

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2023

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Russ Austin
2. Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2023. Motion was made by Frank Reeder, seconded by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Russ Austin to Approve Manifests for: General Fund \$213,439.90 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Recycling Committee: Rachel Bartlett, David Poklemba and Richard Meyer.
Ron Fish also in attendance
 - Bartlett - Committee has been meeting for 2 years, and looking for direction from selectmen about ways to proceed Committee working on 2 major issues - Supervision and Commercial Dumping
 - Cost of trucking for commingle 6x more than compactor. Need to recycle more efficiently which means more supervision. More return if glass and plastic are separated, but would require another covered container. Residents don't sort and clean recycles properly and still put recyclable containers in the trash compactor.
 - Commercial dumping - People collecting trash and bringing trailer and truck loads each week costing residents money.
 - Pay as you throw is the best option. Most surrounding towns have gone to pay by the bag or are in the process to avoid increasing taxes.
 - Reeder - Committee would need to provide details on how to implement pay by the bag, get information to the public, seek public support and Selectboard can present as a warrant article to the town next year.
 - Committee suggests putting out RFP for trucking to see if there are any other options.
 - Town could consider not taking demo to reduce cost
 - Compost survey on the website and Bridges Facebook page. To participate in composting the Town will need 50 households to participate.

5. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 2/7/2023

Payroll Taxes 2/9/2023

Eversource \$330.75

General Journal Entries:

828 - Year end funds

829 - broadband transfer

- A. Ambulance Service - Cheshire County EMS service to begin April 1, 2023. Walpole will provide back-up if needed. Harry Nelson and Graham Gitchell to meet with Chief Spain of Cheshire County EMS Monday 2/20 to discuss ways to make the transition smooth. Town will still rely on our fire department volunteers to provide 1st response and patient stabilization until contracted service arrives to take over and transport.
- B. Chief Nelson - Would like to schedule Steve Horton for the next meeting to provide updates in the construction of the new fire station.

C. River Road Bridge - Snowdon - County understands that the Town is not in a place to take on another bond for the bridge. County couldn't fund bridge with the ARPA money they received because it is the Town's bridge. Attended Congressional Directive Spending webinar. Setting up a meeting with Jeanne Shaheen's Deputy Director, Chris Scott, to discuss funding.

6. Old Business

A. Town Mailings - Reeder - During land use meeting inquiries about using Tax Bills or Town Clerk Invoices to send official correspondence to town residents. Against law to send anything with tax bills, and Town Clerk invoices would not reach everyone at any one time. Correspondence would need to be sent independently.

B. Issuing Fines for Zoning Violations - Reeder - NHMA outlines 2 options for enforcement. a. a) Informal enforcement such as sending letters
b) Petition Superior Court to hear case and issue fines or Town can establish Zoning Ordinance which would give the town authority.

C. Snowdon - The Planning Board will be introducing a series of articles to help explain some of their procedures. These will be available on the website as available.

7. Correspondence - Messages sent to the personal Facebook messenger pages, by text or via personal email to selectmen will be saved as documentation of the conversations

8. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to enter into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) at 7:09pm. Motion passed 3-0.

9. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin, to seal the non-public session minutes and return to the public session at 7:40pm. Motion passed 3-0

10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Scanlan

Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY MARCH 2, 2023 1:00PM

MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED

SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

John Snowdon