

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, March 7, 2019

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: February 21, 2019. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
 - A. Jonathan Lifschutz: Jonathan was present to propose to the Selectmen that his company, American Wealth Administration, supply flags to put on electric/telephone poles during the July 4th holiday. Jo Ann will find out about the regulations pertaining to this from Eversource and Consolidated Communications.
 - B. Road Agent David Poklemba: Dave gave the Selectmen a synopsis of the winter so far, citing the extensive use of salt, sand, stone and the equipment breakdowns. The Selectmen stated that they have heard positive comments about the road conditions this winter. Russ spoke about handling overtime and making sure that breaks in between plowing were being taken.

Dave was thanked for the work that he and his crew did to help with the recent septic problems at the Town Hall. Dave added that he believes the departments should all work together for the good of the town.

When asked about paying to have the sand trucked to the garage, Dave stated that the town trucks take a beating hauling sand and with the numerous repairs this winter, he thought it best to have Cersosimo truck the sand. Dave was reminded that he had to also stay within his budget.

When asked about the truck repairs, Dave stated that they get lots of wear and tear. He added that Twin State does a full service on the trucks every 200 hours and the road crew checks lines and greases the wheels before every storm.

Discussion ensued regarding the Warrant Article to purchase/lease a grader. Some members of the Budget Committee were present: Richard Paul, Dean Priebe, Wes Staples. Both the Selectboard and Budget Committee have recommended the Article, but after receiving input from others in town, some Budget Committee members are questioning if we should be purchasing a backhoe or loader first. Dave responded that while all the equipment needs replacing, the grader is the oldest piece of equipment at 23 years old, that it needs a lot of work, cannot be adjusted any longer, is rusty from being outdoors and is hard to get parts for. He added that the backhoe had some major work on it done last year. Dave stated that while the amount of \$284,000 in the Article is a budgeted number based on estimates of a new grader, he plans to look for one with low hours or a demo, which will be cheaper.

The Selectmen and Budget Committee agreed to recommend the Article and also to establish a committee to work with Dave on the purchase of the grader.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to approve a manifest of \$25,046.00 for the highway department and \$227,687.14 for all other bills for a total of \$252,733.14. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Audit update: The 2018 annual audit and the Tax Collector forensic audit are in progress.
 - B. Town Hall kitchen stove: The cost to replace the igniter valve for the oven will cost between \$400-500. Due to funds available from Westmoreland Cultural Arts, they have been contacted to discuss the purchase of a new stove.
 - C. Target shooting at the highway garage: Due to recent complaints, the town insurance company was contacted to ask about potential liability issues with people target shooting on town property. The insurance company (Primex) notified the Selectmen that any damage caused by or injury to a third party being on the property not for the intended use of the property (highway department), would not be covered. The town attorney will be contacted for his input and possible steps to take. The Selectmen feel that they have to do what is needed to protect the town.
6. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c) at 7:30pm. Motion passed.
A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 8:00pm. Motion passed.
7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

 - Payroll: February 26 & 28, 2019
 - Payroll Taxes: February 27 & 28, 2019
 - NH Retirement: February 28, 2019
 - Healthtrust: February 28, 2019
 - Bank Statements (General & Conservation Funds): February 2019
 - Microsoft Store: Pro10 Update for Tax Collector, February 26, 2019
 - Amazon: Recorder for Town Clerk, March 4, 2019
 - Intent to Cut: R7-16, R9-1
 - A. Site Plan Review Checklist proposed changes by the Planning Board. The term "if applicable" was added to Items J & K. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Frank Reeder, to accept the proposed changes to Items J & K. Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. Windyhurst Farm Partnership abatement: Windyhurst Farm had requested an abatement claiming that the slurry tank they installed in 2017 should be exempt from taxes. As there was no precedent on this issue in the State, the request was submitted to the Department of Environmental Services for their opinion.. Upon receipt of their findings from DES, the Selectmen agreed to abate the taxes on the slurry tank and the addition to the current barn that holds the mechanics of the tank.
8. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.* None
9. Public Business: None

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Clayton R. Stalker, Chairman

Russ Austin

Frank Reeder

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, March 21, 2019, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES