

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: January 6, 2025 & January 14, 2025 Motion was made by Bill McGahie seconded by Mark Terry 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 \$12,428.37 & \$64,857.17 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Old Business
 - A. Recycling Center Manager - Selectmen approved revised job description for Recycling Center Manager. Description to be posted on the website with the open position post.
 - B. Highway Trucks - See Attachment
 - There is currently insufficient funding being allocated to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund to maintain a consistent vehicle replacement schedule. The Selectmen agreed that reducing the paving budget for this year would allow the Town to replace a truck without raising taxes and is the most practical solution.
 - The Road Agent and Selectmen agree that the purchase of a Western Star 47X plow truck at a cost of \$288,370 is the best option. A down payment of \$120,000 would allow the Town to enter into a five-year lease, with annual payments of \$39,093.70 beginning in 2027. These payments would replace the current grader payment, which will be completed this year. The new truck would include a seven-year warranty.
 - The Selectmen researched replacement schedules in surrounding towns and found that, on average, highway trucks are replaced every ten years. Many of those towns are working toward a seven-year replacement cycle to avoid costly repairs and to trade vehicles while they retain greater value.
 - McGahie is contacting other towns to explore alternative mowing options currently in use to determine whether a similar solution would be beneficial for the Town. The proposed warrant article for purchasing a tractor and mower has been withdrawn.

5. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following

Payroll 1/20	LUCT (3)	Eversource \$659.65
Payroll Taxes 1/20	Amazon \$122.23	NHMBB \$53,759.45
Counting Machine Contract	E-File \$133.25	

6. Other Business

Terry - Emergency Management has a new communication system which will be used during emergencies. Currently looking to the State and other towns for templates that can be used during various types of emergencies.

7. Upcoming: February 6, 2025 Budget Hearing – Town 6:00pm (Town Hall)
Budget Hearing – School 7:00pm (Town Hall)

8. Correspondence - Thank-you cards for donations received

9. 1:46pm Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to adjourn the meeting.
Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2026 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

William McGahie

Mark Terry

At the start of the 2026 budgeting process, the Highway Department and the Select Board identified the need to purchase a tractor with a roadside mower. However, as the winter season progresses, it becomes clear that a more pressing concern is the condition of the Town's aging highway truck fleet. After many storms, one to two highway trucks have required repairs, reduced fleet readiness and costing several thousand dollars to keep outdated equipment operational.

In response, the Board of Selectmen proposes that the Town pivot its focus toward replacing aging and unreliable highway trucks while avoiding significant tax increases. In coordination with the Road Agent, the Select Board recommends beginning this effort in 2026 with the purchase of a new truck to replace the 2009 plow truck.

Newer highway trucks include seven (7) year manufacturer warranties that cover most repair costs, significantly reducing or eliminating the need to spend thousands of dollars annually on maintenance for outdated equipment. Replacing older trucks will also improve safety for Highway Department staff and provide better control over the amount of salt and sand applied to Town roads when compared to the current fleet.

The total cost of the new truck is \$288,370. To fund this purchase, the Select Board recommends reducing the 2026 paving budget from \$225,000 to \$125,000, which would still allow for paving approximately two small roads. In addition, the maintenance and repair budget would be reduced by \$10,000. By using \$10,000 of 2026 increased revenue, we would be able to place a \$120,000 down payment on the truck, leaving a remaining balance of \$168,370 to be financed over five (5) years. Annual payments would be \$39,093.70 beginning in Fiscal Year 2027. No additional payment is required during 2026, which allows us to finish paying for the grader prior to starting the truck payments.

By repeating this approach every five to six years, the Town can systematically address the backlog of aging highway trucks, improve driver safety, stabilize the equipment fleet, and reduce long-term maintenance and repair costs.