

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
June 25th 2026
8:30 AM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

4 people in person, 4 online

Present: Chair Susan Ford, Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr., Cliff Johnson, Gay Travers, Dick Sweeney

Staff: Stephanie Appelfeller, Kitty Mears Koar

Public: Sally Neuburg, Byron Kelly, Peter Shoemaker, Nicholas Seldon, Barbara Otranto, Emma Stanton

A. Call to order

Chair Susan Ford called the Selectboard meeting of June 25th to order at 8:30AM

B. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda -None

C. Citizen Comments

Chair Susan Ford noted the presence of an attorney waiting to meet with the Board and asked for a show of hands of those wishing to offer citizen comments in order to manage time.

Peter Shoemaker addressed the Board regarding the ongoing matter of legal fee payments made in FY 24/25. He acknowledged a correction from the previous meeting, clarifying that the Town is a party to a related civil lawsuit, which he noted is a separate matter from the question of legal fees. He expressed his interpretation that the Town's legal counsel indicated that a vote would be required to ratify the fund transfers, suggesting the transfers may not have had a proper legal basis. He urged the Board to investigate how the transfers occurred and who, if anyone, directed the Municipal Manager to make them. He expressed concern that the transfers were made without notifying the Selectboard and were only discovered through the independent efforts of a private citizen reviewing the Town's financial records. He stated that past Chairs could not lawfully have directed the spending of Town funds, particularly involving the Village, and called for accountability.

Nicholas Seldon characterized the commingling of Town and Village funds and the transfers made without a public vote as intentional rather than accidental, pointing to what he described as approximately one year of stonewalling in response to public inquiries. He noted that several Selectboard members had resigned shortly before the matter became the subject of public record at the May 28th meeting. Mr. Seldon stated that he had submitted a public records request for a VLCT letter read at the prior meeting and that the

statutory five-day response deadline had passed without compliance. He further expressed opposition to the Municipal Manager's new contract, set to take effect July 1st.

Susan Neuberg of Church Street addressed the Board on a separate matter concerning traffic enforcement. She stated that speeding on Church Street is a persistent problem and expressed frustration that police vehicles are often stationary outside Town Hall while vehicles speed through the area, including at the crosswalk near Saint James. She requested that the appropriate parties take action to improve enforcement.

D. Discussion Proposed Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313

Motion: by Chair Susan Ford the premature general public knowledge of confidential attorney client communications involving professional legal services on the following matters will place the select board and the Town Of Woodstock at a substantial disadvantage (1) payments made by the Town of Woodstock in FY 24/25 involving legal fees; (2) response to the June 17, 2026 document request by Mr. Seldon; and (3) procedures for conducting the Municipal Manager's annual review. (8:40AM)

Seconded: by Gay Travers

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Chair Susan Ford to enter executive session with counsel James Carroll, Esquire, to engage in confidential attorney-client communications concerning payments made by the Town of Woodstock in FY 24/25 involving legal fees. (8:40AM)

Seconded: by Gay Travers

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Gay Travers to enter executive session with counsel James Carroll Esq., to engage in confidential attorney client communication involving professional legal services concerning a June 17th 2026 document requested by Mr. Seldon(8:41AM)

Seconded: by Chair Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Gay Travers to enter executive session with counsel James Carroll, Esquire, to engage in confidential attorney-client communications to discuss the process for conducting the Municipal Manager's annual review.

(8:41AM)

Seconded: by Chair Susan Ford

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr. to Exit Executive Session

(10:02 AM)

Seconded: by Dick Sweeney

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Chair Susan Ford reported that no action was taken during executive session. The Chair announced that the matter of attorney fee payments would be placed on the agenda for the July 7th meeting.

E. Adjournment

Motion: by Gay Travers to adjourn the meeting (10:02 AM)

Seconded: by Dick Sweeney

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Mears Koar