



**Town of Woodstock  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 6, 2024  
5:00 pm**

**Board Present:** Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon  
**Board Zoom:** Scott Rice  
**Staff:** Judy Welch, Cathy Riley  
**Public:** Bill Waterhouse, Jerry Miserandino

**Call to Order**

Charyl called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**Approve & Sign Minutes/January 9, 2024**

Gil motioned to accept the minutes of the January 9, 2024, Selectmen's Meeting. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Scott abstained.

**Approve & Sign Joint Minutes/January 17, 2024**

Scott motioned to accept the joint minutes of the January 17, 2024, Selectmen's Meeting. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Scott will sign the minutes in the office.

**Agenda Items Requested by Residents**

None

**Chris Clermont/Taxes/Interest & Penalty Forgiveness**

The Board reviewed a letter from Chris Clermont asking for forgiveness regarding the interest and penalties accumulated on 173 Main Street. Judy noted that Chris had paid all outstanding taxes, interest, and penalties.

Charyl motioned to forgive half of the interest and penalties accrued, issue an abatement in the amount of \$2,434.68, and apply this credit to the next issued tax bill. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

**Guilbeault/Well Road/Water Bill Reduction**

The Board reviewed a letter and supporting documentation from Cathy and David Guilbeault disputing the Q1 2023 Utility Billing and asking the Board to consider reducing their water bill or providing interest forgiveness.

Judy noted that the meter had been removed, and the Town paid to send it out to two different testing companies (Sensus and EJP), and both came back 99.9% accurate. Mike brought someone in from EJP to confirm that it was hooked up correctly. All concurred that the water did go through this meter. That same meter was reinstalled after the testing, and the usage returned to normal. Judy stated this was an Airbnb house, so anything could have happened. This house is under contract for \$1.3 million, and papers are to be signed in a week.

Charyl motioned to abate the interest on the water bill through February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the amount of interest that occurs until then. Gil seconded, and the vote was affirmative.

**Pours and Petals/Catered Bar Service/Woodstock Farmhouse/Liquor Commission**

Pours and Petals has requested a letter be sent to the New Hampshire Liquor Commission, on Town letterhead, approving a catered bar service at the Woodstock Farmhouse on May 25, 2024. Judy added that the approval letter is contingent on meeting all state and local requirements.

Gil motioned to approve the request and sign the letter to the New Hampshire Liquor Commission as prepared. Charyl seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Scott will sign the letter in the office.

#### **US Board on Geographic Names/Changing of the name of the Baker River Tributaries & Associated Reservoirs**

Charyl stated that an email was received from the US Board of Geographic Names. The Town was notified that a New Hampshire resident requested the Baker River and its tributaries be changed to Asquamchumauke, meaning "crooked river from high places" in Abenaki. After discussion, the Board agreed with the Forest Service, Grafton County Commissioners, and other New Hampshire State agencies that are all in opposition to the name change.

Charyl motioned for a letter drafted to the US Board on Geographic Names, stating that the Board opposes the proposed name change. Gil seconded, and the vote was affirmative.

#### **NHDOT/John Stockton/Delay in 44259 Bridge Painting Project**

Charyl stated that a letter was received from the NHDOT that the Bridge Painting Project on lower Route 3 was now delayed until 2025.

#### **Updated/Status of Gordon Pond Trail Relocation**

Charyl stated that they tracked down an email from the Forest Service to a resident of Lost Valley. The letter states that "they were not exploring any alternatives to the current trailhead at this time and have no current plans to move the trailhead." They added, "of course, with land management, that could change in the future, and if there were any plans to move the trailhead proposed, they would keep them informed." When asked by Bill if the trailhead was still at Mountainside, Judy suggested that he contact the Forest Service.

#### **Lincoln Town Manager/Update on Fourth of July Fireworks**

Charyl recapped the January Joint Board of Selectmen Meeting in which they decided to try to go with the July 3<sup>rd</sup> alternative for fireworks. When they tried to confirm the date, they were informed that July 3<sup>rd</sup> was no longer available, and now they had to go with Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. Charyl added that when they emailed them back, they requested that they provide a commitment for July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

#### **Revised Final Warrant /Article 24**

Charyl stated that a petition warrant article was received at the last minute and that Article 24 was added to the Warrant. Charyl explained that this petition article requested the discontinuation of all electronic voting devices in Woodstock. The Board discussed the article briefly and decided they would not recommend it.

