

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday December 13, 2018

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Stalker.
2. 2019 Budget:
  - A. Highway Department: Road Agent Dave Poklemba  
The operating budget presented by Dave was amended slightly.  
Capital projects brought forth were to replace the roof on the highway garage and to replace the grader, backhoe and loader. The roof project will be put out to bid to get a price to include in the Warrant at town meeting. In looking at the three estimates that Dave had gotten to lease the equipment, the Selectmen asked which piece of equipment would be the first to be replaced in his opinion. Dave stated that the grader was in the worst shape. Estimates on the grader ranged from \$282,700 to \$325,000 for a new grader. Dave added that he would be looking for a demo or grader with low hours when it came to purchase the equipment. The Selectmen agreed that that is a good plan, but it makes it difficult to present a budget number to the townspeople. Jo Ann will look at how other towns handle this situation and also get the ruling from the DRA how a lease agreement article would be written. When the time comes to make the purchase, a lease agreement and a bank loan would be looked at.
3. Selectmen worked on budget requests from other Departments. No major changes were made.
4. The Town Common Committee is requesting \$10,000 for “items or issues that may be needed for the Common and particular costs that might be proposed for refurbishment of the Veteran’s Memorial.”  
Without a plan in place and costs of the project, the Selectmen will not approve of raising the \$10,000. As the Committee was appointed in May of 2017 and still has no plan for the refurbishing of the Veteran’s Memorial, the Selectmen agreed that the committee should be dissolved if they cannot bring a plan to the 2019 town meeting.
5. Supervisor of the Recycling Center, Ron Fish, would like to purchase coats for the people who work at the facility. As there is money in the Recycling Center budget, the Selectmen approved Ron’s request of \$80 for each of the three employees to purchase a coat.  
Ron also has requested if he could take the 5¢ cans and turn them in for money that he would keep and in turn, he would pay the town the per pound rate that is currently paid by the company takes all of the cans. The Selectmen feel that once the cans are deposited, they are town property and it would not be legal for anyone to take them and make a profit.  
Ron has requested the Selectmen to consider putting in a 26x32’ concrete slab and to purchase an open-top container with a roof over it to put the paper for recycling in. This would eliminate the stacking of papers. The cost of the project would be approximately \$15,000. The Selectmen will ask Ron what the savings would be for the town to do this project before making a decision to include it in the Warrant at town meeting.

6. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$1,115.35 for the Highway Department and \$39,984.72 for all other bills for a total of \$41,100.07. Motion passed 3-0.
7. The Selectmen will continue with budget work at their regular meeting on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre  
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Clayton R. Stalker, Chairman

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Russ Austin

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Frank Reeder