

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday April 30, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Snowdon, Bill McGahie and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: April, 2024. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. 6:00pm public meeting opened in accordance with RSA 231:28. Public hearing for the purpose of reclassifying a portion of Old County Road to Class V from Class VI an additional 650 feet more or less, to a point inclusive of 500' of frontage on Map R10 Lot 5.
4. Guest: Tom Finnegan and Scott Talbot - Emergency Management Committee (EMC)
 - Snowdon expressed appreciation for grants applied for and received by both Tom and Scott. Volunteer firemen make every effort to find grants to save the Town money which is greatly appreciated. Town will receive Tower grant money after the Governor's Committee meeting May 29th and Generator grant money should be received late June.
 - During construction it was not feasible to update and complete the consultant's recommendations made in 2022 for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Now that the new fire station is open and houses the new Emergency Management Center selectmen want to help EMC in any way. Mark Terry has extensive experience implementing these plans all over the world and has volunteered to work with EMC.
5. Old Business
 - A. Health Officer, Scott Talbot - Owners received letter about failing septic on Thompson road and had it pumped by Stones Septic Service. Tank and leach field grandfathered size and type unless fails. Following procedures laid out by the State of NH, Talbot has followed up with another letter to the owners alerting them that within 60 days they need to have the system evaluated. If the system is not proven to be functioning appropriately, action will have to be taken as it is against NH State Law for a dwelling to be inhabited without a working septic system. Owners have until May 28th. Talbot will prepare an administrative order to declare residence uninhabitable to be reviewed by the Town Attorney. Attorney will also be consulted once 60 days ends, whether or not Town should step in to evaluate as run off is going through culvert to the pond across the road and potentially contaminating the neighbors water. Minimally, the Health Officer recommends testing culvert water again to compare contamination levels.
 - B. South Village Business Violation
 - Snowdon -Selectboard is in full support of small businesses in town. There are however ordinances the Town voted for and State regulations that must be upheld. The Zoning Board approved a Special Exemption for the previous owner to sell baked goods two days a week.
 - The Zoning Administrator visited the stand and found various violations including items being sold not baked on site and items other than baked goods being sold. Concerned about items that need refrigeration.

- Lauren Bressett - Planning Board approval for site plan is pending conditions including proper NH licensing or proof that it is not needed from the State. Currently operating without Homestead license and can only sell what they bake in their own kitchen. They also need to get approval from the Zoning Board to expand items sold and any other changes to original Special Exemption. They are supposed to only be selling what they are approved for at this time per PB minutes.
 - Terry - Need to make sure applicants understand the system. Regulations by the State or Town need to be clear, It is important to document everything, and there should not be leeway.
 - Selectmen agreed owners have been told numerous times what they have been approved for and currently are in violation. A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to send a violation letter per Enforcement Policy advising owners they may only sell baked goods as approved by the ZBA in compliance with Homestead Exempt outlined by the State of NH to avoid further action. Motion passed 3-0.
- C. Security Cameras - Snowdon researched suggested systems. Two companies quoted systems with cameras approved by NDAA. Countryside Alams, Mount Holly, VT -\$9,847 and Home Security Systems (HSS), Brattleboro, VT - \$6,718. After meeting with the owner of HSS and seeing actual camera feed and some additional service plans and storage options that would also be useful for the fire station Snowdon would recommend using HSS with the budget of \$7,500 which would include these additional items and be the best overall choice. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to accept the bid from HSS and expend up to \$7500 of remaining bond money to include additional optionals . Motion passed 3-0.
- D. Energy Committee - Mark Terry - Terry Cox will be taking over Mark's role as Community Service Representative for the Town. Selectmen reviewed a mission statement for Westmoreland Energy Committee and a motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to establish an Energy Committee and appoint Terry Cox and Scott Talbot as members. Motion passed 3-0. Talbot - How many members should they seek? Terry - Will send information about tasks and subcommittees. May be early for Westmoreland to decide how much to do and a lot will depend on how many people volunteer. Selectmen agree 3 for now would be good.
- E. Town Hall Renovations - Steve Horton has bids and the project so far is within budget. Once LCHIP approves work can get started. Beginning stages will create a lot of dust so the Historical Society will be notified. They will also need to remove the metal cabinets in the interim. Cleanout has to happen upstairs and we will need to find storage for chairs and any other items to be saved. Work may begin in June.
6. There were no questions or concerns raised and a motion was made by Bill McGahie, seconded by Mark Terry to allow Ian Ingram to reclassifying a portion of Old County Road to Class V from Class VI an additional 650 feet more or less, to a point inclusive of 500' of frontage on Map R10 Lot 5 using current road standards. Road Agent to approve. Motion passed 3-0. Hearing closed at 7:01pm. Ingram asked about when he could begin and was told RSA specifies 10 days after hearing. There is some discrepancy about where Class V ends. Selectmen will hold a special meeting Thursday, May 2nd at 7:30 am with Ingram and Road Agent on Old County Road to determine the section of Road Ingram is responsible for.

7. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$32,845.90 and Fire Station \$6,895 Motion passed 3-0.

8. New Business - Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 4/13/2024, 4/30/2024/	Cemetery Deeds (2)	USPS \$10.16
Payroll Taxes 4/13/2024, 4/30/2024	Retirement \$4889.38	Invoice Cloud \$86.40
Excavation Intents (2)	HealthTrust \$5809.27	General Journal Entries
Intent to Cut Timber (3)	Ceiling Tiles \$192.50	#856 Restitution
Excavation Warrant	Consolidated \$4.95	#857 Excavation Tax
Timber Warrants (2)		

9. Upcoming: May 21, 2024 6pm - Land Use Boards Meeting
June 11, 2024 - Code Enforcement Workshop

10. Correspondence: Executive Council

11. 8:10pm Motion by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to enter nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:5X1 to discuss Town's cybersecurity plan made by. Motion passed 3-0.

12. 8:28pm Motion by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Motion passed 3-0

13. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY MAY 7 , 2024 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

Mark Terry

William McGahie