

# Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2023

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Frank Reeder, John Snowdon and Bill McGahie

1. The meeting was called to order at 6pm by Frank Reeder
2. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2023. Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie 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 \$9,850.75 and Fire Station \$126,068.92 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Old Business
  - A. Unpermitted Building: Property owner sent letter both via regular mail and certified stating that all permits for build were denied and permits cannot be issued to build on a Class VI road. Selectboard informed that the owner has been bringing materials to site and is in process of building without permits. Lauren Bressett - property is 571 acres that consists of multiple tracks of land that don't appear to be merged. If a driveway is permitted from Class V Johnnycake Road would it be able to cross multiple properties or would they need to be merged? Selectmen agree that since building is already in process the enforcement policy needs to be accelerated and the Town lawyer needs to send a letter to the owner. Lawyer also to be consulted about potential need for property merger.
  - B. Curbing - Letter received from Bob Bartlett about Town Common curbing on Route 63. Bartlet previously priced replacing curbing with granite. Cost would be approximately \$36,000 which selectmen felt was too much to ask the Town. Bartlett asked if curbing could just be removed. Reeder - Curbing keeps cars from hitting the granite post and chains on the common. Need to confirm if Town or State put in the curbing and determine if removal is an option and if so would removing cause more harm than good.
  - C. Harvey Pond - Snowdon talked to Joe Riesenbergs about the status of the dam and beavers. No plan has been made to remove beavers, and the beavers have created a water slide which could potentially cause more erosion. Reeder - If road is currently fine then there is nothing the Town can do on privately owned property. It is the owners responsibility to maintain and they would be liable for any potential damages to the road or other property. Riesenbergs continues to keep culverts cleaned to help avoid any issues.
  - D. Culverts - Reeder - As a reminder to the community, residents do not have permission and should not redirect road culverts. Doing so can cause serious road damage and wash-outs. If there is a problem, talk to the road agent about it and he will determine the best procedure to fix it. Also it is each resident's responsibility to clean their culverts. Clogged culverts can cause road damage and costly repairs.
  - E. Building Permit Form - Building Inspector, Larry Muchmore, suggested the town look into hiring an electrical inspector as there have been some issues with work that has been done. Permit form to include license # of plumber and electrician and signatures at inspection

stages. Property owners don't always know who they will be hiring at the time they apply for a permit, but if signatures are required before approval stages information can be obtained for who did the work. Bressett - Town ordinances have no requirements for licensing. The state has redone codes which towns can adopt, but there is a procedure to do so. Reeder - Plumbers have to be licensed, but in at least some instances electricians may not have to be. We need to check state requirements the town should follow.

- F. LCHP - Building was visited today by the LCHP grant review team. There are 50 applicants competing for approximately 3.2 million in grant money. They requested a detailed plan for the new HVAC system to show where things would be and what type of vents would be used. Historical buildings need to show minimal effects of modernization. Zajac HVAC to be asked to provide a plan.
- G. Tables - Tables belonging to the fire station damaged when furnaces were removed. McGahie - damage is minimal, and Chief Nelson will need to determine what is needed to repair and how they should be compensated.
- H. ADUs - Bressett - Ordinance Section 407.2 refers to RSA 485 A:38 state law requiring septic approval for Accessory Dwelling Units. Can septic approval be added to the Zoning Board hearing worksheet? Reeder - pass on to Zoning Clerk and reiterate the ZB state requirement so they make it clear to applicants.

#### 5. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

PA-16 Form	Solar Exemptions (2)
USPS \$5.01	Cemetery Deeds (2)
Eversource \$134.77	

- A. Fireworks Permits - Snowdon - resident concerned about town liability for fireworks displays and if need to be permitted per state. Reeder - No ordinances against fireworks in Westmoreland. Would need a warrant article to create a permit process, and there would be no way to enforce. The state does not require permits for consumer fireworks. Two major displays in town that are both publicized as to when they will be. Both alert the fire chief and have safety measures in place. Both are on private property and any liability would be theirs. Individuals can call the state police if they know of violations of the law.
- B. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by Bill McGahie to accept donation per RSA 31:19 for the Veteran's Memorial Fund in the amount of \$225. Motion passed 3-0
- C. Container - Recycling Center would like permission to sell as scrap the old rusted container that is no longer being used. Selectmen agree the container is no longer of use and can be sold to a scrap yard.
- D. Time Capsule - Last minute idea to include a small time capsule of things that represent the Town in 2023 to be placed in the new monument. Items include Town Report, menus from Stuart and John's and Barn and Thistle, Town statistics, business cards and brochures of local businesses, Cheshire EMS patch, coins, baseball cards, and Pokemon cards for fun.

6. Correspondence: Barry Shonbeck emailed selectmen a concern about a property owner pushing fill into wetlands. Shonbeck did talk to the owner who said he was trying to move a mound that was channeling water into his basement. Shonbeck brought to the board's attention because the property did not allow for any further filling of wetlands in prior years. Bressett - Property owner needs to be forwarded New Hampshire Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management, a guide published by DES. Reeder - Any further action would involve calling NHDES
7. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) at 7:12pm. Motion passed 3-0.
8. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by McGahie, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 7:35pm. Motion passed 3-0.
9. Next meeting will be postponed from August 1st to August 10th at 1pm
10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY AUGUST 10, 2023 1:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Frank Reeder, Chairman

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John Snowdon

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William McGahie