

# Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, February 2, 2023

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Russ Austin, Frank Reeder and John Snowdon.

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: January 26, 2023 & January 31, 2023. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to Approve Manifests for: General Fund \$213,439.90 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Land-use boards
  - Marshall Patmos - Conservation Commission continues to encourage more land use such as trails, although some like the  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile trail along the Connecticut River are in disrepair. Snowdon - County has plans for the red barn possibly they would be interested in helping with efforts to work on that trail. Patmos - Encouraging more conservation easements and monitoring hydro power review for effect on land erosion on the river banks.
  - Alan Bell - Zoning Board has one zoning exception in near future, but while some people are trying to comply with ordinances, who makes sure others follow rules established by ordinances as well? Reeder - Selectmen can issue a cease and desist, but if a person is noncompliant the next step is Superior Court which is costly to the town. Mark Terry - Seems to be a statewide problem, and with no repercussions the only people penalized are the people who are compliant. Reeder - In 2019 Town attorney suggested Selectboard use a complaint form so not accused of arbitrarily enforcement. Bell - Can something be done so during sale of a home a title search would reflect zoning ordinance or permit issues? Reeder - we will need to check with the Town attorney to see if the Town can impose fines and if there is a mechanism for collecting those fines. Also need to see if RSAs allow municipalities to recover legal fees.
  - Lauren Bressett - New news section on the website will allow more information and articles to be posted. Suggest contact page with Town Officials info on website and in Town Report.
  - Master Plan: Snowdon - Planning Board responsible. Can be done in a variety of ways. Sub-committees can be formed and appointed by Selectmen. Bruce Smith - Master Plan is about a 2 year process. Social media has changed the way information is delivered, and the key will be getting as many people involved through as many informational avenues as possible.
  - Mark Terry - People are needed for committees. Could Town Meeting be a place to make announcements for the need for people to get involved? Reeder - Would need to ask the Moderator for time to make comments.
  - Next land-use board meeting to be April 20, 2023 at 6pm
5. Old Business
  - A. Boston Post Cane - Presented to 97 year old Hilda Fish who now resides at Maplewood
  - B. Ambulance Contract - 2 prices for ambulance service for the upcoming contract year which begins April 1st. Keene Ambulance priced approximately \$20,000 less than last year at

\$61,000 (\$54,000 if grant funding received) Cheshire County EMS is offering a 3-year rate 1st year 8,000, 2nd year 9,520, 3rd year 12,800. Harry Nelson - Keene not likely to take Westmoreland back if any issues arise. Reeder - County has a good plan, is staffed and is ready to take on towns. Contract is a one year contract with a 60 day cancellation clause that offers 3 year pricing. It has been reviewed by the Town attorney. County offers comparable service that will save the Town over \$150,000 over 3 years. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to sign County EMS ambulance contract.

C. Upstairs ceiling painting bids - Received only one bid from S&S Painting and Decorating not to exceed \$9,975 to paint the tin ceilings upstairs in the Town Hall. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept the bid not to exceed \$9,975 and contract S&S Painting and Decorating to paint the upstairs tin ceilings.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Bank Statements	Health Trust \$6455.38
Timber Tax Warrant	Retirement \$3399.14

7. Reeder - Temperatures are predicted to be dangerously cold Saturday. Compactor may not function in temperatures, and should consider closing the recycling center for employee safety

8. Correspondence - City of Keene

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2023 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Russ Austin, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank Reeder

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Snowdon