Village of Woodstock Board of Trustees Meeting January 14th, 2025 6:30PM Town Hall & Zoom Minutes

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

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

Staff: Eric Duffy

Public: Jill Davies, Beth Finlayson, Wendy Marrinan, Lauren Dorsey

Call to order

1. Chair Seton McIlroy to call the January 14th Village Trustees meeting to order at 6:30PM.

B. Additions and Deletions

Vote Ethics Liaison

- C. Citizen's Comments None
- D. Reports

a. Manager's Report

Eric Duffy updated on the painting at Town Hall, apologizing for any inconvenience. Selectboard's final agreement on the FY 26 budget and they will be meeting Thursday January 16TH at 9:30AM.

Eric Duffy discussed a conversation with the USDA about local bear management, including potential financial solutions and on-site visits.

Jeffrey Kahn inquired about courthouse payments to the village for parking.

Financial Report

Eric Duffy explained the transition to a new paycheck software affecting the financial report.

Eric Duffy highlighted the village's good revenue position, with 84% of the year's revenue already achieved just over halfway through the fiscal year.

Eric Duffy mentioned the need to update the paycheck software by January.

E. Votes

Village Public Trust Funds for FY 2025

Jill Davies presented the Village Public Trust Funds for FY 2025.

Jill Davies discussed the Orley A. Whitcomb fund, proposing a \$5,000 annual contribution to the Community Care Coordinator.

Motion: by Chair Seton McIlroy to disperse \$5,000 from the Orley A. Whitcomb Fund balance to contribute for a Community Care Coordinator this year, with the understanding that in future years we will allot it to the same thing, unless something changes with the position or in the village(6:43PM).

Seconded: Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Jill Davies proposed using the \$26,000 in the old Fire Station Fund for the tree fund.

The Trustee's discussed the budget allocation for the Tree Fund \$1,700, and agree to vote on it in the next meeting.

The Trustee's discussed the Frank S. McKenzie Fund, proposing to use it for town fireworks and close the fund.

Motion: by Jeffrey Kahn to distribute that approx. \$4,121 in the fiscal year 2026 for the 2026 fireworks display (6:56PM)

Seconded: Frank Horneck

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

Vote Ethics Liaison

Vermont now requires that every municipality appoint an Ethics Liaison to serve as a point of contact for communication with the state Ethics Commission. Eric Duffy spoke with the Chair of the Trustee's and agreed that Stephanie Appelfeller with be the Ethics Liaison.

Motion: by Chair Seton McIlroy to appoint Stephanie Appelfeller as the Trustee's Ethics Liaison to the state of Vermont (6:58PM)

Seconded: Jeffrey Kahn

Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

F. Discussion

Wassail Weekend Recap (6:58PM)

Beth Finlayson provided an overview of the Wassail Weekend, noting issues with the bagpipes and parking.

Beth Finlayson mentioned the need for better crowd control and barricades during the parade.

Beth Finlayson discussed the challenges with parking and horse manure at the Mill Building.

Beth Finlayson highlighted the positive feedback from the public and the need for better barricades and crowd control.

Village Parking Revenue

Lisa Lawlor presented a comparison of parking fees and violation fees in other towns.

Lisa Lawlor suggested increasing the handicap zone violation fee and implementing a habitual offender program.

Eric Duffy mentioned the need for an ordinance change to update the parking ordinance.

The Trustee's discussed the impact of parking fees on local businesses and the need for a comprehensive approach.

Short Term Rental

Eric Duffy reported on the status of short-term rental applications in the village.

He mentioned the difficulty in identifying short-term rentals due to inaccurate location information on platforms like Airbnb.

Eric Duffy highlighted the need for dedicated staff to manage short-term rentals effectively.

The Trustees discussed the potential impact of the short-term rental ordinance on the village's revenue and enforcement efforts.

Permit/Rules Flags in Parking Meters

Jeffrey Kahn explained that American flags on village property are approved regardless of citizen's opinion.

Jeffrey Kahn suggested limiting flag displays to national holidays and discussed flag holder's only being used for National Holidays or when a permit is issued.

The conversation shifted to the removal of flags and the potential for an ordinance or fee for violations.

Police- Discussion of Paid Details (parades, details, etc.)

Seton McIlroy introduced a spreadsheet on police overtime for events, highlighting the cost to taxpayers.

Examples of events where police overtime is not covered by event coordinators are discussed, including Pride of Woodstock and the Covered Bridges Half Marathon.

The group discussed the potential for event organizers to cover police overtime costs and the need for community input.

Frank Horneck pointed out the additional revenue that could be saved for the tax payers if event organizers paid police overtime.

The conversation shifted to the FY26 budget discussion, with Eric Duffy providing an update on the estimated tax increase.

FY26 Budget Discussion

Eric Duffy mentioned potential cuts in the budget, including changes to healthcare for employees.

The group discussed the purchase of snow tires for police vehicles

Jeffrey Kahn proposed raising parking meter fees from \$1 to \$1.50 an hour to reduce the tax increase. Also having the parking hours 10-4PM. It would add an estimated \$75,000 a year. If the ordinance is changed.

The group discussed the potential impact of the ordinance change on the budget and the need for community input.

The conversation shifted to other potential revenue sources, including selling parking passes for elderly residents.

The conversation continued about revenue and how changing the parking fee would change the budget.

The Trustee's asked about the Town Report and the budget for printing.

The Trustee's discussed the Tree fund

The group discussed the contingency fund and the need to balance the budget.

The conversation shifted to the purchase of rifles for the police and the potential for grants or other funding sources.

Wendy Wright Marrinan asked about the cost and effectiveness of the short-term rental software.

The group discussed the potential revenue from short-term rentals and the need for accurate tracking.

Wendy suggested re-evaluating the software purchase and its impact on the budget. Eric Duffy provides the final budget total for the village: \$1,632,637.90.

G. Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

Motion: By Chair Seton McIlroy to enter Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 (8:20PM) To discuss pending probable civil litigation or prosecution to which the public body is or maybe a party

Seconded: Jeffrey Kahn Vote: 5-0-0 passed (Returned 8:52PM)

H. Other Business

I. Approval of Minutes

12.12.24

12.20.24 (Correction- Addition of the word -installing)

01.02.25

Motion: By Chair Seton McIlroy to approve the Minutes 12.12.24,12.20.24,

01.05.24 (8:54PM)

Seconded: Jeffrey Kahn Vote: 5-0-0 passed

J. Adjournment

Motion: by Chair Seton McIlroy to adjourn the meeting at (8:54PM)

Seconded: Jeffrey Kahn Vote: 5-0-0, passed.

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J Kahn

Respectfully submitted, Kitty Mears Koar

Lisa lawlor

Brenda Blakeman

Signature: Ann (Feb 15, 2025 14:42 EST)

Email: unicornvt@gmail.com

Signature: E. Seton L. Mcllroy
E. Seton L. Mcllroy (Feb 24, 2025 17:40 EST)

Email: smcilroy@townofwoodstock.org

Signature:

Email:

Signature: Lisa Lawlor

Lisa lawlor (Feb 20, 2025 10:18 EST)

Email: llawlor@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: Brenda Blakeman

Brenda Blakeman (Feb 20, 2025 10:40 EST)

Email: bblakeman@townofwoodstock.org