

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2020

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Frank Reeder.
2. Approval of Minutes: October 1, 2020 Motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
 - A. Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee: The committee has requested that the Selectmen bring their conceptual plan and estimate of \$2,272,500 for a new fire station to the town. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Clayton Stalker, to bring forth the proposal recommended by the Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee for a new fire station to the townspeople for a vote at the March 2021 town meeting. Motion passed 3-0. The committee will begin to plan public meetings for townspeople to attend. Care will have to be taken to meet social distancing and mask regulations in scheduling these meetings. Owner's Rep Steve Horton thanked the Selectmen for their vote and confidence in the committee. The committee feels that the size of the new station is appropriate for what they need. Based on the current town valuation, the tax impact for the first year of the 20-year loan would be \$1.22 per thousand = \$244.00 on a \$200,000 house, \$366.00 on a \$300,000 house.
 - B. John Snowdon was present as the town's representative on the Southwest Region Planning Commission to introduce the new concept of electric aggregation that was passed by Senate Bill 286 in 2019. It allows local governments to procure electricity on behalf of their residents and businesses. John reported that while many towns are looking into it, there are a lot of issues that need to be addressed. He would not recommend Westmoreland doing it by itself, but the idea of towns joining together is also being discussed. A non-profit group called Community Power New Hampshire has been formed. They encourage towns to achieve local energy goals by using a combination of energy procurement, reduced costs, renewable energy and market competition. John will keep the Selectmen up-to-date on the progress of the concept.
4. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) at 10:30am. Motion passed 3-0.
5. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 10:37am. Motion passed 3-0.
6. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$12,867.37 for the highway department and \$33,328.96 for all other bills for a total of \$46,574.31. Motion passed 3-0.
7. Old Business:
 - November 3rd Election: Moderator Peter Hills has a floor plan made for use of the school gymnasium for voting. It will follow State requirements for social distancing and wearing masks. Voting booths, tables, counting machine, etc. will be taken to the school on Monday, Nov 2nd to be set up.

8. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: October 6, 2020 & October 7, 2020

Payroll Taxes: October 9, 2020

Amazon: Election supplies \$441.32, Office supplies \$198.16, Highway supplies \$137.60

Clear Air, LLC: Fire Dept PPE \$2,640.00

CompuCheck: checks \$99.94

Invoice Cloud: paperless mv \$9.60

Bank Statements: General, Conservation, Broadband - September 2020

General Journal entries: #729-731

A. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin, per RSA 31:19, to accept donations for the Westmoreland Veteran's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$750.00. Motion passed 3-0. 47 bricks for the walkway have been sold to date.

B. Selectmen reviewed a comparison of the MS-1 Report regarding the town's valuation. 2020 valuation didn't go up much based on lower current use values and the assessment of utilities. 2019 = \$166,133,847 2020 = \$166,370,954

C. Selectmen and Department Heads will be doing employee performance evaluations in November.

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

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Frank Reeder, Chairman

Clayton R. Stalker

Russ Austin

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, November 5, 2020, 10:00AM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES