

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, July 3, 2018

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by Chairman Clayton Stalker. This is considered an Emergency Meeting, per RSA 91-A:2,II to discuss the sudden lack of a source for town recyclables and the upcoming court hearing with the Board of Selectmen and the Tax Collector.
2. Recycling Center: The town was informed on July 2 that American Paper is going out of business and will no longer be accepting our mixed paper and corrugated cardboard for recycling. Jo Ann made calls to two sources and each recommended working with Keene to have the recyclables go to their facility. Keene's Public Works Director Duncan Watson told Jo Ann that there was a program through the Northeast Recovery Resource Association (NRRA) whereby we can send recyclables to Keene. After a call to NRRA, our paper and cardboard will be going to Keene. Triple T will still be doing the trucking. NRRA is currently paying for cardboard, but as there is no current market for mixed paper, the town will be paying \$45 a ton to recycle the paper. It still will be cheaper for the town than putting the paper in the compactor as the fees for dumping the compactor are much higher and we will still be helping the environment.
3. Court Hearing with Tax Collector: Yesterday, July 2, the town was faxed through the Tax Collector's attorney, the paperwork that was requested on June 1 to remedy a discrepancy in what appeared to be billing property taxes to a resident twice for 2015 taxes at the closing when the property was sold in May of 2018. The Selectmen filed for a hearing with the court to compel the Tax Collector to submit the tax records pertaining to this situation when they did not receive the requested information, which is required by law. The paperwork submitted by the Tax Collector showed that an error was made in her books and the property owner did not still owe 2015 taxes. The property owner will be compensated (\$10,934.27) by the title company that did the closing, which was the goal of the Selectmen in pursuing this matter. After speaking with the town attorney by phone during the meeting, the Selectmen agreed to have the court hearing scheduled for July 6 dismissed, as the outcome that they wanted had been met. The Selectmen agree that it was unfortunate that they had to get involved and spend tax dollars in the matter, but several attempts by the Savings Bank of Walpole in May to the Tax Collector questioning the issue were not acknowledged, so the bank was compelled to ask the Selectmen to intervene. Clayton added that it was also unfortunate that it took court action and over 30 days to find, correct and amend the error made. He is also concerned why the Tax Collector is not getting certain mail as she has stated that she did not receive the June 1 request by the Selectmen or the 2015 tax check sent by the closing company. The town attorney recommended sending 'official' mail to the Tax Collector by certified mail. The town attorney will ask Mrs. Adler's lawyer to facilitate her turning over her 2017 tax records to the Auditors, as she has yet to schedule a time at the request of the Auditors.
4. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) at 8:25am. Motion passed.

5. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 9:00am. Motion passed.

6. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to adjourn the meeting at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder