tasers.

Lisa Lawlor asked about the flashing speed signs in town, and which ones are still functioning, and which are no longer working.

Laura Powell asked if the police department is short staffed.

Laura Powell asked about how calls into the Dispatch for police matter are logged for record keeping.

Beth Therrien- Dispatch Supervisor

Beth Therrien, Dispatch Supervisor, presented the dispatch office budget and the need for additional staffing.

Beth Therrien explains the challenges of training new dispatchers and the high turnover rate due to better pay elsewhere. explained the challenges of training new dispatchers and the high turnover rate due to better pay elsewhere.

Eric Duffy and the Trustees discussed the importance of the dispatch office and the need for better support and resources.

Planning and Zoning

Eric Duffy discussed the challenges faced by the planning and zoning office, including the high volume of traffic and the need for better resources.

The office is currently dealing with three separate FOIA requests, which take up a significant amount of time and resources.

Eric Duffy highlighted the harassment and abuse faced by the staff in the planning and zoning office, which makes it difficult to retain staff.

The Trustees discussed potential solutions, including appointment-only visits and better communication with the public.

The conversation included the need for permanent software for planning and zoning and the potential for a community development position.

Manager's Office

Eric Duffy outlined the manager's office budget and the need for better technology and resources.

The office is currently using outdated equipment, and there is a need for new computers and better software.

Eric Duffy highlighted the importance of technology for efficiency and the challenges of working with limited resources.

The conversation included the need for permanent software for planning and zoning and the potential for renovating the Town Hall.

The Trustees discussed the importance of investing in technology and the need for better resources to support the staff.

E. Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

Motion: By Chair Seton Mclroy to enter Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 (9:31AM)

Seconded: Lisa Lawlor

Vote: 5-0-0 passed

Motion: by Greg Fullerton to enter Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 (9:31AM)

Seconded: Keri Cole

Vote: 5-0-0 passed

Returned (10:16AM)

F. Other Business – None

G. Adjournment

1. Trustees

Motion: by Seton Mclroy to adjourn the meeting at 10:16AM

Seconded: by Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 3-0-0, passed

2. Selectboard

Motion: by Greg Fullerton to adjourn the meeting at 10:16AM

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 4-0-0, passed

*Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Mears Koar*