



**Town of Woodstock
Public Hearing Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
5:00 pm and 5:30 pm**

Select Board Present: Gil Rand, Charyl Reardon, Scott Rice

Staff: Judy Welch, Cathy Riley

Floodplain Board of Adjustments: Kristen Durocher

Budget Committee: Roberta Vigneault, Kara Sellingham, Steve Towers, Marci Shamberger, Faith Desjardins, Helen Jones

Planning Board: Bonnie Ham, Margaret LaBarge, Igor Bily

Public: Mark Sellingham

Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing

Charyl called the Floodplain Ordinance Public Hearing order at 5:00 pm.

Kristen Durocher, a Representative from the Floodplain Board of Adjustments, and members of the Planning Board were in attendance to explain the revision to the Floodplain Ordinance and the new FEMA requirements.

Kristen explained that a long time ago, the US government realized that some homes were subject to flooding, so they went out and surveyed the land and waterways and determined the 1% chance of water reaching an elevation of one foot in all those different areas which they consider the flood zone.

Kristen added that for residents to get insurance for reduced rates that are affordable through the government instead of the expensive private flood insurance, the towns need to adopt the provided floodplain maps. Kristen explained that FEMA had adjusted the rate maps by looking at better data and making them more accurate. Kristen wanted to stress that if the new maps were not adopted, residents would be unable to purchase the cheaper FEMA Flood Insurance.

Kristen ended by offering anyone to contact her with questions regarding the flood zone and added that the new maps are available online as preliminary maps. Then, the final maps will be adopted on Friday, February 9th, and the current ones will be replaced.

Judy added that this all trickles over to Woodstock's Floodplain Ordinance, which had to be amended to reflect the date of the adoption, which is the only change being made.

Charyl closed the Floodplain Ordinance hearing at 5:06 pm

Warrant Public Hearing

Charyl called the Warrant Public Hearing order at 5:06 pm.

Charyl explained that the Warrant is standard, reflecting the budget and Floodplain Ordinance. Charyl stated that on Monday, they received a petition, Article 24, for discontinuing electronic voting devices from the Town of Woodstock. The Selectmen voted not to recommend this article. Charyl added that the Selectmen recommend all the other Articles.

Charyl stated that she was opening the floor to any public comments.

Scott added that they were looking for support to vote down, eliminating the voting ballot-counting machines.

Judy wanted to state that she hoped that some of the supporters of Article 24 would be present at this public hearing.

When members of the audience asked about the petition warrant, Scott explained that the Warrant Article states that Woodstock needs to get rid of the counting machines and go back to hand ballot counting.

Judy stated that no one, not just the 35 that petitioned, has ever attended any of the Town's ballot testing, has never come back at the end of an election to watch our accounting process, has never come to them to ask about the procedures or asked to follow through, and has never approached the Secretary of State for a recount to prove that the machines were not accurate or not calculating correctly. Judy added that she feels like a lot of research has not been done.

Judy recalled 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.

Charyl added that they need to look at the significant investment that the Town has made in technology over the last couple of years.

Judy noted 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. All the ports and plugs were pulled, covered, and sealed so they couldn't be hacked.

Judy stated that she would ask the Budget Committee not to recommend the article.

When asked by Charyl for any other comments, Kristen had a question about the wording in the Floodplain article that did not say that they were adding the date. Judy explained that they were bringing back the same ordinance as last year on the recommendation of the lawyer that the Selectmen did not have a resolution in place so that the voting would be on the same thing as last year.

Judy added that the Planning Board did adopt the ordinance with the dates. They knew the dates at the time, whereas the Select Board had not adopted it yet because they did not have all the map numbers. Now that the Selectmen have adopted the resolution, they are just doing the formality of the process.

Margaret added that they should see all the changes incorporated so that it doesn't have to be voted on again. Bonnie said they would go over everything to answer questions at the Town Meeting.

Bonnie also invited Kristen to join the Planning Board Meetings as a Conservations Commission representative.

Charyl motioned to adopt the 2024 Warrant and sign. Scott seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Charyl closed the Warrant Public Hearing at 5:19 pm.

Budget Public Hearing

Roberta called the Budget Public Hearing to order at 5:30 pm.

Approve & Sign Minutes/January 31, 2024

Faith motioned to accept the minutes of the January 31, 2024, budget minutes. Steve seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Approve & Sign MS-737

Kara motioned to approve and sign the 2024 MS-737 for \$6,026,982. Marci seconded the motion, and the vote was affirmative.

Roberta opened the hearing for public comment.

Judy asked the Budget Committee not to recommend Article 24.

Roberta stated that it was an article submitted by petition and that the Budget Committee needed to vote on whether they would recommend the article that asked not to use electronic voting machines.

Judy added that the Selectmen voted not to support the article and were seeking the same from the Budget Committee.

There was a verbal group vote in which all members voted against recommending the article.

Roberta stated that the Budget Committee will not support Article 24.

Charyl thanked the Budget Committee members for all the work this budget season and all the Wednesday nights for the last two and a half months.

Close of the Public Hearing

Roberta asked if there were any other things to come before the Budget Committee this year. With no reply, Roberta asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing at 5:33 pm.

Kara motioned, Steve seconded, and the vote was affirmative.

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: 964319** and entering **Meeting ID: 841 1724 3341 Password: 964319**.

This meeting was made available on Zoom. Those wishing to hear the recording of the whole meeting may access it by going to www.woodstocknh.gov and clicking on the recorded meetings tab or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxMH7OFC8H3KqBhYHsBr53g>.



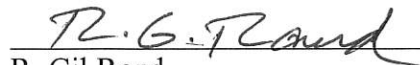
Charyl Reardon, Chairman

March 5, 2024

Date



Scott Rice



R. Gil Rand

Budget Committee Minutes Approval

Date

Roberta Vigneault, Chairperson
