

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2022

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2022. Motion was made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon 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: \$419,896.33 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Motion was made by Russ Austin and seconded by John Snowdon to use \$10,090.38 from Bridge Capital Fund to repair Hatt Road Bridge. Motion passed 3-0
5. Guest: Chris Coates & Terry Clark from Cheshire County - Update on County projects
 - A. Westmoreland Campus - Maplewood Nursing Home 99.99% finished other than side projects. Plan to pave the parking area below the facility. Cheshire Conservation group using 3 bays of 6 bay garage. County plans to turn a portion of the rest into PPE storage. Plans to turn the red barn into an agriculture teaching facility with classrooms. Adams Farm beautifully maintains fields, and the Wright family continues to have sheep. Frank Reeder - How did the county end up with price increases? Coates - Purchased some things like steel prior to tariffs. Covid added to the cost and put the project behind, but the State helped a lot with planning and the ARPA money helped.
 - B. EMS facility to be built in Swanzey near round-about with easy access to several towns. County looking to provide high quality care. County looking for housing for travel nurses, and working with KSC to create a feeder program with nurses in training. Harry Nelson - Will County plan to solicit towns for ambulance service? Coates - Have to build the hub first, but once up and running discussions could happen especially if time comes that Keene no longer wants to service towns. Nelson - County will need to keep in mind what the town does for Maplewood when proposing a price.
 - C. Coates - request River Road Bridge be on the 10 year plan so the County can work with the town to get some of the money for bridges. John Snowdon - Because of the bridge's importance, J.B. Mack from South West Regional Planning is looking to see if the bridge can be done with some of the new grant money coming for project 2022-2026. Would be a 90/10 split which could be covered with other funds available to towns. Coates - County grant writers can help if needed to get bridges in the works.
 - D. American Rescue Plan Act - Cheshire County. What We've Done, and What We Are Looking to Next. Document available in Selectmen's office.
6. Old Business:
 - A. MTAG Grant - Frank reviewed an application from SWRP and a great job was done in keeping with the Town's master plan. Recommended changes - 1. A Westmoreland Economic Development Committee was recently created - change to: in process of being created. 2. The Westmoreland Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board have discussed this at several meetings and are in support of this project - change to majority are in support of the project. Reeder added that grant not yet approved and if town is offered money everything will be

thoroughly reviewed at that time. Nothing needed in writing at this point. Russ Austin - Letter from Jeanette Hubert asking Selectboard to resist the urge to spend money. Asked Hubert for clarification. Hubert - We were told originally the grant would lead to organizing ordinances. Now talking about reviewing the Master Plan. Reeder - The purpose of this grant is a regulatory review to see if town's ordinances are in compliance with State laws, and if necessary rewrite any ordinances that don't comply. The Planning Board was asked to get an estimate of the cost to organize ordinances, but the board has not yet seen an estimate. Snowdon - Grant doesn't do anything with the Master Plan other than a survey to establish community dialogue. A future Master Plan Committee can use parts of this when review time comes to ideally increase participation from voters in the town. Austin - No intention of spending any money for grant or Master Plan at this time. Reeder - Regulatory review necessary otherwise Town is put at risk if not in compliance. Hubert - Not a legal review so it won't protect the town from lawsuits. Laurie Burt - Used to be on the Planning Board and when there were ordinance questions the town attorney was consulted. Is the person reviewing qualified? Reeder - Town attorney is still consulted as needed, and having the ordinances reviewed by people who are highly qualified to keep them up to date will help protect the town. Motion was made by Frank Reeder and seconded by Russ Austin to complete the application process. If grant is received, do a thorough review before funds are accepted. Motion passed 3-0.

- B. Mill Brook Dam - Tom Finnegan received a letter from Chesterfield Board of Selectmen indicating a letter has been sent to the property owner to contact the Town of Westmoreland. To date no contact has been made. Owner to be contacted by Bill Chase. Laurie Burt - State was contacted about problems in the past, and the owner was contacted at that time.
- C. Tower Clock Repair - One Bid opened - to be reviewed by Bill Fletcher to be sure everything other than case is included. Will vote to accept the next meeting if complete.
- D. Town Hall Fire Alarm System - Two Bids opened - to be reviewed and compared by Chief Nelson. Will vote to accept a bid at the next meeting.
- A. Consolidated Communications (CCI) will be coming to the May 19th meeting. Jeff McIver to talk about new branding - Fidium

7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 05/02/2022	Health Insurance 04/28/2022	Intent to Excavate
Payroll Taxes: 05/05/2022	Solar Exemption (6)	Intent to Cut (2)
General Journal Entry #800	Excavation Tax Warrant	Town Clerk Oath of Office

- A. Motion was made by Russ Austin and seconded by Frank Reeder to authorize the Town of Westmoreland to enter into New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank Loan Agreement and Certificate of Vote. Motion passed 3-0 Bond sale June 7th. Money to be received July 12-13th.
- B. Reeder - Asked Hubert how the Conservation Commission meeting April 26th went with Steve Horton, and if questions had been answered. Hubert said some were answered and Horton was to get answers for others. Meeting minutes not yet in, and boards and committees to be reminded minutes due within 5 days per right to know.
- C. Snowdon - SWRP, JB Mack, potential instructure money for bridges. DOT asked RPCs to provide a list of priorities. SWRP has asked for information to determine if the River Road

Bridge is eligible for nomination due to its importance to both County and Town. Last state estimate for the bridge in 2012 was 1.3 million. Unknown what bridge would be now.

D. Snowdon - Westmoreland #47 in state and # 1 in the county in regards to income according to US Census American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 5-year estimates, Table S1901. Being considered a wealthy town many grants are not available to us.

Median household income ranges:

- 15.2 % earn less than \$50,000
- \$50,000- \$74,999 is the largest category with 22.5% of the population
- 11.5% have a median household income of \$200,000 and over. These higher incomes have a significant impact on the overall median household income for Westmoreland.

Age breakdown:

- Median household income is \$83,068 among those aged 25 to 44;
- \$102,784 among those aged 45 to 64;
- \$38,500 among those aged 65 and over

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by John Snowdon to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(b) at 245pm. Motion passed 3-0.

A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by John Snowdon, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 2:55pm. Motion passed 3-0

8. There was no additional correspondence

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Scanlan

Town Administrative Assistant

NEXT MEETING – MONDAY May 19,,2022 7:00pm
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon