

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Friday, February 7, 2025

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

1. Emergency meeting was called to order at 12:03pm by John Snowdon
2. Meeting called to discuss River Road Bridge closure.
  - A. Snowdon made the call to close the bridge when NHDOT alerted him that although the weight limit study had not been signed off at that point, the study indicated the weight it could safely support was significantly less than current rating. The town posted the bridge with a 10 ton limit to help prolong the life of the bridge even though the state rated the bridge as E2. The weight study rated the bridge for no more than 3 tons, lowering the capacity from tractor trailer (E2) to passenger car (3 ton). Snowdon determined that with weather conditions requiring town plows loaded with salt to cross the bridge regularly it would no longer be safe to keep the bridge open. Snowdon notified the County immediately of the closing.
  - B. NHDOT District 4 in Swanzey has been notified of the bridge closure and met with the Town Road Agent, Dave Poklemba as well as John Snowdon to discuss best methods to close the road from Route 63 to Ferry Road as that portion of road is a State road.
  - C. The County will be meeting with State Representatives in Concord to find out what can be done to find funding for the bridge as it is used by Maplewood.
  - D. To date many grants have been researched to no avail, and the Town does not have the resources to dedicate to sourcing grant money. The County has agreed to search and apply for grants with the Towns help.
  - E. Selectboard unsure if bridge will reopen since cannot police how many cars may be on the bridge at the same time, especially during shift change at Maplewood.
  - F. Town cannot afford to replace the bridge at roughly \$4,000,000. Cannot afford 20% match either as there is less than \$300,000 in the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.
  - G. Selectmen all agree with the decision to close the bridge especially when multiple engineers agree it is the safest thing to do at this time.
3. A motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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John Snowdon, Chairman

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Mark Terry

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William McGahie