

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, September 6, 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: August 23, 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. Marshall Patmos, Conservation Commission: the Commission will be requesting a final report and plan from the County Commissioners regarding the asbestos landfill recently built on county property. Clayton expressed his appreciation to the Commission for staying on top of this issue.
 - B. Kelly Wright, Office Administrator in Alstead: Kelly lives in Westmoreland and stated that the Town of Alstead would help in any way they could with the changes that are going on in the Town Clerk and Tax Collectors Office. Selectmen thanked her for the offer.
 - C. Sierra Hubbard, reporter with the Keene Sentinel: She has questions regarding the resignation of the Town Clerk & Tax Collector.

What was the reason she left? There was a note left on the town hall door on September 3 and a note left on the meeting room table that was found on September 4th. Neither note gave a reason for the sudden resignation.

Where is the town with services? The City of Keene has agreed to do our vehicle registrations until our new town clerk is trained. Training will begin upon the appointment of a new clerk.

Will anything else be changing? The Selectmen want to have two different people for the jobs. The positions of town clerk and tax collector are separate elected officials in our town. An interim clerk and collector will be appointed by the Selectmen until the March 2019 elections. Selectmen believe that communication will improve, that deputies will be put in place and that hours will be set to benefit the townspeople.

The Selectmen reported that there have been offers of support and cooperation from townspeople, other towns and the State of NH.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$5,378.37 for the Highway Department and \$225,561.30 for all other bills for a total of \$230,939.67. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Deputy Tax Collector Pam Jenkins was called about doing the duties of the Tax Collector, who has resigned. Mrs. Jenkins stated that she would be resigning immediately. As of this date, the Selectmen have not received her resignation in writing. Mrs. Jenkins was never trained by the Westmoreland Tax Collector and did not have access to any tax records.
 - B. River Road North Bridge: An emergency permit was received by the NH Department of Environmental Services to clean out the debris and silt from under the bridge and up to 20 feet on the inlet and outlet sides. The road crew is almost done with the work. Gravel taken out will be crushed and used on town roads.

The Selectmen reported that they continue to receive praises for Road Agent Dave Poklemba and his crew on the work that they are doing for the town.

C. Stonewall Circle cannot become a Class VI or discontinued road because there are two building lots at the end of the road that would become nonconforming, which is not allowed.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll Manifests: August 25 & 31, 2018

Payroll Tax Payments: August 30 & 31, 2018

NH Retirement System: August 31, 2018

Healthtrust: August 31, 2018

Bank Statements: August 2018

Veteran's Credit

Russ reported that the road crew took the aluminum cans to Scrap-It and also fixed the sinkhole in the post office parking lot.

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

None

8. Public Business: None

9. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(b) at 6:50pm. Motion passed.

10. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 7:52pm. Motion passed.

11. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to offer the position of Town Clerk to Melissa Bonito and the position of Tax Collector to Jodi Scanlan. Motion passed 3-0.

Appointments will be signed upon acceptance of the positions. (NOTE: See minutes of 9/10/18 for change)

The Selectmen were very pleased by the qualifications of the twelve applicants that were received and appreciate their interest in serving the town.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton R. Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 20, 2018, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

September 6, 2018