

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Reeder, Russ Austin, Clayton Stalker

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: March 18, 2021. Motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Guests:

Steve Horton, Liza Sargent (SVE), Nate Laveck (Forest Designs)

Discussion followed regarding the design for a septic system for the Town Hall. With the failure of the proposed Fire Station, the design will be redone to be able to install a system for the Town Hall with the capability to add the required pumps, etc. for a future fire station at a later date. Selectmen Stalker expressed the immediate need to proceed with the town hall septic system.

Liza reported that the Department of Environmental Services has not sent an approved wetland permit for the proposed Fire Station land.

Steve will have a set of plans for the proposed fire station made for the Town Office.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Clayton Stalker to approve a manifest of \$10,930.38 for the highway department and \$215,612.59 for all other bills for a total of \$226,542.97. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Bids were opened for the new backhoe:

Beauregard Equipment, Concord	\$125,742	36" bucket, 5yr warranty, 3-yr site-watch gps system
Milton Cat, Londonderry	\$128,900	48" bucket, 7yr warranty, 3,500 hours
Nortrax, Pembroke (John Deere)	\$133,236	48" bucket, 5yr warranty, 3,000 hours

Beauregard was eliminated due to the 36" bucket. Milton Cat & Nortrax were both over the approved budget for a new backhoe. Each will be given a week to resubmit a bid. The Selectmen will meet when both bids come in. Road Agent, Dave Poklemba, stated that both were comparable and good machines.

6. Ron Fish, Recycling Center (RC) Supervisor: Ron stated that he was okay with the recent job description that was done for his position. The Selectmen agreed that changes have to be made at the Recycling Center to make it more efficient. Discussion followed, including the use of volunteers, the education to RC users to recycle properly, a container for paper, the cost of demo items and requiring the use of purchased bags instead of charging a sticker fee.
A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Clayton Stalker, to appoint a Standing Committee for the Recycling Center. Motion passed 3-0. Anyone interested in serving on this committee can contact the Selectmen's office.

7. Richard Paul: Richard stated that there is a piece of land that he recently sold in town where the question of it being a building lot is in question. The land, located at R4-24 is 1.69 acres and has been taxed and sold as a building lot for many years. A neighbor to the property has stated that the lot is not a building lot, citing a letter from the Zoning Board that a Decision was made in 1984 by the Board that it was not a building lot. While the letter is in the Zoning Board files, there are no minutes to clarify why this decision was made. Richard feels that the lot, based on Section 104 of the Zoning Ordinances, makes it a building lot. The town attorney will be asked to review the issue and to make a determination if the Zoning Board had the authority to make a Decision regarding a lot of record.
8. Old Business:
 - A. The Selectmen received a letter from the Attorney General's office regarding the request the Selectmen made to investigate the postcard that was mailed by an unknown source to town residents regarding the proposed new fire station. Due to the possible Campaign Finance Violation (RSA 664:14), the State Attorney's Office is reviewing the alleged violation.
 - B. Selectmen signed Employee Action Forms salary/hourly rate changes.
 - C. The truck driver that pulled down four posts on the common is now denying his involvement. The Claims Adjuster for his insurance company is still reviewing the claim.
 - D. An ad will be placed in the paper for a new highway department employee.
9. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

 - Payroll: 3/23/2021, 3/29/2021, 3/31/2021, 4/2/2021
 - Payroll Taxes: 03/25/2021, 3/31/21 (2), 4/2/2021
 - Intent to Excavate: R1-19 & 20 & Supplement
 - Bank Statements: General Fund, Conservation Fund, Broadband Fund
 - Zoom subscription: 3/21/2021
 - NH Retirement: 3/31/2021
 - Healthtrust: 3/31/2021
 - Forest Fire Report/Bill: 3/29/2021
 - A. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin, per RSA 31:19, to accept donations for the Westmoreland Veteran's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$1,450. Motion passed 3-0. A total of 105 bricks have been sold.
 - B. Selectmen signed the approval of employee Health/Dental Insurance rates for 7/1/2021. Health Insurance increased by 6.1% with no change in Dental Insurance.
 - C. Emergency Management Director, Tom Finnegan, has begun the work of updating the town's Emergency Operations Plan.
10. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*
 - a. A letter was received from Larry Smith of Carriage Lane thanking Chief Nelson and the Fire Department for the prompt response and service that he received during a recent medical emergency.
 - b. Cinde Warminton, Executive Councilor for District 2, wrote the Selectmen that she wants to make sure that the needs and interests of the residents of Westmoreland are being represented at the Council table. She would be interested in meeting with the Selectmen.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, April 15, 2021, 10:00AM

MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES