

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday, June 21, 2018

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: June 7, 2018. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
  - A. Road Agent David Poklemba: Dave was present to ask the Selectmen about the possibility of purchasing a 1992 Case Tractor that is for sale in York, PA. The cost of the tractor is \$23,500 plus \$1,500 for transporting it to Westmoreland. The town has always rented tractors to do the mowing on the side of the roads. Dave stated that Owens Leasing in Claremont is the only local place to rent mowers and added that their tractors continually break down. He believes that if the town bought their own tractor, it would pay for itself in three years. The Selectmen would like a mechanic to look at it or Dave should look at it himself before purchasing it. If Dave can confirm that the 1992 Case is in good condition, they approve of the purchase. ½ of the cost will be covered in the Highway Budget and ½ from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. Serving as Agents of the Fund, the Selectmen have the authority to make withdrawals.
  - B. Derek & Leslie Weston, 39 Old Route 12 North: The Weston's had a tree come down across their driveway from the June 4<sup>th</sup> storm. They feel that as the tree was near the road, the town should cover the \$1,300 cost of cleaning up the tree. Unless the town has a deed to the road, it only has a right-of-way to maintain the road. The abutting property owners own ½ of the land under the roadway. The town or utility companies have to ask permission to cut trees along the road as they belong to the property owner(s). The Selectmen suggested that if it were to happen again, there are people who may have cleaned it up for them to get the wood. The Weston's thanked the Selectmen for the explanation. Clayton thanked them for coming in and added that he hopes that people will bring their questions and concerns to the Board.
  - C. Madelynn Cassin expressed her concern that people do not have the opportunity to ask questions prior to town elections. There is a Public Hearing on the budget, which gives residents the chance to discuss what is going to be on the Warrant. Madelynn is on the recently appointed Communications Advisory Committee. One of the issues they will be discussing is ways to inform people about hearings, etc. other than using the town's website. Clayton stated that the Selectmen need and want input from residents to make knowledgeable decisions for the town.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$3,339.67 for the Highway Department and \$8,591.66 for all other bills for a total of \$11,931.33. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
  - A. Alternative Energy Advisory Committee: The Planning Board will be giving their recommendation for members to the Selectmen for appointment and submit what their goals are for the committee.
  - B. Communication Advisory Committee: Madelynn Cassin and Celia Boaz were present at the meeting. They will be contacting the other members (Nancy Ranson & Mark Terry) to set up a first meeting. Selectman Reeder will also attend the meeting. He reminded the committee members that the meetings need to be posted and minutes taken.

- C. Asbestos Landfill: The Conservation Commission continues to monitor the relocating of debris on the County property. They will keep the Selectmen informed.
- D. Site Feasibility Assessment update: Four companies have sent Intent to Bid letters.
- E. Lead Tackle Disposal Box: The box has been installed at the Recycling Center.
- F. Veteran’s Memorial Fund: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin, that the Select Board establish the ‘Westmoreland Veteran’s Memorial Fund’ for the purpose of accepting private donations for the repair and expansion of the veteran’s memorial located on the Westmoreland Town Common pursuant to its authority under RSA 31:19. Motion passed 3-0. The Town Common Advisory Committee will be sending information to every household in town.
- G. Tax Collector – tax record request: The Tax Collector has still not responded or submitted the requested tax records regarding an apparent discrepancy of property taxes owed and collected at a recent property closing. The bank involved had tried numerous times to get an accounting from the Tax Collector without success and then asked the Selectmen to help in the matter. A Writ was filed with the court by the town attorney to ask a judge to compel the Tax Collector to submit the requested tax records and to account for a check sent to her by the closing company. *A copy of the Writ is available for review in the Selectmen’s office.*
- H. Recycling Center – well testing results: A report of recent testing of recycling center site wells and private wells in recycling center area showed the same levels of PSA’s at the site wells and all private wells tested below the State standard levels. *The report is available for review in the Selectmen’s office.*
- I. Stonewall Circle security: residents in the Adams Farm are concerned about people using a secluded section of the neighborhood for illegal purposes. After some investigation, Frank Reeder feels that while the area may be used for partying, it is not being used for drug trafficking. The homeowners association may want to put up ‘no parking or loitering’ signs. The road cannot be blocked from access.
- J. Town Hall exterior wall repair: specs are available and have been posted.
- K. Susan Smith had informed the Selectmen’s office that there were several used condoms in the area of the swimming hole on County property on Partridge Brook Road. She was concerned about bio-hazard material and requested that they be picked up as soon as possible. Russ Austin took them to the town recycling center. Complaints from citizens have been ongoing. Madelynn Cassin asked if the County could be sent a letter asking for signage regarding activities, rubbish left, etc. At the request of the town, the County recently put up signs about dogs being on a leash. The Sheriff’s Department will be asked if they could do periodic patrols of the site.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll Manifests: June 19, 2018

Payroll Tax Payments: June 21, 2018

New Hampshire Retirement payment: June 21, 2018

- A. As the Selectmen representative on the Planning Board, Frank reported that the only members of the Board that attended the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were the Chair of the Board, an Alternate member and himself. He feels that it was unfair to those townspeople who were in attendance that Board members were not present to make a quorum for an official meeting to take place. There were several people at the meeting to discuss possible zoning ordinance changes regarding CSA’s and others who have roadside farmstands. Frank would like to establish an Advisory Committee to address the vision of agriculture in Westmoreland. He will develop criteria for the committee and bring it to the next Selectmen’s meeting.
- B. The new owner (CBK Properties) of 1659 Route 12 has been working with the Zoning and Planning Boards regarding the usage of the building for a residence. While it has been used as a residence for several years, the latest permit on file with the town is for the building to be used as

a business. The owner has changed her mind and will rent the building for business. There is currently a renter that will be only be there for approximately two months. She will need to inform the Selectmen the date that the current renter will vacate the building and no longer rent the building as a living space unless she goes before the Zoning and Planning Boards.

C. Tax-Deeded properties: the town owns five properties taken by tax collector's deed for non-payment of taxes. The town will begin the procedure for selling the properties by bid.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*

Terry Cox sent an email regarding the installing of a security door for the Town Clerk & Tax Collector's office, which Cindi Adler had requested in her 2018 budget. Terry was having trouble with Mrs. Adler in scheduling to do the work. *Note: A schedule has since been worked out.*

8. Public Business: None

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

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

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, July 5, 2018, 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES