

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday, August 26, 2021

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Reeder, Russ Austin, Clayton Stalker

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes August 5, 2021. Motion was made by Frank Reeder second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$12,909.41. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guests:

State Senator, Jay Kahn, talked about his push for storm water management in western NH. Noted that Hazard Mitigation plan had to be up to date and look at high impact areas for town. Frank Reeder said that our plan is currently being worked on. Two current bridge issues: River Road North has emergency permit from DES to remove debris, but long-term plan will be needed. Also, River Road bridge by County Farm in need of replacement which would be 2+million. Senator Kahn noted that River Road bridge is a red listed bridge, and will check to see if River Road North can also be red listed due to current washout issues. Kahn explained that the state will be allocating funds in “2 buckets” 1 billion American Rescue and ½ billion Infrastructure. Town would need to match 25%, but likely not able to use \$88. 358.06 ARPA grant money received for that purpose. Senator Kahn also shared that the New Hampshire state budget for 2022-2023 replaces a targeted property tax relief fund with a \$100 million cut to the statewide education property tax. Cheshire County to lose 3.2 million school funding in 2022 which equates to about \$57,000 for Westmoreland school district. Senator Kahn also talked about Telehealth which became huge during pandemic has positively changed the direction of healthcare.
5. Old Business:
  - A. River Road North Bridge – DES Emergency permit to clean debris by Sept. 30, 2021. Work must be done while dry so may need to extend deadline due to trend in recent weather. Will need to contact engineer to assist with a long-term plan for future so debris doesn't continue to collect which is due to the state in 120 days.
  - B. There were no bids for the snow plowing contract. Selectmen to meet with Road Agent, Dave Poklemba, to discuss hiring 3<sup>rd</sup> man. Position to be advertised
  - C. Fireworks permits. Jason Kats submitted a state fireworks permit with liability insurance. Fireworks to be displayed by JPI Pyrotechnics. Selectmen unanimously agree not to require town policy regarding permits, but to accept them if submitted with no liability to the town.
  - D. Selectmen reviewed a new policy for Discretionary Preservation Easement and agreed that it looked to be complete and adequate. Will have town attorney, Silas Little, review before adopting the policy.
  - E. Discussed letter answering questions regarding site plans and when to require for home businesses from town attorney. Russ Austin to review recommendation of language changes suggested, and use of discretion involving site plans with the planning board. Frank Reeder suggested that the Planning Board also look at other towns definitions of home business and home occupation to see if Westmoreland's could be revised to be clearer.

6. New Business:

A. Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 8/10/2021, 8/27/2021, 8/31/2021

Payroll Taxes: 8/10/2021, 8/27/2021, 8/31/2021

NH Retirement 8/31/2021

Health Trust 7/31/2021

Intent to Cut Timber: R3-76. 38 & R1-1, R10-6,7

Timber Tax Warrant R19-27&28

MS-535-2021 Financial Report

B. Russ Austin motioned to accept donation for the Westmoreland Veteran's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$100. Frank Reeder seconded and motion passed 3-0

C. Russ Austin mentioned that John Stronk would consider providing some gravel to the town at a reduced cost from the land he purchased near the highway garage. Frank Reeder and Clayton Stalker voiced concerns about state approvals and town ordinances that would have to be met, and Planning Board approval obtained before town could purchase. Also, would need to know if gravel was what was needed for the town. Ultimately if all requirements are meant getting best price for the town would be priority. Russ to talk to John Stronk about requirements.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Scanlan

Town Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Clayton Stalker, Chairman

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Russ Austin

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Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 2, 2021, 1:00AM

MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -  
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES