

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, August 22, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Reeder, John Snowdon and Bill McGahie

1. The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Frank Reeder
2. Approval of Minutes: August 10, 2023. 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 Frank Reeder, seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$5,458.85 and Fire Station \$1,827.20 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest:
 - Henry Herndon - Community Power Director Member Services
 - Mark Terry - Westmoreland Community Power Chairman
 - Terry - Customer data has been sent to coalition
 - Herndon - 2nd launch February-April 2024 to include Westmoreland and 10 other towns.
 - 1st launch May 2023 customers benefiting from 20-40% savings
 - Town will need to choose authorized officer with purchasing power to attend meetings
 - 36 month rolling term, but not for a set rate. Members can terminate early with a minimum waiting period so cost is not shifted to other members. Can elect to forfeit cost of reserve to keep shift from other members.
 - Selectmen elected to oversee financial decisions and will make them prior to meetings. Proxy could be appointed to attend the meetings.
 - Tabled signing agreement for further review by selectmen
5. Old Business
 - A. Camps in Forestry Residential
 - RSA 674:41 prohibits building Class VI roads. The purpose of this RSA was to prevent premature subdivision.
 - 1992 Article 2-Town voted to change uses allowed in Forestry Residential Table 503 removing camps as a permitted use.
 - 1997 Article 2 - Petition article to modify Table 503 to allow camps with written waiver was denied by the town.
 - Reeder - Selectboard should handle violations by policy in place, however, a letter could be sent to property owners to alert them that if they have camps on properties without frontage on Class V or better are in violation.
 - Snowdon - Planning Board looking at definitions and potential revisions to put before the town. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to hold off any enforcement action on camps until after Town Meeting. Motion passed 3-0
 - B. Solar Exemptions - Town attorney said when Town adopted RSA 72:61-64 with a cap of \$30,000 exemption of solar it was legal to do so, and other towns did so similarly under RSA 72:27A. RSA 72:61-64 intent was for 100% of assessed value and with costs increasing for solar equipment Town may want to readopt with 100% as intended. The Town's assessor also said other towns are looking at doing the same thing with warrant articles next year. Selectboard will add to the potential 2024 warrant article list for review.

- C. Old Home Days - Huge success thanks to Theresa Russell and Rosemarie Semaski and the volunteers who helped including Rick Menard who organized the parade. Committee will be presenting the board with names of people who want to participate in the future for the board to appoint to the committee. Reeder - Due to the volume of money the committee handles, recommend a selectboard member participate on the committee in the future.
- D. Unpermitted Construction - NHMA attorney, Steve Buckley, recommended Town send letter to property owners stating specific violations when town is alerted to them. Letters should include state, town, or fire codes that are in violation and what will need to be done to fix them. Letter was sent to the property owner with the violations discussed in the August 10th meeting and they quickly responded and rectified all violations.
- E. Land Use Boards meeting - Schedule for September 19th at 6pm
- F. Southwest Regional Planning to schedule time to come to talk about a letter of intent to do culvert study and talk about Complete Streets grant.

6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 8/22/2023	Assessor Contract	Eversource \$147.57
Payroll Taxes 8/24/2023	HealthTrust \$6552.31	USPS \$8.56
Cemetery Deeds (2)	Retirement \$2523.42	Home Depot \$292.00

- A. Adams Farm Subdivision 1989
 - Snowdon, a resident of the subdivision, recused himself and left the selectmen's table.
 - Bressett - Planning Board voted to revoke phase 3 of the subdivision since the approval is over 30 years old, there have been several ordinance changes as well as road standard changes, and the performance guarantee bond was not maintained.
 - According to RSA 231:51, the first step to revoke would be for Selectmen to release and discharge the uncompleted portion of the street in phase 3 of the subdivision from all public servitude.
 - Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Bill McGahie to discharge the uncompleted portion of Stonewall Circle in the Adam's Farm Subdivision as it was never built or used by the public. Motion passed 2-0
 - Snowdon returned to selectmen's table
- A. Corner School - There are approximately 30 wooden chairs of various types and in various conditions the Historical Society would like permission to sell or dispose of. Selectmen agreed that chairs could be disposed of but any money gained should be put in the corner school repair fund.
- B. Benches - Discussed benches for common around veteran's monument if there was enough remaining money to allow during original planning. Monument other than the addition of some names to the plaque is complete. There are enough funds to purchase 4 granite benches to place around the monument. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to purchase granite benches with remaining funds fundraised for the walkway and monument. Motion passed 2-0

- C. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to accept donation per
- D. RSA 31:19 for the Veteran's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$200. Motion passed 3-0
- E. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to accept donation per RSA 31:19 for the Old Home Days Fund in the amount of \$967. Motion passed 3-0
- F. Planning Board Clerk Stipend - Bressett - RSA 91-A:2, II indicates that public hearings do not need to be published in the newspaper. Publications can be on the Town's website. Planning Board requests that money from hearing notices be instead given to the clerk to increase stipend from \$50 per hearing to \$100 per hearing as time and work involved in hearings have increased. Selectmen agreed through the remainder of the budget year clerk be paid using money allotted for hearing notices. Readdress stipend for next year during budget/salary planning.
- G. Propane - Harry Nelson - Permission to contact propane companies on behalf of Town Hall to see if by bundling Town Hall and Fire Station the Town could get better pricing. Snowdon - Should tanks be combined for both or have separate tanks? Nelson - Better to be separate to keep costs separate so Town can see each. Post office will have to share with Town Hall with a different meter that will need to be read monthly. Selectmen agree that Nelson should combine two buildings to see about better pricing for propane.

7. Correspondence:

On Sunday August 20th Selectmen were informed that Marshal Patmos passed away. Marshall served as chairman and as a member of the Conservation Commission since 1990 and recently as a member of the Master Plan Committee. He will be greatly missed.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Jodi Scanlan
 Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2023 1:00PM
 MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
 SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Frank Reeder, Chairman

John Snowdon

William McGahie