Judy added that no one who signed the petition had ever attended a ballot testing, the end-of-night counting process, come into the office to ask what the procedures are or followed an election from start to finish. She pointed out that no person has ever requested a recount to prove that Woodstock's voting devices are inaccurate or asked for a copy of the results submitted to the State of New Hampshire. Judy feels that although it is a healthy discussion and that people are entitled to their opinions, she feels like people should do their due diligence before submitting a petition article like the one presented. Judy stated that you can't lump New Hampshire into the rest of the country or Woodstock into the rest of the State. Judy noted that discrepancies will be caught if the elected officials do their jobs, are adequately trained, and follow the procedures established by the New Hampshire Secretary of State.

Judy noted that there was a very tight State Representative race two years ago; one of the candidates called for a recount. All the ballots were picked up for that District and recounted, and there was a 3-ballot error that came out of Easton, which was a hand-count town.

When asked about the Dominion machine problem by Gil, Judy replied that she believed other states had the problem and that New Hampshire has very strict regulations on its machines and the capabilities of those machines. They were only allowed to be used if specific requirements were met so they couldn't be hacked.

Charyl made the motion not to recommend Article 24. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Charyl added that they would be prepared to speak about why they made their decision at the Annual Town Meeting.

Bill Waterhouse wanted to ask Judy how long it takes to count now with the machines, and Judy replied that it takes about two hours less than before.

Judy added that the Presidential Election nights are still long because they have to touch every ballot at the end of the night and are still looking for write-ins or other issues. There is always a double-check with the machines.

Charyl asked Judy to clarify the budget worksheet for tomorrow night, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Judy explained that it was the final detailed worksheet with budget and revenues, unaudited, because it would change when the auditors and things are moved around. Judy added that she had to make a minor adjustment on Personnel Administration where an expense code versus a liability code was being charged.

Charyl stated that all the departments have done an excellent job staying within the current budget, and they all try to be very conservative. Charyl noted that when she and Judy spoke, they looked at somewhere between 10-14% being returned to the General Fund from the 2023 budget. Judy added that it would be over 18% (unaudited) if they pull out water, and the 2024 budget looks to be a 3% increase. Charyl added that this is due to being fully staffed in all departments, even the Highway Department.

Charyl motioned to accept the Warrant as presented. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative. Scott will sign the Warrant in the office.

### **Approve Check Requests/Woodstock Firefighter Fund**

#### **Anne Englert/Check Request/Wreath Fundraiser/\$1,328.41**

Charyl motioned to approve the check request for \$1,328.41, payable to Anne Englert, for supplies for the wreath for the fire department's annual fundraiser. This money is to be withdrawn from the Woodstock Firefighter Capital Reserve Fund. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

#### **Plymouth State University/Anna Harvey /Scholarship/\$1,000.00**

Gil motioned to approve the check request for \$1,000.00 payable to Plymouth State University for Anna Harvey's scholarship. This money is to be withdrawn from the Woodstock Firefighter Capital Reserve Fund. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

#### **Colby Sawyer/Jordan Sabourn /Scholarship/\$1,000.00**

Gil motioned to approve the check request for \$1,000.00 payable to Colby Sawyer for Jordan Sabourn's scholarship. This money is to be withdrawn from the Woodstock

Firefighter Capital Reserve Fund. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

**Other/Old Business brought forth by the Board.**

None

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Non-Public Session/RSA 91-A:3 II (a)**

Charyl stated they would go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and not return to a public session.

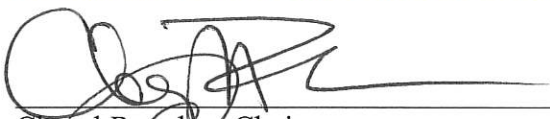
**Adjournment**

Charyl motioned to adjourn and entered a Non-Public Session at 5:33 pm. Gil seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

The public could participate remotely over Zoom by going to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), using the Zoom App on a cellphone, or on a **landline calling 1-646-558-8656 Password: 648924** and entering **Meeting ID: 836 0174 0226 Password: 648924.**

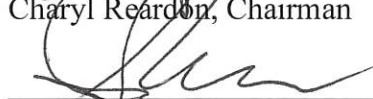
Those wishing to hear the recording of the whole meeting may access it by using this link:

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



Charyl Reardon, Chairman

March 5, 2024  
Date



Scott Rice



R. Gil Rand