

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, September 3, 2020

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: August 20, 2020 Motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:

Senator Jay Kahn: Senator Kahn informed the Selectmen that of the 450 pieces of original legislation written this year, 60 bills were passed and presented to the Governor. Governor Sununu signed 39 of the bills and vetoed 21. A veto meeting will be held in the near future to address the vetoed votes to see if a consensus can override the Governor.

Some of the bills passed that he has worked on include:

 - a. Changing the required votes to pass a bond article at town meeting was changed from 2/3 majority to 60%.
 - b. Schools can now hold 5% of surplus money in reserve.
 - c. Changes to payments for video and audio medical visits. A committee was formed to study the impact of this issue for four years.
 - d. A change in the mapping information requirement for broadband bonds.
 - e. A requirement that the DOT has to include the consideration of businesses effected by road work that they are doing. This came about due to the loss of business at the Sullivan General Store on Route 9 during the two years of road maintenance by the State.

Senator Kahn expressed his hope that the State would look at investing in technology for towns who don't currently have the ability to hold remote meetings.

The Selectmen thanked Senator Kahn for all the work he has done.
4. Chairman Reeder opened the Public Hearing to accept and expend unanticipated money (under \$10,000) per RSA 31:95-b from a federal CARES Act for elections held in 2020 (State Primary and General Election).

Due to Covid-19, Statewide Standard Cost Rate for additional absentee ballots will be used to determine reimbursements to the town for additional time to process absentee ballots and for postage. These items were not budgeted expenses.

The Town Clerk has already received over 200 absentee ballots for the Primary.
5. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$2,463.99 for the highway department and \$252,539.26 for all other bills for a total of \$255,003.25. Motion passed 3-0.
6. Old Business:
 - A. Cemetery Mowing: The Selectmen decided that the three main cemeteries (South, East and North) will continue to be mowed by an independent contractor. The highway department will maintain the smaller cemeteries (including Chaffee, Pratt, Lord and Gline) and will also cut brush and pick up fallen branches from the South, East and North Cemeteries.
 - B. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker, to approve a Covid-19 Travel Policy. Motion passed 3-0. The policy applies to all town employees who choose to travel outside of the New England States (NH, ME, VT, MA, CT and RI) in respect to quarantining.

7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

- Payroll: August 25, 2020, August 31, 2020, September 3, 2020
- Payroll Taxes: August 27, 2020, August 31, 2020, September 4, 2020
- Healthtrust: August 31, 2020
- NH Retirement: August 31, 2020
- Adobe Acrobat Pro: September 2, 2020
- Intent to Cut: R1-7
- Forest Fire Report/Bill: Chesterfield Fire, August 26-27, 2020

- A. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder, per RSA 31:19, to accept donations for the Westmoreland Veteran’s Memorial Fund in the amount of \$625.00. Motion passed 3-0. 26 bricks for the walkway have been sold to date.
- B. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker, per RSA 31:19, to accept cemetery trust funds in the amount of \$100. Motion passed 3-0.
- C. The Selectmen will ask the Emergency Management Director to establish an Election Continuity of Operation Plan if the Town Hall were not available to hold a given election. Holding Town Meeting in March, if State Orders for Covid-19 do not change, will need to be looked into. Senator Kahn informed the Selectmen earlier that various methods of running Town Meeting will be forthcoming from the State.

8. Chairman Reeder closed the Public Hearing to accept CARES election funds. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept and expend unanticipated money (under \$10,000) per RSA 31:95-b from the federal CARES Act for elections held in 2020 (State Primary and General Election). Motion passed 3-0.

9. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen’s office.* None

10. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Frank Reeder, Chairman

Clayton R. Stalker

Russ Austin

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 17, 2020, 10:00AM

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