

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2021

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: September 30, 2021. Motion was made by Russ Austin second by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$72,241.75. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Guests:

John Snowdon representing Southwest Regional Planning (SWRP) reviewed the goal of SWRP to study town's demographic to find ways for more equitable housing and increase tax base by bringing in more businesses. Snowdon talked about a municipal assistance grant from NH housing PlanNH. Grant would help pay a consultant to review existing zoning ordinances to sort what areas need work, and find ways to make them more readable. Grant would involve a cost share that could be paid in time versus town funds. Once changes were made UNH would help promote within the town, and merge with the town Master Plan. Lauren Bressett asked if dialogue with the town would happen first, and Snowdon answered that it would be like the broadband process with open discussions that would happen first. Work would tie to existing town committees including Zoning, Planning, and Conservation. Bressett also stated that all zones now are in some way residential. The town would need to see where future changes could be made to possibly include cluster housing, and what areas would remain the same. Frank Reeder mentioned that the cost of a consultant would not be something the town would likely want to consider, but with the grant it would make it possible for work to be done. John Snowdon will invite Lisa Murphy of SWRP to the next selectboard meeting. Snowdon also said that Todd Horner, a planner from SWRP is working with several communities developing Economic Advisory Committees. Committee would help plan future development of the town working with existing committees. Snowdon will be working to find people to be on such a committee once everything is in motion.

Tom Finnegan representing the Fire Station Advisory Committee addressed a letter sent to committee and Board of Selectmen from the Conservation Committee expressing concerns with new station proximity to wetland and location as far as traffic patterns. The Conservation Committee suggests finding donors and grants to purchase other land for building. Bob Bartlett Commented that he and Harry Nelson had met with the Conservation Committee last year and thought they were supportive of the project as indicated in December 3, 2020 Conservation Committee minutes "We reviewed the site plans for the new fire station and found no environmental concerns that couldn't be properly addressed. We did feel that it would be good to have it closer/connected to the town hall and provide additional meeting/office space for town officials and residents." Clayton Stalker added that NHDES and NHDOT had both signed off on

5. Old Business:

- A. Cheshire County Administrator, Chris Coates, notified the town that the old generator used at Maplewood will be donated to the Town of Westmoreland.
- B. ARPA Grant - Chris Coates to assist town with determining ways Covid grant money can be used within limitations. Cannot use toward the new fire station.

- C. River Road North Bridge - Engineering cost to do initial study of the bridge \$13,500. NHDES requires a permanent solution for bridge issues. Funds from bridge fund to be used. A motion was made to do the bridge study by Clayton Stalker and seconded by Russ Austin. Motion passed 3-0.
- D. Bill Patanode signed a snow plowing contract for the 2021-2022 season.
- E. Town Attorney - After reviewing recommendations, the Selectboard will be interviewing prospective candidates for a new town attorney.
- F. Daggett Hill - August "Dan" Waters contacted the town to repurchase the property deeded by the town in August. A certified letter was sent to Waters with the steps needed to repurchase land and the amount. Waters has until November 4, 2021 to respond
- G. Tower Clock - Bill Fletcher assessed the clock for repair work needed. Fletcher to get estimates of moving the mechanism down to the second floor which would make it easier to wind and maintain. If encased the public would also be able to see it. Wire and conjunction box have been removed from the chase as part of the safety measures needed. Clock will remain out of use until repairs and possible move can be done.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 10/05/2021 & 10/16/2021

Payroll Taxes: 10/07/2021 & 10/21/2021

Highway Dept. Clothing Allowance: 10/05/2021

Amazon: 10/07/2021 & 10/11/2021

Invoice Cloud 10/07/2021

Health Insurance: 10/21/2021

NH Retirement: 10/21/2021

- A. Recycling Center - Town received notice that fines will ensue if cardboard found in paper containers due to fire risk. Selectmen agreed that employees are to monitor paper and go back to sorting and stacking paper to prevent fines. Ronnie had notices printed to hand out.
- B. Swap Shack - Kristen Bell asked Selectmen for permission to open and oversee Swap Shack "Boutique" on a seasonal basis. Clean lightly used donations to be accepted only. No electronics. Selectmen agreed to have Bell open and oversee the Swap shack.
- C. Mowing Trailer - Dave Poklemba proposed trading in the utility trailer purchased for mowing equipment and purchasing an enclosed trailer to properly store and secure mowing equipment. Total cost of \$5200 to be used from highway department budget. A motion was made to trade the utility trailer and purchase an enclosed trailer by Frank Reeder and seconded by Russ Austin. Motion passed 3-0.
- D. Planning Board proposed site plan changes for home businesses. After discussion the Selectboard agreed that no changes to zoning ordinances should be made until decisions are made in regards to SWRP

7. Correspondence:

- A. SWRPC - Road studies available from the state if needed to study safety issues on town roads. The Planning board, Road agent and Selectmen agree there are no roads at this time that warrant study.

- B. Fire Station Advisory Committee was tasked to confer with other towns about their experiences planning, designing, and building fire stations. 23 towns were contacted. After speaking with Fire Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Firefighters, Architects, Committee members, Town Managers, etc. a list of significant subjects was compiled for the committee to consider. List can be viewed in the Selectmen's office.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, November 4, 2021, 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder