

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Austin, Frank Reeder, John Snowdon

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2022. Motion was made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to Approve Manifests: \$2,717.34 Motion passed 3-0.
4. 6:03pm - Russ Austin opened hearings:
 - A. Discretionary Preservation Easement
 - B. Recycling Center and Zoning Fees - Alison Fissett - Increasing fees for larger items could lead to more items dumped over banks and in woods. Frank Reeder - Only a few increases to offset increased tonnage and trucking costs. Mark Terry - Sticker cost \$10-\$25 is a large increase all at once. Reeder - Only other option to reduce costs is pay by the bag which would increase user cost significantly more.
5. Guest: Jason Simino - Would like to bring up Reynolds Road from class VI road to class V. Wants to subdivide his land to create an additional building lot to meet acreage and frontage criteria. Road Agent, Dave Poklemba, willing to work with Simnio if approved by the town, but would like to see the road paved due to maintenance costs for dirt roads. Simino has been maintaining the road, and has only needed to add additional gravel 1 time since original work in 2003. Cost to bring up a paved road for the 7/10 mile would be 100,000-130,000. Simno disagrees that the cost to maintain the road would be less if paved since the road has no water issues and is lightly traveled by the few residents who live on the road. Simino realizes to meet the road criteria that additional culverts would need to be in place as well as a turn around. Russ Austin - Bringing up a road from class VI road to class V town maintained road would need to be decided by the Town at Town Meeting. Would need to decide with the Road Agent if the road is to be paved or remain gravel and can then have Town vote in March 2023.
6. Old Business:
 - A. MTAG Grant - Selectmen received a letter from Jim Starkey asking them to get confirmation in writing from organizations providing the MTAG grant about Town not being obliged to write a housing ordinance if applying for grant. Reeder - No one can force Town to put an ordinance in place. Alison Fisette also gave Selectmen a statement about MTAG grant in regards to the Master Plan. Snowdon - Only need to have discussion that involves housing. There is to be emphasis on community engagement and will help teach us how to create discussions with our community. There is no enforcement of housing. Town makes decisions on any ordinances. Austin - Conservation Commission voted grant not appropriate at this time. Marshall Patmos - Not enough information about what is required from the town and should look for other opportunities with more information before proceeding. Reeder - Town

cannot apply for most grants because we are considered too wealthy. Ordinances have issues this grant will not address, but if it pays for ½ the cost of getting ordinances up to date that is money that won't need to come from taxpayers. Mark Terry - All ordinances need to be reviewed since there are some disconnects between state and town. Jeanette Hubert - How much does the Town pay annually to Southwest Regional Planning? Jo Ann LaBarre - \$1700 per year. Alison Fissette - Joined during last Master Plan work. Reeder - Appreciate responses and input from Planning and Zoning Boards as well as Conservation Commission. Russ Ausin - Selectmen to table until the next meeting to review responses further.

- B. Mill Brook Dam - Tom Finnegan notified Chesterfield Emergency Management Director of issue with dam. It was brought to the Chesterfield Board of Selectmen's April 6th meeting as new business and was to be investigated by one of the board members then reviewed at their April 20th meeting. Waiting for their response.
- C. Town Hall Fire Alarm System and Clock Repair Bids to be opened next meeting May 5, 2022
- D. Two applicants were reviewed by Russ Austin and John Snowdon for the Town Clerk position. Vicki Reeder has been appointed as Town Clerk until the next Town Election
- E. Hatt Road Bridge - Bill Patnode fixed the bridge wing wall for minimum cost to the town which was a great service to the town. State will be inspecting the bridge to see if it can be taken off the Red List.
- F. Consolidated Communications (CCI) will be coming to the May 19th meeting. Jeff McIver to talk about new branding - Fidium

7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 04/19/2022, 04/21/2022

Payroll Taxes: 04/21/2022, 04/21/2022

General Journal Entry #799

NH Retirement 04/21/2022

Solar Exemption (8)

Timber Tax Warrants (1)

Intent to Cut (1)

Forest Fire Bill

- A. Fire Station Fund - Advisory Committee before ending asked to form a fundraising Fund for costs aside from what bond is for. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept the fund. Motion passed 3-0. Periodic updates about the new fire station's progress to be posted on the Town website.
- B. Post Insurance Guidelines for Bond - The bond attorney suggests guidelines to be adopted by Selectmen to insure that no actions take place after the bond is issued that would call into question the tax exempt status of the Town by the IRS. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to accept proposed guidelines to be prepared legally for cost of \$450-\$750. Motion passed 3-0.
- C. Highway Department Electric - Russ Austin shared savings on electric costs at the Highway garage due to solar panels. 2018 - \$1611.02; 2019 - \$1422.87; 2020 - \$1273.49; 2021 - 392.84
- D. Chris Coates from Cheshire County to attend a May meeting to discuss county updates

- E. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept recycling Center item fees as proposed, sticker fee of increase from \$10 to \$25 and Zoning permit fee increase from \$20 to \$30. Motion passed 3-0. With no further discussion public hearing closed at 7:08pm
- F. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to approve Discretionary Preservation Easement of 65% for JJ and Emilia Prior’s barn on Hatt Road based on calculations from the Policy of Discretionary Preservation Easement for Historic Agricultural Structures adopted by the Town. With no further discussion public hearing closed at 7:12pm

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by John Snowdon to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(b) at 7:15pm. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 7:25pm. Motion passed 3-0

- 8. There was no additional correspondence
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – MONDAY May 5,,2022 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon