

**Village of Woodstock
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 5th 2026
8:15AM
Town Hall & Zoom
Minutes**

Draft minutes are subject to approval.

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

Staff: Eric Duffy, Robert Densmore

Public: Nicholas Seldon

A. Call to order

1. Chair Seton Mcilroy called the January 5th 2026, Village Trustees meeting to order at 8:15AM.

B. Additions and Deletions

~~Executive Session~~

C. Citizens' Comments

Nicholas Seldon addressed the Board regarding Town Manager Duffy's contract. Mr. Seldon expressed strong opposition to Mr. Duffy's contract as well as other concerns he stated publicly.

D. FY27 Budget

Eric Duffy explained that the major update to the budget was the reallocation of Community Development and Planning salaries. Rather than a 60/40 split between Town and Village, they shifted to a standard 55/25/10/10 allocation (Town/Village/Water/Sewer), similar to what's used for the Manager's office and Finance Office.

With this change, the projected Village tax increase for next fiscal year stood at 13.9%. Eric Duffy noted this included a \$40,000 increase in parking revenue and mentioned that new parking fee schedules would go into effect in the next few days. He explained that the budget included three loan payments for vehicles: one Town vehicle (covered by the Town's allocation for Police coverage) and two vehicles purchased in the last three years. He had already reduced the capital reserve allocation for future vehicle funding to \$20,000.

Seton Mcilroy expressed interest in lowering the tax rate further and asked what would be needed to reduce it by 1%. Discussion turned to Police coverage for events, with Robert Densmore providing cost figures for various events. Some events like Covered Bridges Half Marathon and Pride of Woodstock already paid for their own Police coverage.

The Board discussed whether all events should be required to pay for their own Police coverage rather than the Village bearing the cost. Lisa Lawlor noted that while parades are nice, many participants are not Village residents, and the priority should be reducing the tax burden for residents. It was clarified that the Town pays for Fourth of July Police coverage from their budget, not the Village.

Eric Duffy explained that events incur additional costs beyond just police presence, including public works overtime for trash collection, setting up barricades, and cleanup.

The Board also considered potential savings from changing overnight Police coverage. Currently, one sergeant works the 10 PM to 6 AM shift. The Board discussed an on-call system, but Interim Police Chief Chris O’Keeffe noted response times would increase to at least 30-45 minutes since most officers live 20-25 minutes away. Eric Duffy added that union contracts would require offering on-call opportunities to all officers equally, with a \$35 stipend for being on-call and a minimum of 3 hours pay if called in.

Robert Densmore noted that the 13.9% tax increase would equate to \$291.30 per \$100,000 of appraised property value. He mentioned that property reappraisal would go into effect in FY27.

The Board suggested reviewing Village fees, noting they are lower than comparable Towns. The Board also inquired about revenue from the courthouse and discussed the library parking lot arrangement, which includes costs for plowing, striping, maintenance, and insurance.

Robert Densmore explained that if the budget passes in March and parking revenue exceeds projections, the Trustees would legally be able to reallocate that revenue and potentially lower the tax rate before it's finalized in August.

The meeting concluded with the Board planning to continue budget discussions at their next scheduled meeting the following Tuesday.

J. Adjournment

Motion: by Chair Seton Mcilroy to adjourn the meeting at
(8:49AM)

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

*Respectfully submitted,
Kitty Mears Koar*

X

Lisa Lawlor

Brenda Blakeman

J Kahn

Signature: E. Seton L. McIlroy
E. Seton L. McIlroy (Jan 24, 2026 13:27:34 EST)

Email: smcilroy@townofwoodstock.org

Signature: Lisa Lawlor
Lisa Lawlor (Jan 15, 2026 14:29:33 EST)

Email: lwlawlor321@gmail.com

Signature: 
Jennifer Kahn (Jan 15, 2026 11:34:10 EST)

Email: unicornvt@gmail.com

Signature:

Email:

Signature: 
Brenda Blakeman (Jan 15, 2026 12:56:31 EST)

Email: bblakeman@townofwoodstock.org