

**Town of Woodstock
Selectboard Meeting
August 14th 2026
8:30 AM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

10 on zoom, 1 in person

Present: Chair Susan Ford, Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr., Maryann Sweeney, Cliff Johnson, Susan Chiefsky

Staff: Eric Duffy, Kitty Mears Koar

Public: Alison Taylor, Gary Smith, Nicholas Seldon, Peter Shoemaker, Tom Ayres, Ursel Irwin, Roger Logan

Call to order

Chair Susan Ford called the Selectboard meeting of August 14th to order at 8:30 AM.

Chair Susan Ford welcomed two newly seated board members, Susan Chiefsky and MaryAnn Sweeney, noting that name tags were pending.

A. Additions to & deletions from posted agenda

~~Statement from the Chair~~

Potential vote upon return from executive session

B. Citizen Comments

Roger Logan congratulated the newly appointed Board members. He referenced a recent water issue as evidence that significant work remains despite progress made in recent years. Mr. Logan stressed the importance of maintaining a safe and collaborative civic environment for volunteers, municipal staff, and engaged citizens. He called on the Board to immediately establish procedures and protections to support those community processes and the people who participate in them, and urged fellow Woodstock citizens to speak up and support the work of local government.

Nicholas Seldon expressed concern that the special meeting had been called with insufficient notice. He raised a series of substantive legal and ethical allegations relating to the matters before the board, including conflicts of interest, alleged improper transfers of Town funds, and the credibility of a previously issued report.

C. Potential Executive Session 1 VSA 313 (a)(1)(f)

[Motion: by Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr. to go into a Proposed Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 on the grounds that premature public knowledge of confidential attorney client communications with the Town Of Woodstock's professional legal counsel regarding FY24/FY25 payments made by the Town For Legal and Other Services involving](#)

employment matters at the village of Woodstock Police Department would clearly place the town and its legislative body at a disadvantage. (8:37 AM)

Seconded: by Susan Chiefsky

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Susan Chiefsky to exit executive Session (9:19 AM)

Seconded: by MaryAnn Sweeney

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

No action to be taken after that executive session

D. Potential Executive Session 1 VSA S313 (a), (i), (e), (f)

Motion: by Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr. to go into a Proposed Executive Session 1 V.S.A 313 on the grounds that premature public knowledge of attorney client communication with the Town Of Woodstock's professional legal counsel regarding Swanson vs. Village of Woodstock in which the Town is a named party would clearly place the town and its legislative body at a disadvantage. (9:20 AM)

Seconded: by Susan Chiefsky

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Susan Chiefsky to go into a Proposed Executive Session with counsel Jim Carroll, Esquire, pursuant to 1 VSA section 313 (a), (i), (e), (f) and to receive professional legal services and engage in attorney client communications regarding Swanson v. Village of Woodstock et. al (9:20 AM)

Seconded: by MaryAnn Sweeney

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Motion: by Norm Frates Jr. to exit executive Session (10:03 AM)

Seconded: by Susan Chiefsky

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

H. Vote

Motion: by Vice Chair Norm Frates Jr. entertain a motion that we approve the substitution of counsel in the matter of Swanson v. Village of Woodstock et al with Jim Carroll, Esquire representing the town. (10:04 AM)

Seconded: by Susan Chiefsky

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

I. Adjournment

Motion: by Susan Chiefsky to adjourn the meeting (10:04 AM)

Seconded: by MaryAnn Sweeney

Vote: 5-0-0, passed

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Mears Koar