

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday, April 18, 2019

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Russ Austin.
2. Approval of Minutes: April 4, 2019 A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Chairman Austin opened the Public Hearing on the increase of Recycling Center stickers – RSA 41:9-a. The Hearing will remain open for the duration of the meeting.
4. Chairman Austin opened the Public Hearing to accept a donation for the ‘Remembering Betty Ann’ Library Fund in the amount of \$50,000 – RSA 31:95-b, III(a). The Hearing will remain open for the duration of the meeting.
5. Guests:
  - A. Dick Cate, Partridge Brook Road: Mr. Cate believes that the air quality is destructive to the neighborhood and that small particles are injurious to long-term health due to a wood-burning furnace located on the other side of the road. Mr. Cate presented a chart showing the data collected from an air quality monitor he installed in his home for one month. A contact he has at the college will be transferring the data to metric to compare with EPA Standards. Mr. Cate has also sent the information to the town Health Officer, Kelly Wright. Russ Austin asked if the furnace met regulations according to the State. Mr. Cate stated that while the furnace met setback requirements, he thinks that it does not meet the nuisance provision. Clayton Stalker added that as he has an outdoor wood furnace close to his house, he has purchased an air purifier that has helped. Mr. Cate closed with the fact that he is outside a lot and the air outside and in his barn, along with laundry that they hang outside, stinks. Frank Reeder stated that the Selectmen would like to see the data from the college. The Selectmen are unsure of who can make a decision on this matter and will talk to the town health officer.
  - B. Wes Staples, Chair of the Grader Purchase Advisory Committee: Russ Austin asked what the committee is recommending for a grader. Mr. Staples stated that the committee had a preference for a new John Deere #672 as it is All-Wheel-Drive and a heavier machine. They don’t feel that a used grader is the right directions to take. Warranties on a new one are important to have. Selectmen discussed selling the old grader or using it as a trade-in on a new one. Specs for the grader have been generated and will be sent to companies and posted in the Keene Sentinel.
  - C. Kelly Wright, Health Officer joined the meeting. She will get the facts and find out who has the authority to make a decision regarding Mr. Cate’s concerns about air quality.
  - D. David Poklemba, Road Agent:
    - a. Dave requested that SB-38 highway funds (\$37,000±) from the State be used to purchase 6 jersey barriers for a section of erosion on River Road and for gravel to put on the dirt roads to build them up where they should be. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to approve the funds as such. Passed 3-0.

- b. A request has been made by Gordon Dickie of Swanzey to reimburse him for a tire damaged on Bump Road. The Selectmen don't feel that the town should be responsible for damage incurred on town roads.
    - c. Dave reported that David Weaver had given his notice on April 15. An ad has been posted in several places. The Selectmen will do an exit interview with Dave Weaver on Monday, 4/22 at 9:00am. The pay scale for part-time help was discussed and will be further looked at during next year's budget process. Part-time help, during the time the road crew is down one person, will be increased to \$18 per hour.
6. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$11,867.22 for the highway department and \$19,137.90 for all other bills for a total of \$31,005.12. Motion passed 3-0.
7. Old Business:
  - A. Audit update: The 2018 annual audit and the Tax Collector forensic audit are in progress.
  - B. The opening of bids for the sale of three properties that were gifted to the town will be opened at the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.
8. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:  
Payroll: April 9, 2019  
Payroll Taxes: April 11, 2019  
General Journal Entries: #673

  - A. Town Hall dining room door: The rear exit door in the town hall, which was already in need of repair, was further damaged by heavy winds. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to accept an estimate of \$2,757.00 from Hilltop Carpentry & Wood Working to replace the exit door in the town hall dining room. Motion passed 3-0.
  - B. Frank Hunter, chairman of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, sent an update of the work the committee is doing. A future project they are planning is a tomato festival that would showcase town agriculture both backyard and commercial. The Planning Board has requested that the committee review the current ordinances in regard to agriculture and report any changes, additions, etc. that they might have.
  - C. A proclamation was sent to the Selectmen for their review by two Keene State College students who have been working with the Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center to spread awareness about mandatory reporting laws to all Cheshire County residents and to support the Granite State Children's Alliance outreach campaign. The proclamation proclaims April 2019 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month". Two of the three Selectmen signed the petition.
9. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None
10. Public Business: None
11. Several factors have occurred that caused the Selectmen to look at increasing the cost of access stickers to the Recycling Center to defray some of the recent changes in costs to operate the Westmoreland facility. The town is currently paying .0225 per pound to dispose of paper and cardboard is paying only .0125 per pound. Trucking costs now range from

\$140-\$165 per load. The cost of disposing of compactor trash is \$100 per ton while the co-mingle container is \$25 per ton, so recycling properly is important. Historically, the residents in town have expressed their wish to keep the Westmoreland facility open.

With an increase in the annual sticker cost from \$5 to \$10, it is still much cheaper for residents than using the Keene facility, which is \$2 per 33 gallon bag and \$4 for larger than 33 gallon bags.

A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to increase the cost of a recycling sticker from \$5 to \$10. Motion passed 3-0.

12. A thoughtful and generous donation of \$50,000 was given by Patrick Baker to the previously established 'Remembering Betty Ann' Library Fund.

A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to accept, per RSA 31:95-b, III(a), the donation of \$50,000 to the "Remembering Betty Ann" Library Fund. Motion passed 3-0.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre  
Town Administrator

#### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Russ Austin, Chairman

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Frank Reeder

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Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, May 2, 2019, 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES