

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2021

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: September 2, 2021. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests: Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee
Tom Finnegan stated that the Selectmen had tasked the committee to find ways to reduce the cost of the proposed new fire station. The committee was asked to see if the reduction of a bay would significantly cut cost, or if there was any other way to reduce the cost of the new building. Randall Walter explained that the reduction in the size of the building would only reduce the cost from just under 2.3 to just under 2.1 million since the required elements that have to go inside to meet the national standard would not change. Walter also stated that in the future if another bay had to be added the cost would be much more than including the original bay. He said the building designed was the most cost-effective choice. A more traditional structure would be more expensive and a metal structure would be about the same. Walter advocates a quality structure that will require less future maintenance and utility cost. Frank Reeder stated that it would be negligible to reduce the size of the building or sacrifice quality since it wouldn't significantly reduce the cost. Clayton Stalker agreed that the building should remain the same size. Reeder asked about updating the estimate for the cost of the building before presenting to the budget committee so the town can be presented with a more accurate figure. Walker agreed that a new estimate would be appropriate, John Lounsbury suggested the price of the building be separated from the price of the essential equipment required to show breakdown for tax payers. Russ Austin asked if the committee was recommending anything different. Randall Walker stated the same footprint would be recommended. Walter said it was a reasonable economical life safety building taking in consideration of the national standard, and the best way to reduce cost would be to encourage community participation and to use preferred vendors. Bob Bartlett said that he had contacted over 20 towns about stations they recently built. He was told the committee should work closely with architect. Clayton Stalker stated that the committee had come with the information requested and at this point PR was needed to get the public on board and a budget number needed to be established to get the new station built at a cost the public would vote for.
Tom Finnegan shared two other updates with the selectmen.
 1. The Hazzard Mitigation Plan update was being worked on with Lisa Murphy from Southwest Regional Planning.
 2. Paul Berch recommends that a formal letter be sent to the county in addition to the previous conversations with Chris Coats to gain the old generator from the county previously used at Maplewood. The generator would be used for the new Fire Station and the Town Hall.
4. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$54,916.32. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Extension requested for River Road North DES permit due expire September 30th due to rain. Engineer said silt and debris coming from high river water. Eckman Architects originally designed the bridge and want to help fix the problem. Eckman will work on a proposal for study.

- B. Economic Development Committee mission statement. Frank reworded statement given by John Snowdon in Charter form and added committee work with planning board and conservation committee
- C. ARPA grant – Town received 1st payment, but as of now not sure we will qualify to use it. County is going to use 1 million of the 40 million they received to distribute to towns. Our portion would be just over \$23,000 Same eligibility requirements will be used so unclear as to weather or not we will be able to use it. If approved potentially could be used toward bridges or fire station. If not approved for any uses other than originally outlined town will have to return money.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll: 9/4/2021

Payroll Taxes: 9/9/2021

General Journal Entry: #775 & #776

Invoice Cloud (online sign-ups): 9/6/2021

- A. Mask – Follow CDC guideline which states vaccinated not required. Not vaccinated or those with underlying illness should wear. Town Hall to post sign recommending mask use
- B. Town Hall rentals – Septic issues are now resolved, however, due to increase Covid cases in Cheshire County Town hall will not be available for rentals or public use. Fire Department can use kitchen for meal prep only for October BBQ.
- C. Town Attorney, Silas Little, retiring. Selectmen would like to obtain services from a local attorney. Will need to put out more inquiries, compile recommendation, and put out RFP for a new town attorney.
- D. Meeting time. TJ Kelly asked that the board have evening meetings so more people can attend. Clayton said they are having one afternoon and one evening meeting each month to see what works best for the town.
- E. Fireworks complaints. Currently there are no ordinances regulating the use of fireworks. Any resident who feels there should be one can petition to put an ordinance on the town warrant.

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

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Jodi Scanlan
 Town Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

 Clayton Stalker, Chairman

 Russ Austin

 Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 30, 2021, 1:00pm

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