

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022

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: October 13, 2022. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon 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 \$3,702.37 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guests
Jacob Freedman
 - Route 12 property is not in compliance with the Planning Board, and cannot be moved forward for change of use with the Zoning Board.
 - Reeder - Selectmen not involved in Planning Board or Zoning Board decisions, however the Selectboard is tasked to enforce codes. Based on Town Attorney recommendation a cease and desist letter will be mailed to both Freedman and tenant currently leasing buildings. Freedman will need to resolve with the Planning Board.
 - Freedman - 2 issues site plan and subdivision.
 - Lauren Bressett - Until the state approves subdivision the Planning Board cannot approve either subdivision or site plan since done together.
 - Freedman to work with the Planning Board to potentially separate two issues, resolve remaining site plan conditions.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Community Power - Mark Terry and Chris Ballou in attendance to present a vision statement for the community power committee. See attached. Seeking board approval to form a committee to research the best community power option for the Town in an effort to lower electric prices. Reeder - Has looming fuel prices sped up interest in community power? Terry - Definitely a factor along with Eversource's 50% increase. Austin - How many members would be needed? Terry - Looking for 4-5 members and a subcommittee to help inform the Town. Snowdon - Community power to be at no cost to the Town. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to form a 5 member Community Power Committee to be appointed by the Selectboard. Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. River Road Bridge Funding - Snowdon met with Cheshire County Administrator, Chris Coates, and J.B. Mack to discuss ways for the Town and County to partner to find funding. A joint effort could prove to make a stronger case for bridge funding. Town cannot afford to fix the bridge without funding. Snowdon also spoke with Katherine Heck, Government State Finance Advisor, and found that money depends on the category

placed in by NHDOT. There are various ways of reimbursement if the Town was to do 80/20 plan. Town not looking to do another long term bond. J.B. Mack will work with Heck to find funding options for the Bridge.

- C. Dog Issues - Vicki Reeder, Town Clerk - First case of reported puppy mill and animal neglect being worked on by the Monadnock Humane Agent. The Humane Society was recently involved in rescue of dogs in Winchester, but intends to proceed with the case in Town. Second case letter sent to owner of unleashed dogs that have been to the Humane Society on multiple occasions. Humane Society has vaccinated, but owner still has not licensed dogs and dogs continue to run loose. Scanlan - Other owners have been fined for not abiding by the leash laws. Selectmen agree that a letter with a fine should be sent. Frank Reeder - State forfeiture law not effective for towns without a police force. Little support from the state which could lead to more unvaccinated dogs and rabie issues.
- D. Land Use Boards - Snowdon would like to reach out to 3 land use boards and schedule a meeting to include their board chair, vice chair and clerks with the Selectboard. Meeting to discuss any current issues and find better ways to communicate. All boards agree this would be useful. Meeting would be public and anyone else could attend. Options to be sent to boards to find the best time to meet in near future.
- E. Property cards and maps online - Difficulty obtaining current abutter names and addresses with so many recent changes. Bressett - NH OSI for Planning Board applicant prepares list. Not the same for Zoning. If an applicant presents an incorrect list application can be denied. Having property cards online would make information more accessible. Realtors, assessors, and banks need the same information on a regular basis. Cost per year to have Avitar Assessing Kiosk \$1730. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to put in next year's budget proposal. Motion passed 3-0.

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 10/18/2022	Hamshaw \$57.98
Payroll Taxes: 10/20/2022	Retirement \$1663.51
Auto Zone \$107.97	

6. New Business:

- A. Tax Rate - Not yet set due to the School District not submitting documents to DRA as of yet. The Town portion using \$50,000 of surplus would keep the tax rate the same. Motion was made by John Snowdon and seconded by Frank Reeder to use \$50,000 of surplus to keep tax rate the same. Motion passed 3-0. State will have to approve
- B. Old Home Days Committee - Appointed 2 new members to join Elaine Moore on Old Home Days Committee. All meetings to be posted and held at the town hall. Minutes to be provided within 5 days per right to know law.
- C. Zoning and Planning Board fee hearing scheduled for November 3 1pm

- 7. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(b) at 7:03pm. Motion passed 3-0.
- 8. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by John Snowdon, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to the public session at 7:12pm. Motion passed 3-0
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2022 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon