

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday, November 7, 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: October 24, 2019 & November 4, 2019 Motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
  1. Residents Richard Merkt and Ed Thomas were in attendance to observe the meeting.
  2. Barry Corriveau, a Selectman in the Town of Marlow was also present to observe the meeting.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve a manifest of \$3,103.36 for the highway department and \$259,316.82 for all other bills for a total of \$262,420.18. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
  - A. The Fire Department Advisory Committee is having their first meeting with the Bensonwood architect tonight at 7pm.
  - B. The Broadband Advisory Committee members are reviewing the three Request for Proposals received to improve internet service in town. They will have their recommendation to the Selectmen at their November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.
  - C. An abatement was signed for the 2019 property tax of R12-36 taken by tax collector deed.
6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:  
Payroll: 10/31/2019 & 11/2/2019  
EFTPS: Payroll taxes 10/30/2019 & 11/7/2019  
Amazon (cleaning supplies): 11/7/2019  
Westmoreland Tax Collector: timber bond 10/28/2019  
Bank Statements (Checking and Conservation Fund): October 2019

  - A. The Selectmen reviewed the list of funding requests for 2019 from area health and service organizations. The budget of \$5,000 was distributed between the following: Community Kitchen, Home Healthcare, Monadnock Family Services, Southwestern Community Services, CASA of NH, Community Volunteer Transportation Company, MCVP Crisis and Prevention Center and the Keene Senior Center.
  - B. Richard Merkt and Ed Thomas both expressed their concern about the area on Route 12 where the grocery store was and the importance of the Route 12 business corridor to be an inviting area to attract future businesses in town. Mr. Thomas asked if there was anything the town could do to help the situation. The store was abandoned by the owners and is currently on the market. The inside of the building has been cleaned and the realtor that has it listed has said that they were looking at having the outside picked up also. Mr. Stalker stated that the town was getting closer to having improved internet service, which will be beneficial to businesses.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*
- A. A letter was received by Brian and Melissa Hoffman of 147 Partridge Brook Road regarding the complaints of Richard and Joyce Cate against the smoke being released from the outdoor wood furnace on the Hoffman property. No action was taken by the Selectmen on the letter.
  - B. Richard Cate of 144 Partridge Brook Road, who had entered the meeting earlier, presented a Complaint Form to the Selectmen regarding the situation occurring with his neighbors, Brian and Melissa Hoffman. He also stated that the Hoffman's have been verbally abusive to him and his wife when they have been working outside.  
The Selectmen stated that the complaint has been referred to two different health officers over the past several years and, who after doing inspections and talking to the NH Department of Environmental Services, have concluded that no state or local ordinances are being violated in the use of the outdoor furnace. Mr. Stalker added that in light of these findings, the Town has no further obligation in the matter and personal disputes among neighbors are a civil matter to be dealt with by the individuals involved.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

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, November 21, 2019, 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED -  
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES