

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 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: June 2 & June 6. 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 Russ Austin to Approve Manifests: \$17,579.59 Motion passed 3-0.

4. Guest:

Alison Fissette

Meeting June 6th not on town website. How can meetings taking place on short notice be additionally posted. (see attached letter) Reeder - Only required to post 2 places, and it was posted at the Westmoreland Post Office and on the Town Hall outside bulletin board. Town attorney advised Selectboard not to use Facebook as a means of public communication as not everyone has access. Austin - Meeting June 6th was a result of a call about upgrading Reynolds Road and possible special town meeting to do so. Felt it necessary to meet to discuss how to proceed, and compile questions to ask the town attorney. The pressing reason for the meeting was to sign a necessary letter for a grant being pursued for fixing the rail trail. The deadline for this was prior to the next meeting.

Matt Beauregard, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Chesterfield.

- Russ Austin - Potentially looking for a part-time or per diem code enforcement officer. Would need to be in the future budget if Selectboard decides to proceed. Matt - Currently work as Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer which is a salaried job, but could figure out something hourly.
- Difference between Code Enforcement and Building Inspector - Building Inspector deals with safety and clear cut codes. Code Enforcement has more gray areas. Often deals with complaints and issues where someone is perceived as not following ordinances. Officer goal is to resolve fairly within guidelines of the town.
- Jeanette Hubert - What is Code Enforcement? Matt - State RSA's give power to the town to enforce ordinances. There are procedures including warnings, injunctions, and fines which the State sets a maximum for and can involve the town attorney.
- Frank Reeder - Position would need to be advertised. If we decided to hire Matt part-time, we would need to work with Chesterfield as they already employ Matt full time. Would need to reach out about the possibility of cost sharing or hiring aside with hourly pay.
- Reeder - Municipal Association could be helpful to find out how many towns have Code Enforcement Officers and a spectrum of pay for this position.

5. Old Business:

- A. Reynolds Road - Jason Simino requesting to reopen Reynolds Road to a Class V standard. Town voted to close Reynolds Road subject to gates and bars March 1964 Article 23. Town also voted in March 1972 Article 19 that no Class VI road be opened without the authority of

the townspeople. The Town Attorney said the State will not grant a special town meeting to reopen a town road. An article could be on the Town Warrant for the March 2023 Town Meeting if done by Simino through petition.

- B. Road Standards - Planning Board worked on road standard revisions in 2017 and would like them to be considered. Selectmen and Road Agent in agreement that standards should be reviewed and put forward to the town.
- C. River Road Bridge - Every 2 years DOT approaches SWRPC to find projects to add to the 10 year plan. John Snowdon contacted JB Mack about what is involved. There is talk of money available from a bipartisan infrastructure bill. Would need to see if River Road bridge would meet the minimum requirement. The 10 year plan is a no match grant. By submitting the application the SWRPC will assist in developing an estimate for NHDOT to review the project 100% cost free. JB Mack will come to the July 7th Selectboard meeting to talk about it and answer questions. Austin - recommend the town apply. Reeder - suggest Chris Coates write a letter of support from the County to include with application.
- D. Fire Station Bond - All bond paperwork has been completed and returned. Money will be wired to the new account created for the bond.
- E. Hazard Mitigation Plan - Selectmen need to adopt at the next meeting.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 06/14/2022

Payroll Taxes: 06/16/2022

General Journal Entries:

805 To cover July broadband payment

Westmoreland Post Office \$38.97

Westmoreland Post Office \$31.28

- A. Highway Truck - 1 ton truck hydraulic line blew and the truck was destroyed by fire. Could not be extinguished and the fire department was called. No injuries to the driver or property other than the truck. Insurance adjuster came, and will have an insurance quote in a few days. Dave searched and priced available trucks (2) in the area. Reeds International has 550 could possibly get for \$150,000. Claremont Ford has a Ford F600 cab and chassis \$65,000 waiting for Viking estimate on body and hydraulics. Should total less than International. Cannot use salvage parts because insurance claims and auctions them. Frank - Ask the Ford dealer to hold the truck until the end of next week. Need to know the insurance amount and if with Highway Capital Reserve there is enough to purchase the truck. Time is of the essence with truck shortage so the Board can meet to make a decision once numbers are in.
 - B. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to accept donations from the brick fundraiser totaling \$1,029.72 Motion passed 3-0.
 - C. CCI will attend July 7th meeting
 - D. Jeanette Hubert and April Ferguson requested Steve Horton's contact information for the Conservation Commission. Frank - Everything is to go through the Selectmen's office.
8. Correspondence - Letter from Alison Fissette attached

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY JULY 7,, 2022 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon

06/23/22

To the Westmoreland Selectmen,

I am wondering if there can be additional ways to post notices about meetings that are taking place on short notice and/or not as regularly scheduled.

As you know I have been attending the Selectmen's meetings on a regular basis since November, there is really no better way to get the full understanding of what was said at a meeting than by attending in person or if it were to be recorded as some have stated they would like to see, on the Westmoreland Facebook page.

To my surprise, I learned, well after the meeting took place and read the minutes of the June 6th meeting, that I and others had no idea it was planned or had taken place.

I do find it very unfortunate that I was not aware this meeting was scheduled, for I am very interested in this subject matter of upgrading a Class VI road, for this could have a very large impact on our town. I could see if this was an emergency subject, but in my opinion, this really should have been discussed at the June 2nd meeting or this evening's meeting June 23rd (rescheduled from the 16th). I really would hope this does not start happening on a regular basis, no matter what the subject matter is.

I am told the impromptu June 6th 930 am meeting was posted at the Town Hall bulletin board and the post office in a timely manner, but most of us do not frequent those areas on a regular basis, especially when the town office is closed Friday - Sunday.. I would think it could be posted on the town's website and/or calendar, maybe individual facebook pages for committees, depts, groups etc, where items could be posted but no commenting allowed, just a digital bulletin board , which could certainly help with making the town's people aware of anything new or any changes to scheduled meetings.

From the results of the last master plan update, there were requests from the townspeople to improve communication between the town government and the townspeople.

I believe a communication committee was formed, were there some suggestions/recommendations from the committee for the town to think about implementing?

Was there a list for townspeople to sign up for town government information created, maybe an email blast or bulk emailing?

Sincerely
Alison Fissette