

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Snowdon, Bill McGahie and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: February 18, 2025 & March 3, 2025. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Mark Terry to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$291,598.28 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Old Business
 - A. Snow Removal - Issues with residents pushing snow into roadways occurring all over the state. State RSA's 236:20 and 236:39 address the issues with obstruction and civil liability. Keene has an ordinance that states: No person shall shovel, plow, put or place or cause to be shoveled, plowed or placed, within the traveled portion of any sidewalk, street, lane, alley, or highway, any snow or ice. However, snow and ice may be banked on the sides of the public roadways incident to the cleaning thereof or banked on the sides of sidewalks incident to the cleaning thereof. Selectmen agree the Town needs to have an ordinance or policy in place such as this.

A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to adopt a policy using Keene's ordinance and to recommend an ordinance for a similar snow removal policy to the Planning Board. Motion passed 3-0
 - B. River Road Bridge
 - Selectmen have been working with Chris Coates for nearly 3 years to find a solution for replacing the red listed bridge.
 - Bridge was closed due to the weight limit study resulting. Town insured through Primex which may not include an adequate amount of liability if something should happen on the bridge. This would open the Town to a potential lawsuit if injury or death should occur. More research to be done before determination can be made as to open the bridge for seasonal use or keep it permanently closed.
 - In a working session with Davis Bernstein, Director of Executive Services & Communications at Cheshire County, Selectmen drafted a grant summary for \$5,600,000 for 2026 Congressional Spending. If awarded, this option would be the best option for the Town to have the bridge replaced for the least amount of money. Will not know if awarded until late 2025/early 2026
 - Selectmen are concerned about how the bridge closure affects the Maplewood facility and will be working with the executive director to determine how to handle days when Partridge Brook Road may be flooded.
 - Anyone with questions about the bridge should call a Selectmen or the Town Administrator. Facebook is not managed by the Town and is not a reliable source for factual information.

5. . New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following

Payroll 3/3/2025. 3/4/2025	Retirement \$4761.35	Amazon \$94.61
Payroll Taxes 3/4/2025	GoDaddy \$83.88	Staples \$39.44
Veteran's Credit (1)	HealthTrust \$6463.92	USPS 11.21
February Bank Statements	Daston Corp \$4032.00	

- A. Upgrade Class VI - Daniel & Breda Lang submitted a request to upgrade approx 650' of the Class VI portion of Makinen Road to be able to subdivide their property. Currently the 16 acre property has a garage with a temporary living space above it and a shed with plans for a 3 bedroom septic and house at a later date. Road to be continued for 650' to allow frontage for 1 lot and property to potentially be divided into 2 lots. Selectmen informed Langs that a temporary zoning permit is 1 year and they need to extend the zoning permit to reflect. Langs were referred to the Planning Board for an information session to begin the subdivision process. Langs to do property title searches to begin the road upgrade process. Selectmen advised the Langs not to begin any construction until both subdivision and road upgrade are completed.
- B. Recreation Committee and Youth Sports - Town Report indicates that the Recreation Committee added WYSI (Westmoreland Youth Sports) to the committee.
- Selectmen must appoint any members or alternates. Recreation If the committee would like to add members of WYSI to the committee they need to recommend them to the Selectmen who would then decide on their appointment.
 - Town insurance highly recommends that other organizations using Town property should provide a certificate of insurance as well as sign a facilities agreement. Town requires organizations using the Town Hall to provide and Selectmen agree organizations using Woodward Field must also.
 - Emily Allen representing WYSI - Organization does not have insurance and cannot afford to have insurance. Other towns' recreation committees put on youth sports. Allen was adamant that youth sports would not be able to happen if insurance was required.
 - When asked about having businesses help support, Allen said only two businesses in Town responded to requests for funding. Snowdon as well as Alison Fissette offered to help support.
 - Snowdon - indemnity on the youth sign-ups releases SAU29, school and couches, but does not mention the Town. The Town owns Woodward Field. Allen - if added could t-ball continue without insurance? Snowdon - would need to ask our attorney.
 - Snowdon - WYSI and Recreation Committee should research what other towns similar to Westmoreland do to facilitate youth sports. We will call Town's insurance to see how or if the Town can cover youth sports and at what cost. Can talk about plans going forward at the next Selectmen's meeting.
- C. All Selectmen as well as Town Administrator have been contacted multiple times by Keene Sentinel for information about Town Meeting. Motion made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to require requests for information from reporters to be in writing. Motion passed 3-0
- D. Emergency Management to have Tabletop March 27th which will be a synopsis of the 1998 Ice Storm. After action review will be April 3rd.

- E. Laurie Burt - Several birds of prey have been found dead recently. State is looking into potential Avian Flu.
6. Correspondence: Paul Steblein - request meeting with Selectmen to talk about knotweed mitigation March 18th meeting.
7. Election & Town Meeting: Town Election Tuesday, March 11th 11am-7pm Town Hall
 Town Meeting Wednesday, March 12, 7pm School
8. 2:58pm Motion by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn meeting. Motion Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 18, 2025 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

William McGahie

Mark Terry

