

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, July 19, 2018

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Stalker.
2. Approval of Minutes: July 5, 2018. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests: None
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder to approve a manifest of \$1,685.32 for the Highway Department and \$20,559.99 for all other bills for a total of \$22,245.31. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Communication Advisory Committee: Selectman Reeder met with the committee to go over protocol. A second meeting is scheduled for July 26 at 6pm.
 - B. Alternative Energy Advisory Committee: Frank will attend their first meeting when scheduled. As the Selectmen representative on the Planning Board, he also reported that the Planning Board will not meet with the committee until they have some findings to report.
 - C. Agricultural Advisory Committee: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin, to appoint Frank Hunter, Sean Laine, Clai Lasher-Sommers, Jon Lounsbury and John Snowdon to the Agricultural Advisory Committee. Motion passed 3-0.
 - D. Landfill water testing: The Department of Environmental Services (DES) sent an update to the town's Groundwater Management Plan regarding the schedule for testing the wells at and around the landfill site.
 - E. Cleanup of County land: Frank attended a walk-around with DES at the site of the ravine on county land where material dumped there had to be moved. DES will present a report with their findings. Frank stated that it appears the County did a good job with the clean-up.
 - F. Clayton reported that he had received a phone call from Mrs. June Ellsworth regarding the recent discrepancy with paying twice for her 2015 taxes. After reading about the issue in the Sentinel, she left a message with the Tax Collector to get an explanation of what had happened but did not receive a call back. She was able to get her excess money paid back by the Title Company that did the closing on her property. Mrs. Ellsworth wanted to thank the Selectmen for intervening on her behalf.
6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:
Payroll Manifests: July 17, 2018
Payroll Tax Payments: July 19, 2018
Payment of 2017 Tax Levy: \$68,925.14
Post Office for Notices to Mortgagees: 7/10/18
General Journal Entry: #651 Deposit from CR Fund for tractor

 - A. Selectmen discussed how town government services would continue if the town hall could not be used in a disaster situation. Where would work be done and how would records be moved and kept safe? Emergency Management Director Tom Finnegan will be asked to look into it to see if it is part of our current Emergency Operations Plan.

B. Clayton reported that he had received a phone call from Stephanie Droppa of Hurricane Road regarding her temporary plates on a new vehicle running out when the Town Clerk closed for vacation. As the plates were going to run out, she went to the DMV but was told that they couldn't help her because the Town Clerk had not notified them that she was going to be closed, she does not have a deputy and they had no way to verify her absence from the office as the closed hours were not posted on the town website for them to confirm. Clayton told Mrs. Droppa to have DMV call him and he would confirm the Town Clerks absence from the office. He did not hear back from anyone. A letter will be sent in the next few days from the Selectmen encouraging the Town Clerk to appoint a Deputy to ensure continuity in her office. State law states that the Town Clerk *may* have a deputy and is appointed by him/her with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Money was requested in 2018 by the Town Clerk for a Deputy and was appropriated by the Selectmen and Budget Committee and approved by the voters at the town meeting in March.

The Town Clerk has informed the Selectmen's office that she does not want her closed hours posted on the town website. There is also no voice mail message on her phone to inform callers of her office hours. For the benefit of the town residents, the Selectmen believe that when the Town Clerk/Tax Collector posts her closed hours on the town hall door, that it is public information and can and should be put on the website. At the direction of the Selectmen, in the future all posted notices from the Town Clerk & Tax Collector will be added to the town website as soon as possible.

Melissa Bonito of Stonewall Circle who was present at the meeting, has questions regarding the Town Clerk position. Selectmen recommended that she meet with the Town Administrator.

C. A sinkhole has started in the parking lot near the fire station. NH DOT has looked at it and believes that is from the leaking of the culvert that goes behind the fire station and not from their culvert across Route 63. The Road Agent will need to look at it.

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

8. Public Business: None

9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton R. Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

July 19, 2018

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, August 2, 2018, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES