



**Town of Woodstock
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2023**

Board Present: Scott Rice, Charyl Reardon

Board Absent: Gil Rand

Staff: Judy Welch, Mike Welch, Cathy Riley

Public: Maxine MacDonald, Bill Waterhouse

Zoom: Mike Donahue, iPhone II

Open Public Hearing- Lease Agreement Release, 682 Daniel Webster Hwy, and Morris Street Easement

Charyl opened the Public Hearing at 5:00 pm.

Charyl noted that this is the first of two public hearings, per RSA 41:14-a, to review and receive comments on the release of the lease agreement with 682 Daniel Webster Hwy and the proposed easement on Morris Street with 5 Kanc Hwy. The Board has sent this to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission for review; no recommendations have been received yet.

The floor was opened for public comments.

Bill Waterhouse commented on the property's proximity to river and wetlands permitting. Bill stated that he had been in contact with NHDES to see if a NH Shore Land Protection Permit had been submitted. Bill questioned if the permit was filed under the Town of Woodstock or the property owner's name.

Judy stated that she could not remember whose name the permit was filed under; but knew one was in place.

Scott informed Bill that petroleum has been found in the soil and NHDES has notified the property owner. Scott stated that the town would do remediation and that the state would reimburse the town. Judy added that they were working with Horizon and working out logistics. Judy then handed Bill some letters that were received from NHDES.

Bill added that the Wetlands Permit #202301286 is under the name Winslow Schumann. Scott noted that the property owner had to be the applicant, but the Town's engineer prepared it on his behalf.

Bill asked for clarification on who was responsible for the relocation of the road and who was responsible for the installation of the new watermain.

Judy explained that Winslow Shurman has an agreement with the Town that states he will grant the Town an easement for the relocation of the watermain if the Town agrees to assume the cost of the relocation of the road. Judy noted that the road relocation plans have already been reviewed and approved by the Planning Board and the work will be overseen by Steve LaFrance from Horizons Engineering.

Scott added that the Board has been working on approval for this project for the last three years.

Bill questioned if the Unknown Owner piece of property was part of the Lease Agreement Release.

Judy informed Bill that it was not and said that Roy Sabourn confirmed that the small Unknown Owner piece of property belongs to Ishy Properties.

Charyl closed the Public Hearing and called the Select Board Meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Approve & Sign Minutes for October 17, 2023

Scott motioned to accept and sign the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Selectmen's Meeting.

Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Agenda Items Requested by Residents

Igor Bily/Water Base Rate Reduction & Abatement

Charyl explained that Igor Bily had submitted a request to reduce his water and sewer base rates. Igor noted that in 2022 an underground water leak was discovered at Montaup Cabins. At that time the base rate was set to reflect the very high usage. In November 2022, the town was able to locate the leak and repair it. The town agreed to slightly lower the base charge, pending further review of usage.

The Board reviewed the water usage history for Montaup Cabins and agreed to reduce the base rates from Commercial 4.5 to Commercial 1.5 starting next quarter.

Judy added that Mr. Bily was also looking for a reduction on the most recent bill.

Charyl motioned to reduce the base rates for Montaup Cabins from Commercial 4.5 to Commercial 1.5 and abate a total of \$825.00 from the Quarter Three Utility Billing. Scott seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Open Bids- 1948 Mack Fire Truck

Charyl stated that no bids were received for the 1948 Mack Fire Truck and pointed out that the Town spent over \$2,000 on advertising. Charyl suggested sending it out to JSJ Auctions, noting they absorb the cost of advertising and draw a larger audience. Scott motioned to send the 1948 Mack Fire Truck to JSJ Auctions. Charyl seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Sale of 2007 International Plow Truck & Log Splitter

Charyl motioned to send the 2007 International Plow Truck and Log Splitter to JSJ Auctions to sell. Scott seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Review of Budgets

Charyl motioned to increase wages for all departments and elected officials, excluding the Select Board, by 3%. Scott seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

Judy presented the following 2024 budgets:

Executive Budget

4130 Executive: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$190,275.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Town Clerk Budget

4140 Elections and Registrations: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$77,994.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Tax Collector Budget

4150 Tax Collector: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$19,010.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

General Government Budget

4150 Financial Administration: Charyl motioned to table this budget and revisit after she checks reviews and has a demonstration of the new software. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Legal Budget

4153 Legal Expense: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$35,000.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Planning Board Budget

4191 Planning Board: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$17,800.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Town Buildings Budget

4194 Town Buildings: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$150,302.15. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Cemetery Budget

4195 Cemetery: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$34,020.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Insurance Budget

4196 Insurance: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$55,455.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Chamber Dues Budget

4197 Advertising: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$1,020.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Contingency Budget

4199 Other General Government: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$13,500.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Building Inspection Budget

4240 Building Inspections: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$10,200.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Highway & Streets Budget

After some discussion with Mike on the current need for the rock wall replacement, it was decided that portion of the budget would be removed. Money could be placed into the Capital Reserve for Highway Maintenance over the next couple of years, so the replacement can take place in the future.

The board agreed that \$15,000.00 would be put into the Capital Reserve for Highway Maintenance for the purpose of replacing the rock wall.

4312 Highway: Charyl motioned to approve the revised total budget of \$479,451.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Street Lights Budget

4316 Street Lights: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$25,000.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Sewer Expenses Budget

4326 Sewer: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$503,152.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Water Expenses Budget

4332 Water: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$633,080.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Scott motioned to present a Warrant Article to move \$100,000.00 from an unassigned water fund balance to offset the Water Department Capital Reserve appropriation. Charyl seconded this motion and the vote was affirmative.

Parks and Recreation Budget

4520 Parks and Recreation: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$44,200.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Library Budget

4550 Library: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$87,027.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Patriotic Purposes

4583 Patriotic Purposes: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$19,800.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Conservation Commission

4611 Conservation: Charyl motioned to approve the total budget of \$12,500.00. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Economic Development Budget

4651 Economic Development: Scott motioned to approve the total budget of \$3,000.00. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

For a complete presentation, please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxMH7OFC8H3KqBhYHsBr53g>

Water/Sewer Rates

To keep the water and sewer funds self-sustaining Scott motioned to increase the sewer base rate by 15% and increase the price per gallon to \$6.00, as well as increase the water base rates and price per gallons 5%. Charyl seconded the motion and the vote was affirmative.

New rates will go into effect for the 2024 First Quarter billing.

Tax Rate

Charyl explained the 2023 Tax Rate breakdown as follows:

Town Rate: \$8.40 (down .29¢ from 2022)

County: \$1.92 (up .14¢ from 2022)

Local education: \$7.17 (up .55¢ from 2022)

State Education: \$1.95 (up .66¢ from 2022)

Total Tax Rate: \$19.44 (up \$1.06 from 2022)

Old/Other Business

Judy would like the Board to consider an Events Committee to help bring back community events. Judy indicated that other towns, such as Thornton, have an events Committee made up of volunteers who work to organize community events, such as Winterfest. Scott added that summer events would also be a great addition. Judy suggested that an advertisement for volunteers be put on the Town's website and Facebook page. The Board agreed that this would be a great idea.

Public Participation

Bill Waterhouse pointed out the significant growth on Lost River Road and expressed his concern about the safety pedestrians.

The Board informed Bill that they have spoken with the North Country Council about the type of grants available to the town for sidewalks.

Non-Public Hearing RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

The Board went into a non-public session at 6:13 pm and did not come back into public session after.

The public could participate remotely over Zoom by going to www.zoom.us, using the Zoom App on a cellphone, or on a **landline calling 1-646-558-8656 Password: 432845** and entering **Meeting ID: 840 0082 0895 Password: 395022.**

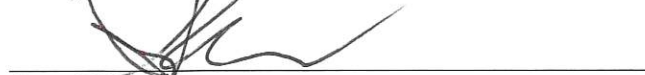
Those wishing to hear the recording of the whole meeting may access it by using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxMH7OFC8H3KqBhYHsBr53g>



Charyl Reardon, Chairman

December 12, 2023
Date



Scott Rice

R. Gil Rand