

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Frank Reeder
2. Approval of Minutes: May 2, 2023 & May 4, 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 Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$14,975.30 and Fire Station \$7912.50 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest - Eversource
 - Responding to the letter sent to Eversource regarding restoration time communication during March storm and preventative work
 - Connor Jennings - New equipment including 4 new distribution automation devices, Hendrix cable and trip savers.
 - Westmoreland had one of highest outages in the state.
 - When trees hit Hendrix with messenger on top the pole tends to snap off at the top. Takes longer to fix than normal downed wires
 - Multiple calls about restoration due to fuses being tripped down the line of power outage. Acting like restoration of power is happening. Eversource recognizes the issue and is looking to improve the notification process.
 - Snowdon - Crews were outstanding. Communication is important especially to aging community members who need to make decisions for their safety.
 - Dane D'Arcangelo, arborist with Eversource - Routine maintenance done every 4-5 years in sections of the Town. Certified arborists identify trees with higher likelihood of failure. Can only cut trees with permission of land owners. Some don't respond and some deny.
 - Reeder - Appreciate response to letter, and the Town will appreciate any aggressive tree cutting that can be done to prevent outages.
5. Old Business
 - A. Harvey Pond Dam
 - Emergency Management Director, Tom Finnegan, contacted NHDES when 3 large trees fell in the vicinity of the dam NHDES (attached) recommends lowering water level. Permits required for any work. NHDES also suggested only removing the top of trees not the roots as they are what is holding the water. The roots are what opened seepage areas in the dam.
 - Joe Riesenber, property owner where the dam is located - Overflow pipe may be the best solution. Beavers fill driveway culvert daily and would like them to be removed.
 - Reeder - Town can pay for beavers to be trapped The trapper will need permission from all property owners. Removing beavers is a temporary fix.
 - Reeder - Harvey Pond and the dam are on private property. Cannot do anything with Town money to fix private property. Town may be able to assist property owners install beaver a deceiver or pond leveler much like is done for culverts with residents purchasing materials and road crew installing. Once a plan is made it can be brought to the Board of Selectmen for discussion.

- B. Town Hall Water - Town Hall returned to the old well during fire station construction. Water testing done since well not used in a long time, and reports show it to be drinkable.
- C. London Cross Road Berm
 - McGahie - Berm built on Larkin property not on site plan
 - Larkin - Someone changed brook at some time since it is not the same as it was on earlier maps. No permits were issued to move Mill Brook. Flooding in 2012 resulted in septic feces and water in the basement. Lost thousands of dollars and nearly died from infection obtained while cleaning debris. Built a berm for some protection. Berm is 10' from brook and engineer told him the berm would not affect the flow of brook
 - Reeder - Ask the Planning Board to discuss at their next meeting to determine if there is a site plan violation. If no violation, no further action to be taken by Selectboard.
- D. Zoning Clerk - NH Municipal Lawyer said to comply with RSA 676:7 II The public hearing shall be held within 45 days. Not having hearings is not an option. Town would be charged for Doing Business in Bad Faith if brought to court for refusing hearings. Vicki Reeder will fill in temporarily as clerk so hearings can be conducted. Town relies on volunteers to help conduct the Town's business, and efforts to find a clerk will continue.

6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Appointed Zoning Member - Alan Bell

Appointed Emergency Management Deputy - Scott Talbot

Payroll 5/16/2023	Excavation Tax Warrant	Amazon \$19.60
Payroll Taxes 5/16/2023	Excavation Intent	General Journal Entries
Tax Payment Agreement	Zoning Policy	832 - Excavation Tax
Cemetery Deed	Zoning Violation Letter	833 - Tax Lien Deposit
Intent to Cut (3)	USPS \$76.48	834 - Timber Tax
Intent Supplement	Invoice Cloud \$28.60	835 - Restitution
Timber Tax Warrant	Eversource \$224.67	

- A. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by John Snowdon to accept and sign the NHCPC Cost Sharing Agreement. Motion passed 3-0
- B. Highway Part Time Salary - Dave Poklemba, Town Road Agent, has decided to hire part time help for the summer and continue contracting winter plowing. Poklemba requested a raise in salary since there are no benefits for part time employees. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to raise part time Highway Department employee salary from \$18 to \$20 dollars per hour.. Motion passed 3-0
- C. Standard Power Electric Contract - 3 options given: 12 mo \$0.12467, 24 mo \$0.12068, 36 mo \$0.11603. Mark Terry - Community Power Coalition growing and the larger it gets the better buying power it will have. Westmoreland should launch around this time next year. Rates also predicted to be lowering. Selectboard decided on a 12 month Standard Power contract.
- D. Veteran Flags - Flags to be placed on veteran graves for memorial day. Flags will be placed by Friday, May 26th by Selectboard and volunteers including the Westmoreland School.
- E. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by John Snowdon to accept donation per RSA 31:19 for the Town Common Gazebo Fund in the amount of \$1000. Motion passed 3-0

- F. Motion made by Frank Reeder and seconded by Bill McGahie to accept donation per RSA 31:19 for the Old Home Day Fund in the amount of \$100. Motion passed 3-0
- G. Snowdon - Town missing grant opportunities not having Economic Development Committee. Suggested discussion at the next Selectboard meeting.

7. Correspondence

- A. Consolidated - Pole licenses transferred to Eversource.
- B. National Collaborative for Digital Equity - NCDE has a grant to do broadband mapping, and wants the Town to request NH Department of Safety E911 to release rural addressing to map broadband. Maps would then be available to the Town for the purposes of planning, grant writing, and improving broadband. Selectboard does not see it as necessary since the entire Town now has access to broadband.
- C. Southwest Regional Planning Commission - Grant available for assessment and mapping of culverts. Town Hazard mitigation plan does not currently include. Selectmen agreed the project could benefit the Town and will invite Henry Underwood, GIS Specialist/Planner for SWRPC to present the project at a Selectboard meeting. (Attached)
- D. Thank you note from Earla Williams of Great Meadow Ferry Road for road crew removing excess gravel from her yard.

8. 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 8:13pm. Motion passed 3-0.

9. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by John Snowdon, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 8:21pm. Motion passed 3-0.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY MAY 23, 2023 10:00AM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Frank Reeder, Chairman

John Snowdon

William McGahie