

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, March 1, 2018

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Zeller, Clayton Stalker, Russ Austin

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chairman Zeller.
2. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2018. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests/Public Business:
 - A. Tim Thompson, Trustee of Trust Funds:

Tim informed the Selectmen that the Trustees agree that the town should have a donor form for Trust Funds that would give all the necessary information needed to establish a fund. He added that some of the Trustees would like the Selectmen to establish a minimum of \$5,000 before a trust can be put in someone's name with conditions attached for spending the fund. If the donation is under \$5,000 it would go into a 'support' fund for the library, school, etc. The Selectmen have the authority to determine trust fund issues. The Selectmen will discuss this issue later in the meeting. Mr. Thompson left the meeting at this time.
 - B. Zoning Administrator David Wirth & Chairman of the Zoning Board, Peter Remy: Regarding proposed ordinances on solar to be voted on March 13th.

Peter Remy stated that if the ordinances were voted in and someone came to the Zoning Board because the ordinances restricted them from doing what they wanted to do, it would be difficult for the Board to give a variance based on the criteria that the Board is required to use. Specifically, hardship would be hard to prove.

Clayton Stalker, as the Selectmen's representative on the Planning Board, spoke to the issue of the solar ordinances. He stated that the Board was following the spirit of the Master Plan as to the wishes of people in town regarding the possibility of numerous solar arrays being put up. David Wirth met with the Planning Board at their February 19th meeting and informed them of some of the irregularities in the proposed ordinances. Clayton stated that Planning Board members voted to pull the ordinances from the ballot on election day if possible and added that the Planning Board anticipated continuing their work on the solar ordinances if they were pulled from voting or not. The Planning Board wished that Mr. Wirth had attended the public hearing with his concerns where changes could have been made. David stated that he had attended a Planning Board meeting on March 20, 2017 when the Board first began their discussions to offer his opinions on solar (see Planning Board minutes). He believes that determining the amount of solar panels based on the size of the roof of the house is unfair and one option would be that if the property owner wants to put under 10,000 sq ft of panels (up to 10kw), it should be approved and if more than 10,000 sq ft is wanted, a variance would be required. David stated that his intention was to be present on election day and tell people to vote no on the solar ordinances. Clayton believes that it would be a conflict of interest for David to do that as the Zoning Administrator and a salesman of solar products and added that as David has expressed in the recent past that the Selectmen should look for a replacement for him, the intent was to replace him as Zoning Administrator. Peter Remy stated that he had recommended David for the job as Zoning Administrator because he researched whatever issue the Zoning Board was working on when he was on the Board and added that David was a critical thinker.

All present agreed that no one was against solar or solar ordinances, but that it should be reasonable zoning.

NOTE: it was learned from the town attorney the following day that it was too late to pull the ordinances from the ballot.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$20,877.55 for the Highway Department and \$225,646.40 for all other bills for a total of \$246,523.95. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Town Hall Rent: Following the review of activities that took place in the town hall in 2017 and upon the recommendation of the Budget Committee to do so, the Selectmen are proposing, per RSA 41:9-a, to increase the non-resident rent to \$200 per day for weddings and \$150 per day for all other activities. Resident rent for weddings will be increased to \$100 per day. All other resident rentals will remain \$25 per day. The increase in wedding rent is due to the use of additional space for longer periods of time, requiring additional use of utilities. Prior to the amendment of fees, a public hearing will be held on April 5 in the town hall at 6pm.
 - B. Deposit Policy: The Selectmen will review the completed Deposit Policy prior to their next meeting for approval. It is understood that never having a Deposit Policy prior to this, there may be amendments once it is put into use to make sure the procedures will work satisfactorily for those using it. Having the policy was strongly recommended by the Auditors to provide stability and continuity in the financial operations of the town and to establish proper management practices over money coming to the town. The Selectmen have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining appropriate internal controls to ensure the safeguarding of all town assets and properties.
6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:
Payroll Manifests: 2/20/2018, 2/24/2018, 2/28/2018
General Journal Entries – #641
Payroll Tax payments: 02/28/2018
Healthtrust payment: 2/28/2018
TripleT Trucking payment: 2/19/2018
NHRS payment: 2/28/2018
Intuit debit payment (web site security): 2/22/2018

 - A. Adam Hogenmiller has requested in writing that the Selectmen accept the rescinding of a zoning permit he received in May of 2017 to demolish the older home on his property when he built his new home. The house is uninhabitable, but due to other issues, he cannot have it taken down by May of 2018. He will apply for another permit within the next two years. The Selectmen approved the request.
 - B. A ‘Notice of Claim’ was submitted to the insurance company for damage done to one of the overhead doors at the highway garage. An estimate of damage will be done.
 - C. Selectmen reviewed the Warrant for town meeting.
 - D. Russ Austin will speak at the Westmoreland United Church Ladies Aid meeting on Wednesday, March 7 regarding the upcoming town meeting and budget.
 - E. The Selectmen discussed the issue of trust funds that was brought up earlier. Their feeling is that most people who want to donate a fund to the town may not be able to give \$5,000 and they agree that it is important to families that the person who has left the money to the town be recognized. At this time, they are not agreeable to making any changes, but realize that in the future, taking care of the funds might warrant a change.
 - F. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Jack Zeller, to accept, per RSA 31:95-b, a new trust fund in the name of R. Bruce Smith in the amount of \$1,265. Motion passed 3-0. Per request of Bruce and his family, funds will be used by the School to send a seventh grader at Westmoreland School to soccer camp.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*
- A. Lisa Belluscio expressed her anger and frustration to the Selectmen that she learned that the Town Clerk was on vacation from February 28 through March 5 without any notice given when she came to register her car. The Selectmen have been informed from the State that as an elected official, the Town Clerk can set her own hours for her office.
 - B. Notice has been received from NH DOT that Route 63, Depot Rd and the State portion of South Village Rd are on the schedule to be paved in 2018.
 - C. The NH DRA sent a Community Action Report to the Selectmen that they were in town checking on assessments done in 2017 by the town's assessor, Steve Allen. The DRA oversees property assessing.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Jack Zeller, Chairman

Clayton R. Stalker

Russ Austin

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, April 5, 2018, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES