

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, August 18, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Austin, Frank Reeder, John Snowdon

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: July 21, 2022. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Frank Reeder to Approve Manifests for: General Fund \$310,901.73 and Fire Station Fund \$37,867.80 Motion passed 3-0.
4. 6:02pm - Open Public Hearing to accept and expend unanticipated money per RSA 31:95-b from State of New Hampshire Senate Bill-401 Highway Grant \$70,911.03
5. Guests:
Steve Horton
 - A. August 9, 2022 met with the Fire Station Committee. Determined fall start is not practical due to truck storage issues. Delaying start could have slight monetary impact, however January is historically the best month for bid prices. Recommend start spring 2023. Approximately 7 month project so trucks would be in the new station before the following winter.
 - B. Received 2 proposals in response to RFP sent out to numerous large construction firms. D.E.W in Keene and Griffin Construction in Langdon. It was voted by the committee to approve and hire D.E.W. based on competitive bid, experience building fire stations, ability to be bonded per NHBB, availability, and depth of resources. Contract from D.E.W will be forthcoming and will be reviewed.
 - C. When time for bids Construction Manager will competitively bid out 85% of the project reaching out to several hundred subcontractors. 10-15% of the cost is site cost. All cost will be kept in line with budget.
6. Old Business:
 - A. 1 bid received for blasting the ceiling upstairs in Town Hall. Motion was made by Russ Austin, seconded by Frank Reeder to approve the bid for \$25,808 and hire M&J Mobile Media Blasting to remove paint from upstairs ceiling. Motion passed 3-0
 - B. Primex insurance claim for cyber security (email hacking) referred Town to McDonald Hopkins Law Firm to further investigate, analyze, and notify anyone potentially compromised. First task to work with CCI to recover emails. Reeder - Only email affected likely doesn't need further investigation. No guarantee we will get emails back and no guarantee it will not increase premium if we proceed with costly research. We now pay for a secure server and back-up to avoid any future issues. Motion was made by Russ Austin, seconded by Frank Reeder not to proceed with McDonald Hopkins cyber counsel. Motion passed 3-0

- C. Second ARPA installment received \$88,358.07. Total received \$176,716.13 which will be used on Town Hall renovations that meet Covid criteria.
- D. Public Concern about speeding and safety of residents walking and biking. Speeding mostly involves town residents. Reeder - Solutions are needed, but most are impractical.
1. Radar - expensive and studies show not effective.
 2. Speed bumps - not practical for plowing
 3. Police Department - Increase taxes more than 50% - salaries, vehicles, and insurance.
 4. Cheshire County Sheriff's Dept - To hire would cost \$150,000+ annually
 5. Fake speed trap - Only police dept can do and we don't have one
 6. Best way to help is to confront neighbors and ask that they slow down.
 7. Can collect license plates of offenders and give them to State Police to keep record
- Snowdon - Several people have called the State Police and they will try to patrol. Austin - Selectboard agrees that speeding is a problem, but unless residents want to petition for a police presence there isn't much the board can do.
- E. Community Power - February 3, 2022 J.B Mack from SWRPC and Dori Drachman co-chair of Monadnock Sustainability presented the basics of Community Power. Purchasing power in bulk as a community to save money. At that time it was decided to wait for legislation to approve and other towns to create working models. Snowdon recommends that Westmoreland form a committee now or join coalition. Process would be similar to Broadband. Town would need to approve and residents could choose to participate or not. Austin - only affects cost not delivery. Snowdon - Eversource and Liberty can only purchase power 2x a year whereas an aggregator can choose when to purchase, resulting in lower prices. Reeder - Mark Terry volunteered to gather information and data from other communities. Snowdon has been working on this and will work with Terry to gather data and find best way for town to proceed. For more information see following websites:
<https://monadnocksustainabilityhub.org/programs/community-power-purchasing/>
<https://www.cpcnh.org/>
- F. Bridge Funding - J.B.Mack working on ways to obtain grant money to assist with bridge replacement. Approximate cost \$2,000,000. NHDOT reached out to the planning commission to provide projects for funding. SWRPC received 7 nominations (including River Road South Bridge) from the 34 towns. Bridge becomes a matter of priority. Questions from SWRPC ;
1. Anticipate change to bridge size such as public walkway - No change
 2. Does the bridge have historic value? - Built 1930s. No known historical value
 3. State Aid Program 80/20 split. Town pays 100% up front then gets 80% back 10+ years. - Town not interested. Looking for 100% funding opportunities. Chris Coates to commit on the grant application about bridge importance to the County.
- G. Zoning Board fee change suggestions. Reeder - Planning and Zoning fees should be the same. Planning Board to review fees. Hearing to accept fee changes to be determined once Planning Board reviews.
- H. Harry participated in webinar for NH Clean Diesel Program - Grant would reimburse 25% if the town were to receive. Very competitive grant open to more than just municipalities. Replacement Rescue Chassis has to be 84" cab to chassis. None available would need to be ordered. Project has to be completed by September 2023 to be reimbursed. Ordering the truck and having a special build is not likely possible. Grant may not work for this project

7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 07/26/2022, 8/9/2022	General Journal Entries:	Retirement \$2583.33
Payroll Taxes:07/28/2022, 8/11/2022	810 Tax Warrant-Timber	Healthtrust \$6455.38
Solar Exemptions (2)	811 Court Restitution	Eversource \$212.41
Abatements (2)	812 Restitution Repayment	Amazon \$31.61
Forest Fire Report		

- A. Dog Violation Letter - Unlicensed, Need to provide proof of vaccinations, breeding needs to be in compliance with state laws, 1975 warrant article 18 Town voted to have dogs restrained. Letter to be sent to noncompliant owners.
- B. Plodzik & Sanderson, PA representation letter - Selectmen to review and sign at later date
- C. Argent Cable Contract - Selectmen to review and sign at later date

8. Correspondence - None

9. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to accept and expend unanticipated money per RSA 31:95-b from State of New Hampshire Senate Bill-401 Highway Grant \$70,911.03 Motion passed 3-0. With no further discussion public hearing closed at 7:20pm

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II (c)at 7:21pm

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 7:38

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon