

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, December 16, 2021

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2021. Motion was made by Clayton Stalker second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$14, 533.67. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest:
 - A. Library Trustee, Jan Hurley . Selectmen asked Jan Hurley about a proposed 21% increase in budget from 2021 to 2022 and hiring of a 3rd person. Hurley said a third person was to replace the person lost in 2020. Due to the pandemic, the library has operated at reduced hours with reduced staffing. The 2021 budget was lower than 2020 due to these reductions. The 2022 budget is \$5000 higher than 2020 due to increased wages necessary to hire and maintain staff. She explained the need of the third person to increase library hours and offer online aspects of the library including interlibrary loans not currently offered. Jo Ann LaBarre asked if Stephanie Kelly was the new third person and Hurley said that Kelly had been hired to take charge of the children's section. Hurley said that increase would also be used to replace the custodian also lost in 2020. Frank Reeder suggested that the library provide circulation figures to justify expenses for the budget committee.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Health Officer - Richard Myer and Bill Chase are interested in taking the position jointly. Position appointed by the state with recommendations from the town. Would have to see if the position could be done jointly. Frank Reeder said the position requires very little and one person is enough. Selectmen were in agreement that second person could act as a back up if needed,
 - B. Daggett Hill - August Waters called to ask about repurchasing the Daggett Hill property taken by the town. He said he had not received certified letters sent to him as he has moved out of state. He intends to come back to the aerea in the near future and will talk to selectmen at that time about repurchasing property.
6. New Business:
 - A. M&N Assessing quote for 1st of 5 year cyclical assessment \$22,500. After brief discussion a motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to contract M&N Assessing. Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. The Melanson Group will no longer be doing Westmoreland's auditing since the auditor in charge of the town's account had left their employment. They suggested the town reach out to Patrick Mohan, former auditor, now at Plodzik & Sanderson to see if he can do town audits through Plodzik & Sanderson. Selectmen agreed that since the town has a working relationship with Mohan it would be best to see if he could take on the town's audit through Plodzik & Sanderson.
 - C. Village Common Post - Truck destroyed "Trucks No Entry" sign and 3 granite posts in early morning hours. Not enough room for trucks to make the turn and although posted they continue to use the Town Common Road as a turn around. Clayton Stalker proposed the road be closed to

through traffic. After some discussion a motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to follow procedure to close the South Village side of the Common Road eliminating road through traffic to Glebe. Motion passed 3-0

- D. Plowing Driveway Road - Frank Reeder brought up that some roads in town are mainly driveways according to the Road Agent. Selectmen discussed closing said roads, but noted the property value could be affected by doing so. Selectmen agreed roads should remain unchanged.
- E. Employee reviews collected by Selectmen to review prior to discussion of salary budget for 2022
- F. Bond Hearing date for proposed new fire station set for January 13, 2022 at 6:30pm

Signature Approval was given for the following:

General Journal Entry #784
Payroll: 12/8/2021, 12/12/2021, 12/14/2021
Payroll Taxes: 12/9/2021, 12/12/2021, 12/17/2021
Amazon: 12/3/2021

Clerk Ink Pad 12/3/2021
Veterans Flag Depot 12/8/2021
Moderator Workshop-NHMA 12/14/2021
General Journal Entries: 785, 786

- 7. Correspondence: Letter to Selectmen from John Harris suggesting the town ask Cheshire County for money to help with the new fire station. Frank Reeder noted that the County did donate the generator that will be used when a new station is built. The County is also helping the town determine best use of ARPA grant. Reeder said that until the new fire station is approved it doesn't seem appropriate to ask for money. Selectmen agreed that should the town approve the new station it would be appropriate to reach out to the County as well as others for donation.
- 8. Budget - Worked remainder of the 2022 operating budget and began work on articles.
- 9.. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, January 6,, 2021, 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder