

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
January 7th, 2025
4:00 PM
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: Jon Spector, Roger Logan

Call to order

1. Chair Ray Bourgeois called the Selectboard meeting of January 7th to order at 4:00PM

B. Addition to & deletions from posted agenda

Deletion of Boiler Purchase for DPW

C. Citizen Comments

Jon Spector shared a story about the lack of financial planning for the new school built in 1958, emphasizing the importance of saving over time.

Jon Spector suggested adding half a percent to the annual budget for capital investment to avoid future financial burdens.

D. Discussion

FY26 budget Discussion

Eric Duffy confirmed that a version of the budget is available online.

Eric Duffy mentioned that the board hasn't made significant changes to expenses besides increasing rent on Pentangle and the Chamber of Commerce.

The board discussed the potential reduction in the assistant town clerk's budget due to decreased recording fees.

Ray Bourgeois suggested raising the copay for employee health insurance premium from 7% to 9% for insurance.

Susan Ford expressed concern about taking something away from current employees.

Eric Duffy explained that the insurance change would cost employees about \$500 for a family plan.

Laura Powell, other board members and Roger Logan discussed the impact of raising insurance costs on employees

Laura Powell brings up the topic of fireworks funding, suggesting it might be time to stop funding them and let other organizations take over.

Laura Powell suggested the idea of an Economic Development Director.

Eric Duffy confirmed that the town is budgeted for \$14,000 for fireworks, including music and parking costs.

Susan Ford suggested having an agenda item to review the budget and eliminate items that don't meet our goals.

Jon Spector questioned the decrease in permits and fees, and Eric Duffy explained that the local 1% money was taken out of the budget.

Jon Spector suggests creating a reserve fund for future capital needs

Laura Powell mentioned that the fire department and town hall have capital reserve funds, and Eric Duffy confirms the town has about \$2 million in capital reserves.

The board discussed scheduling a meeting to finalize the budget, with Monday and Thursday being potential dates.

The board set a Meeting on Monday January 13th at 4PM

E. Adjournment

Motion: by Susan Ford to adjourn the meeting at (4:32PM)

Seconded: by Keri Cole

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Mears Koar

Laura Powell

Greg Fullerton

Raymond Bourgeois

Susan B. Ford

Signature: 
Laura Powell (Feb 8, 2025 13:01 EST)

Email: lpowell@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: 
Greg Fullerton (Feb 3, 2025 18:47 EST)

Email: gfullerton@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: 
Raymond Bourgeois (Jan 31, 2025 10:50 EST)

Email: rbourgeois@townofwoodstock.org

Signature:

Email:

Signature: 
Susan B. Ford (Jan 31, 2025 09:37 EST)

Email: sford@townofwoodstock.org