

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
January 16th, 2025
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:

Call to order

1. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the Selectboard meeting of January 16th to order at 9:32AM

B. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

Ethic Liaison

Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

C. Citizen Comments

D. Discussion

Ethic Liaison

Eric Duffy explained the new state ethics rules requiring every board to have an Ethics Liaison. The Village Trustees voted to have Stephanie Appelfeller as the ethics liaison, and Eric Duffy recommends the Selectboard do the same.

Motion: by Chair Ray Bourgeois to make Stephanie Appelfeller the Ethics Liaison
(9:32AM)

Seconded: by Greg Fullerton

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Vote on FY26 Budget

Eric Duffy provided an overview of the budget process, noting numerous meetings since early November.

The town budget proposes a 10.75% potential tax increase, with a 7% increase for sewer rates and a substantial increase for water rates.

The water rate increase is due to the need for proper maintenance, repairs, and capital projects.

Motion: by Greg Fullerton to approve the town budget of \$8,352,359.54 (9:35AM)

Seconded: by Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the Sewer budget of \$1,443,076.47
(9:36AM)

Seconded: by Greg Fullerton

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Laura Powell to approve the Water budget of 735,226.17 (9:37AM)

Seconded: by Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

There will be a meeting later that day to work on the Water budget

Motion: by Susan Ford to go into Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 to discuss personnel matters(8:37AM)

Seconded: by Laura Powell

Vote: 4-0-0, passed (Returned 8:52AM)

Eric Duffy suggested discussing potential articles for the town warning, including creating a special fund for the new 1% local option tax and a Water System Ordinance

The Selectboard discussed the need for citizen approval to spend undesignated fund balances.

Eric Duffy recommended keeping 15% of the undesignated fund balance for potential year-end deficits, with the rest going into a reserve fund.

Laura Powell raised the topic of revisiting the move from elected listers to a paid assessor position and possibility of moving to Australian ballot voting.

Susan Ford expressed concern about adding new matters that will be controversial at this time as voters, the Board, the Municipal Manager and his staff have been through a lot and may not have the bandwidth to deal with it.

Keri Cole agreed and suggested waiting to avoid adding additional burden to Eric Duffy.

Eric Duffy stated that he will advocate for the Selectboard's decisions and is willing to support any initiatives they deem important.

Eric Duffy confirmed the town report dedication and thanks the participants for their contributions.

E. Adjournment

Motion: by Greg Fulerton to adjourn the meeting at (9:59PM)

Seconded: by Keri Cole

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Raymond Bourgeois

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Mears Koar

Susan B. Ford

Greg Fullerton

Laura Powell

Signature: Raymond Bourgeois
Raymond Bourgeois (Jan 23, 2025 12:24 EST)
Email: rbourgeois@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: Susan B. Ford
Susan B. Ford (Jan 22, 2025 13:16 EST)
Email: sford@townofwoodstock.org

Signature:
Email:

Signature: Greg Fullerton
Greg Fullerton (Jan 23, 2025 06:13 EST)
Email: gfullerton@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: Laura Powell
Laura Powell (Jan 22, 2025 12:33 EST)
Email: lpowell@townofwoodstock.org