

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm by Chairman John Snowdon. This is considered an Emergency Meeting, per RSA 91-A:2,II to discuss the purchase of a used fire truck with limited opportunity to purchase.
2. Chief Harry Nelson, Deputy Graham Gitchell and Bob Bartlett have been looking for a truck to replace 1987 International. An appointment was made Tuesday afternoon to look at a 2005 truck in North Haven, CT this morning. Bob Bartlett has looked at many trucks during his time on the Highway and Fire Departments in MA and agrees with Chief Nelson and Deputy Gitchell that the truck is a good price for the quality of the truck. The truck is from CA and has no rust, very little wear and mechanically is in excellent condition. It has everything the department is looking for to replace the 1987 International Engine 1. A similar new truck would be approximately \$800,000 to purchase. Asking price for this truck is \$65,000 and with the minor list of things needed to make it ready for use the total price is \$78,167. There is just over \$80,500 in the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve. Deputy Gitchell believes the brush truck will be the next truck in need of replacement, but not for at least 5 years which would allow the capital reserve fund to build before that time.
3. The 1987 International fire truck was purchased from the City of Keene for \$10,000 over 20 years ago when the Town had to send another engine out for refurbishment. The radiator had to be replaced a year ago which cost \$2500 and at this point the 40 year old truck is no longer worth fixing and parts have become increasingly hard to find. The truck will be put out to bid and sold once the new truck is obtained.
4. New England Fire Equipment & Fire Apparatus Corporation is selling the truck. Several other local towns have purchased trucks from them and have been very satisfied. They have an excellent service department.
5. There is a lot of interest from other towns in the truck. Westmoreland has first refusal and will need to put a 10% deposit on it today to hold the truck and initiate the purchase. The fire department has looked at a lot of trucks in the same price and year range. This truck is in much better condition and has less mileage than others they have seen and Nelson, Gitchell and Bartlett all agree it will be a good purchase for the town.
6. A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to allow the Westmoreland Volunteer Fire Department to use up to 78,167 of the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve to purchase the 2005 fire truck from New England Fire Equipment & Fire Apparatus Corporation. Motion passed 3-0. A check will be sent certified mail for the deposit and the remaining will be paid upon delivery.

7. A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourned at 3:38 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

William McGahie

Mark Terry