

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, July 3, 2019

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Russ Austin.
2. Guests:

John Snowdon, Chair of the Broadband Advisory Committee was present to update the Selectmen on the work of the committee. The committee has met with Matrix Communications Group, who has presented a preliminary proposal to build, operate and maintain a fiber network in town. Matrix would invest \$2,000,000 and subscribers would receive 50mbps service for a fee of \$95 per month or 100mbps service for \$135 per month. There would also be a \$400 connection fee. Matrix would need 325 pre-subscribers. The town would need to fund \$894,000, \$710,160 of which is a 'make-ready' fee for the utility companies that own the poles. A concern with Matrix being a private company was discussed in regard to a possible closing or buy-out in the future. The town would have the opportunity to buy the LLC at that time. The Selectmen expressed that the town would not want to be in that business. The committee is still talking to Consolidated and is waiting to hear from Argent Communications.

The committee will be recommending to the Selectmen how they would like to proceed. There will be informational meetings for the public in August.

The Selectmen expressed to John that a Request for Proposals needs to include what will be in the town's best interest.
3. Approval of Minutes: June 20, 2019. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$1,449.29 for the highway department and \$8,676.33 for all other bills for a total of \$10,125.62. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Forensic Audit: Final stages of the audit are being completed.
 - B. Work on the lighting of the flag pole has begun. The light will be attached to the pole to eliminate the potential of a ground light being a trip hazard and/or getting broken.
 - C. Selectmen discussed where the best potential for advertising the 1995 grader for sale. There are equipment trade web sites, Town & City (NHMA) magazine and local advertising.
 - D. Shelter for new grader: The options of a metal vs fabric building were discussed. Britespan Buildings of Canada have a 24x36 building which includes concrete blocks, setup and shipping for \$38,000. The town would have to supply a garage door. A metal building would need concrete footings and the town would have to hire someone to erect it. Both options have adequate snow load and wind protection capabilities. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to purchase the Britespan fabric building. Motion passed. The majority of funds will come from SB38 Highway Grant State Funds with the remainder coming from the highway department paving budget that was not spent this year.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: June 28, 2019 & July 2, 2019

Payroll Taxes: June 28, 2019 & July 3, 2019

NH Retirement: June 25, 2019

Healthtrust: June 25, 2019

Amazon: June 28, 2019 – fan for clerk/collector office

Post Office: July 1, 2019 – certified lien letters

CompuChecks: July 3, 2019 – checks

Reports: Balance Sheet and Budget vs Actual through June 30, 2019

Journal Entry: #680 to transfer LUCT funds to Conservation Fund

- A. The principal of Pioneer Junior Academy would like to know if there are any residents who might need assistance or community projects that her students can help with.
- B. More complaints have come in about excess speeding in town.
- C. With the passing of Mrs. Yvette Savard, the Boston Post Cane will be passed to the next oldest resident in town, Thelma Messer.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None

8. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, July 18, 2019, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES