

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, September 2, 2021

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:57 pm by Chairman Clayton Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes August 26, 2021. Motion was made by Frank Reeder second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Frank Reeder second by Clayton Stalker to approve a manifest of \$241,700.50. Motion passed 3-0.

4. Guests:

David Poklemba was present to talk about DES Emergency permit to clean debris from under River North Bridge. Dave said since the work has to be done while dry it would not likely be possible to have the work done by September 30th with the amount of rain we have received in the last month. Selectmen agreed to ask DES for an extension. Selectmen also talked to Dave about hiring a 3rd man for the road crew since there were no bids for plowing contract. An applicant for the road crew will be interviewed as soon as possible. Dave also let the board know that road crew should be getting the new backhoe the end of this month which will come with upgraded detachable bucket at no cost to the town due to delay.

John Snowdon shared information about resources offered by Southwest Community Planning for economic development in our community. He suggested working with Southwest Community Planning to form an Economic Development Committee. Grant funding is available to study and revise Zoning Ordinances and to help develop a 10-year plan of where the town wants to be regarding topics such as bringing in businesses on Route 12 corridor, and the potential for senior housing. Russ Austin said that Planning Board would like have help with updating and organizing the ordinances, but was concerned about cost of doing so. Available funding could cut cost significantly. Austin also mentioned that if a committee were to be formed it would need to work closely with the Planning Board, and possibly include one of the members. Frank Reeder asked John to draft a charter to frame what the group would do which John agreed to do. The second topic John talked about was NH Community Power. Community Power Markets can save on energy cost, and the Community Power Coalition allows towns to join at no cost. Require town to nominate a member and an alternate to their board of directors. A committee formed of town members would research best options for the town. Selectmen agreed to have John Snowdon schedule a representative from Community Power Coalition come and explain contract. John also to reach out to Keene who is going with a broker to see how that would compare.

5. Old Business:

- A. River Road North Bridge – Eckman Engineering has been contacted to look at the bridge since they designed the bridge that was built in 2014. We are waiting for their recommendations for what will need to be done to prevent build up of debris under the bridge.
- B. Selectmen, Frank Reeder motioned to adopted a new policy for Discretionary Preservation Easement RSA 79-D which was reviewed by town attorney, Silas Little. The policy to go into effect next tax year. Clayton Stalker seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

- C. Clayton Stalker shared with the board that in reply to the August 26 Board of Selectmen's meeting, Lauren Bressett informed him that the Planning Board had done research into other towns definitions of home business and home occupation, and is working to clarifying definitions currently in town ordinances.
- D. Town Hall Septic System – JP Matthews explained additional cost of \$2,555 for materials and labor for septic system due to state only approving system if line done to Fire Station. Additional cost of approximately \$6800 to apply at the time Fire Station is connected to the system. Frank Reeder moved to approved additional cost to be taken from Fire Department Facility Capital Reserve Fund, Russ Austin seconded and the motion passed 3-0.

6. New Business:

- A. Signature Approval was given for the following:
General Journal Entry: #770, 771, 772, 773 & 774
Adobe PDF 8/1/2021

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

8. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 16, 2021, 6:00AM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES