

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: January 5, 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 \$109,181.57 Fire Station \$14,500.00 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest: County EMS
Cheshire County: County Administrator, Chris Coates; Commissioner, Jack Wozmak;
Chief Michael Spain, Deputy Chad Butler; Finance Director, Sheryl Trombly
 - County EMS new service now located 53 Monadnock Highway (Route 12) Swanzey
 - ARPA grant money used to start up. No bonds
 - 3 ambulances & 1 Fly Car current staffed
 - Will have 8 ambulances: 4-911, 2-transfers, 2-reserve
 - Future plans for substations in other towns-potentially Maplewood
 - Plans for EMT and community education programs
 - Concern present services not sustainable. County goal to help make all services stronger
 - Inter facility transfers key to income making 911 service coverage more affordable. County currently does 95% of Cheshire Medical transfers. County looking to sustain service, not profit.
 - County is offering a 3-year period of rate-smoothing funded by federal funds to be allocated by 2024 expiration: Rates: 1st year 8,000, 2nd year 9,520, 3rd year 12,800.
 - Graham Gitchell - Will service increase in price dramatically in near future? Wozmak-no dramatic change expected in next 10 years.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Keene Ambulance Contract - New contract price approximately substantially less than last year. Last year the town budgeted \$71,235 which was increased by the City of Keene on March 18, 2022 to \$78,733. 2023 projected cost \$61,000 / \$54,303 if grant is received. After some discussion comparing both County and Keene services, Selectmen concurred to have the Town Attorney review County contract and make a decision on service to be used by the Town at the first February meeting.
 - B. Auto Body Shop - Continuing to do business although cease and desist issued by the Town Attorney. Tenant was issued a notice of eviction by the owner, but has failed to vacate. Town attorney advised that the owner's attorney is working to remove the tenant.
 - C. Monument plaques - Design and price to be completed by end of week. Monument is on hold until plaques are in hand. Once price is in a warrant article for the purchase of the

plaques with all names of those who served in all wars from Westmoreland can be written for the town to vote on.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 1/10/2023, 1/24/2023	Avitar Contract
Payroll Taxes: 1/12/2023, 1/26/2023	Spectrum Franchise Agreement
Intent to Cut Timber	USPS \$1290.00
Timber Tax Warrant	Eversource 323.29

- A. Jason Kats emailed a proposal to build a bridge replacing the River Road South Bridge and rent it to the town. Frank Reeder - Bridges in NH are considered highway structures and it is not legal in NH to build a private bridge on a public road to rent to the town.
- B. Allison Fissette - Tree that took down wires on South Village Road had been marked for removal for years. Power was lost for 2 days when the tree fell. Reeder - would need to ask Eversource or Asplundh tree service why it was not done.

7. Correspondence

- Thank you note from Maplewood Administrator for donation from Starkey/Cobb fund
- Cinde Warmington, Executive Councilor, District 2
- Trustees of Trust Funds MS9 & MS10 reports

8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY FEBRUARY 2ND 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon