

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2021

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Chairman Frank Reeder.
2. Approval of Minutes: December 29, 2020 Motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests: Fire Chief Harry Nelson
Chief Nelson reported that four of the firemen have had their first round of Covid19 vaccinations. All members have been offered the opportunity to get the shots.
Based on a letter received by the Selectmen regarding his submitting reports to their office, Chief Nelson asked the Selectmen what information they were looking for. Chairman Reeder stated that monthly reports of the number of calls, the nature of the calls and dates would be sufficient. Chief Nelson will submit copies of reports that he already does for his records. Selectmen also requested that significant events be reported in a timely manner. This will allow the Selectmen to offer assistance, above what the fire department does, to the town residents. He added that he will make copies of the 2020 call reports also.
The Selectmen stated that, due to the upcoming vote for a new fire station, people are beginning to ask questions about the Fire Department and the Selectmen want to be knowledgeable so they can answer those questions. Chief Nelson stated that anyone can call him with questions or concerns also.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Clayton Stalker to approve manifests of:
12/31/2020 - \$7,933.11 for the highway department and \$677.49 for all other bills for a total of \$8,610.60.
01/07/2021 - \$60.55 for the highway department and \$207,505.83 for all other bills for a total of \$207,566.38.
Motion passes 3-0
5. Old Business:
Town Meeting & Election: Further discussion will be held with Town Moderator Peter Hills to finalize a schedule for meetings and elections.
6. New Business:
Signature Approval was given for the following:
General Journal Entries: #746-747
Invoice Cloud: Paperless sign-ups
Budget vs Actual Report for 2020
Balance Sheet Report for 2020
 - A. Recycling Center Advisory Committee Report: Improvements have to be made on proper recycling practices by educating residents. Improper recycling costs the town more money, adds material to the landfills and isn't allowing us to make income if recycling was done properly. Discussion will continue regarding volunteers, education and management with a goal of having the Recycling Center be less of a tax burden and recycling correctly.
 - B. As the company in charge of the Book Bin on Route 12 has filed bankruptcy (2018), the area will be cleaned up and the bin will be disposed of.

- C. Four granite posts on the common were knocked down and broken by a large truck trying to make the turn. Money to fix the posts will be obtained by the insurance company of the truck driver.
7. Ted Ferguson joined the meeting to ask Selectmen to consider reducing his taxes on the property that he recently bought from a sale following a tax collector's taking of the property in 2015. Due to improper 'noticing', there is an issue with proper title of the property and it will take some time to get it fixed. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to approve a hardship exemption of the taxes until the title can be made proper. Motion passed 3-0.
8. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None
9. 2021 Budget: Selectmen worked on budgets for payroll and other miscellaneous accounts.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Frank Reeder, Chairman

Clayton R. Stalker

Russ Austin

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, January 21, 2021, 10:00AM

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