

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 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: May 5, 2022. Motion was made by Frank Reeder and seconded by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to Approve Manifests: \$22,633.10 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest:
 - A. Consolidated Communications (CCI) postponed meeting to talk about new branding - Fidium
 - B. Jeanette Hubert, Conservation Commission - Inquired about copy of OSHA required engineer study of old firestation to be torn down. Frank Reeder - No document at this time since not yet at that stage. All OSHA regulations and documents will be handled by the Project Manager and will be available as we proceed with construction/demolition. Currently working on a contract with the architect.
5. Old Business:
 - A. MTAG Grant - John Snowdon - Message from Lisa Murphy, SWRP. MTAG program has been suspended. The Invest NH funding is now taking precedence. \$5 million of the Invest NH is being dedicated to municipal zoning as it relates to housing. Each town will be eligible for money to work on zoning ordinances. Not all details of funding is available yet, but work done for MTAG preparation should be applicable to the new process. Tiffany McNamara, Executive Director of Plan NH, said she hopes the new program will be available in the next few months. April Ferguson - Can a committee be appointed as talked about during that time? Frank Reeder - No committee needed at this time.
 - B. Mill Brook Dam - Tom Finnegan and Bill Chase met with Durgin's to look at their situation and discuss their concerns. There is a fact finding meeting June 2nd with the State Dam Bureau and some affected neighbors which Tom and Bill plan to attend. Once facts are known the Emergency Management Committee will contact the property owner about the problem.
 - C. Tower Clock Repair - Bid from D'Avanza Clock Repair LLC for \$19,985 reviewed by Bill Fletcher. Bid does not include cabinet or cutting floor/ceiling for moving the clock mechanism. Bruce Uhas and Bill Fletcher will cut the floor/ceiling for the project. Cabinet will go out to bid.
Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept D'Avanza Clock Repair's bid to restore and move tower clock for \$19,985 Motion passed 3-0.
 - D. Town Hall Fire Alarm System - Two Bids reviewed by Chief Nelson and Rachel Bartlett. 1st bid from Amer Electric to include all of Town Hall and Post Office \$13,858. 2nd bid from Countryside Alarm Systems \$21,044 did not include the Post Office. Motion was made by

Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to accept Amer Electric's bid to install complete fire alarm system in Town Hall/Post Office for \$13,858. Motion passed 3-0.

- E. River Road North Bridge - Waiting for an update from engineers about progress.
- F. Daggett Hill - Son of the previous owner of property deeded by town last year called about a truck left on Daggett Hill Road being towed last November. Frank Reeder - Explained to son that proper notifications were given about removal of property, vehicles cannot be abandoned on town roads, and if the previous owner wants to repurchase property he will need to do so using proper procedure according to NH law. Reeder also explained that as the Town currently owns property they cannot stay on the property.
- G. Fire Station Architect - Contract received, but some revisions to be made. Steve Horton to work with Petrovick Architects to make revisions for the next board meeting.
- H. Zoning Clerk needed. Have not been able to fill position

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 05/14/2022	USAVaccum - 118.95	Solar Exemption (1)
Payroll Taxes: 05/15/2022	Eversource - 249.79	2022 Warrant-1 of 2
General Journal Entry 801-Tax Lien	Shipping Shack - 17.27	Conservation Commission
General Journal Entry 802-Timber	Timber Tax Warrant	Appointment
Tax Warrant	Intent to Cut (2)	

- A. River Road to Reynolds right of way. Logger wants permission to cut 7 small trees located on what was old Class VI road to make it easier to exit the right of way safely. Road moved at one time due to wash out, and right of way now on Alan Bressett's property. Logger said he has permission from Bressett to use the right of way. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to allow the logger to cut trees with Bressett's permission. Selectmen suggested written permission to use the right of way. Motion passed 3-0.
- B. Westmoreland Firefighters/Rescue Association is applying for The Locally Equipment Purchase Program which provides support of up to \$50,000 per NH locality for purchasing safety equipment needed as a result of or in response to the health crisis and its negative effects. Westmoreland Firefighters/Rescue Association voted to gift the Town the 10% match required. Town cannot use tax dollars unless voted on at Town Meeting, but can accept a gift to cover the match. Town can at a future Town Meeting set up an Expendable Trust Fund for matching grants which would prevent the town from missing out on grant opportunities that require a monetary match. Russ Austin suggested that a warrant be presented at the next Town Meeting for this purpose.
- C. Flags for cemeteries ready to be placed by Friday May 27th by Selectmen and volunteers.
- D. Disposal of Surplus Road Material - Due to inquiries Reeder talked to the Road Agent about what is done with ditching materials. Usable materials go back to the yard to be screened and reused. Other material containing trash, leaves, etc. is available upon request. This saves the town from disposing of the material. Marshall Patmos - Shouldn't Town charge something for the material some of which is good? Reeder - Don't think the town can or would want to be in the business of selling, and Selectboard not going to second guess Road Agent if he says materials are not usable.

- E. Post Office - Vent covers keep coming off. Need to be fixed.
- F. Marshall Patmos - Zoning hearing for storage units May 18th. Need more information concerning rainfall and brookline. Building too close to brook.

- 8. There was no additional correspondence
- 9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2022 1:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon