

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mark Terry
2. Approval of Minutes: June 16, 2026 Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$ 276,032.72 and NHMBA \$223,459.45. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest: Highway Equipment Research Group
 - The group presented a booklet of data based on their research which included projected life cycles and replacement costs as well as estimated money the Town would need to put in capital reserve each year to prepare for upcoming replacements.
 - The life cycles for town equipment was discussed, projecting 7-10 years for trucks, 15 years for loaders, and 20 years for graders and backhoes.
 - The group evaluated three funding scenarios for capital reserves, suggesting annual contributions of \$160,000, \$180,000, or \$190,000 to maintain the fleet, which is a significant increase from the current \$20,000.
 - A 4% annual inflationary impact was used for all long-term equipment cost projections.
 - Bill Franzen presented "Test A" which assumes financing vehicle purchases similar to the 2026 Western Star truck, and "Test B" which involves paying outright to avoid interest costs. The Town may need to do a combined version of these until enough funds are in the capital reserve.
 - The current interest rate on town funds is approximately 3.5%, though Franzen used a more conservative 3% for the capital reserve surplus projections.
 - Nate Lesley explained that a 7-year replacement cycle is optimal for trade-in value, estimated at roughly 30% of the original cost for a well maintained vehicle (e.g., a \$230,000 truck trading for \$70,000). Both Nate Lesley and Adam Hogenmiller emphasized that rigorous upkeep, including monthly services, undercoating, and consistent power washing to remove salt, is critical to ensuring higher resale values.
 - Mark Terry requested a monthly breakdown of maintenance spending per vehicle over the next 18 months to better understand long-term costs and wear patterns.
 - The board noted that modern equipment relies heavily on electronic modules and proprietary software, making trucks older than 15-20 years difficult to repair and less desirable for resale.
 - Terry noted the safety benefits of keeping equipment under warranty to ensure crews have reliable equipment during winter storms.
5. New Business
 - Signatures: Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs, PA-16 Form, Pistol Permit
 - A. Sprinkler System Annual Inspections: Fire Chief Harry Nelson reported that annual inspections are required for the Town's fire sprinkler systems. He met with Derek and Justin

of Encore Fire Protection, which recently acquired both Capital Fire, the installer of the Fire Station system, and Life Safety, the installer of the Town Hall system.

Encore Fire Protection submitted a proposal for the required annual inspections totaling \$1,990, consisting of \$1,130 for the Fire Station and \$860 for the Town Hall. The higher cost for the Fire Station reflects the inspection of the fire pump located at that facility. The quoted annual pricing is guaranteed for three years.

The Selectboard agreed that maintaining compliance with the required inspections is important but requested additional time to review the proposed service contract before taking action. The discussion was continued to the next Selectboard meeting.

- B. Lord Cemetery Road Violations: The Selectboard discussed concerns regarding multiple unregistered and inoperable vehicles located on a property on Lord Cemetery Road, several of which are parked within the Town highway right-of-way. The vehicles have narrowed the roadway, preventing the Highway Department from being able to use the snowplow wings during winter maintenance and creating concerns for ongoing highway maintenance and public safety.

The Board reviewed the State RSA's and the Town's parking policy as well as the Town's Zoning Ordinance regarding the storage of junk vehicles. The Selectboard agreed to draft a formal enforcement letter to the property owners addressing the vehicles parked within the Town right-of-way and the potential zoning violations related to the storage of unregistered and junk vehicles. The letter will request that the violations be corrected within a specified timeframe and advise that further enforcement action may be taken if compliance is not achieved. Bill McGahie will hand deliver the letter.

- C. New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP): The Selectboard discussed transferring the Town's Broadband and Conservation funds to the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP) to increase the return on invested funds. The accounts are currently earning approximately 0.6% interest at the bank, while NHPDIP is currently earning approximately 3%.

The Conservation Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$70,000 and is expected to grow to nearly \$100,000 by the end of the year. The Broadband Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$35,000 following this year's bond payments.

The Board also discussed the broadband bond repayment structure. Consolidated Communications pays the Town \$90,000 annually toward the bond. Because the bond is structured as a mortgage-style loan, the annual payments remain level while the principal and interest portions change over time, resulting in an increasing surplus in the Broadband Fund as debt service declines.

A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to transfer the Broadband and Conservation accounts to the New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP) to earn 3% interest, up from the current 0.6% at the bank. Motion passed 3-0

A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to authorize the treasurer and selectboard members as eligible signers for the new NHPDIP accounts to facilitate withdrawals and deposits. Motion passed 3-0

- D. Westmorelander Article: John Snowdon agreed to draft an article for the next edition of the Westmorelander explaining the difference between the July and December property tax bills,

including how the tax rate is established and why the December payment often differs from the July payment.

6. Old Business

- A. Tax-Deeded Property Auction: The Selectboard announced that NH Tax Deed & Property Auctions will conduct a public auction of the Town's tax-deeded properties on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at the Westmoreland Town Hall. The properties to be offered include Tax Map R15-38, R12-36, R16-2, and R16-3. Additional information regarding the auction, including property details, terms of sale, and registration requirements, will be released as it becomes available.
- B. Esty Road Class VI Driveway Waiver: The Selectboard reviewed and approved the Class VI Road driveway waiver for the property on Esty Road, which was prepared using a template provided by the Town Attorney. As conditions of approval, the property owner must provide proof of liability insurance, execute the waiver, and pay the applicable Cheshire County Registry of Deeds recording fees. Upon receipt of the signed waiver, proof of insurance, and recording fees, the Town will record the waiver with the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds.

7. Correspondence: CPCNH Rates (attached)

Primex - Cyber Response Update

- 8. Meeting Rescheduled: The Selectboard meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. has been rescheduled to Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.
- 9. 7:58 pm motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN
SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mark Terry, Chairman

William McGahie

John Snowdon