

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, September 5, 2019

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM by Chairman Russ Austin.
2. Approval of Minutes: August 29, 2019 (1 public-2 non-public). Motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Frank Reeder to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
 - A. Patricia Rodrigues was present at the meeting. She has a concern that minutes from some town committees and boards are not being submitted by the 5-day requirement. A letter will be sent to boards reminding them about the regulations of public meetings, including posting of the meetings and taking and submitting minutes.
 - B. Senator Jay Kahn was present to update the Selectmen on what is happening at the State level. He discussed the veto of the budget by the Governor and that the Legislature has 53 vetoes to take up. A 3% proposal to increase Medicaid is being looked at. There has not been an increase since 2006.

A Welcome Center on Rte 9 in Chesterfield to sell local goods is being looked into.
The State will be taking down Welcome Centers no longer in use.
A tax that Cedarcrest was paying has been eliminated.
16 of the 25 bills that Senator Kahn proposed in 2019 have been signed into law and he is working on legislature for 2020.
Russ Austin asked if the State could help with small towns trying to get Broadband coverage. Senator Kahn stated that there is nothing the State can do, but legislation that he proposed for towns to be able to raise money through bonds to help with bringing Broadband to town was passed. He feels that presidential candidates will be pushing the Public Utilities Commission to make an investment in infrastructure.
Russ asked about the status of the bridges spanning NH & VT in Hinsdale and Bellows Falls. Senator Kahn stated that NH owns 93% and VT owns 7% of the bridges. He added that NH has 44 million towards the replacement of the bridges.
Russ informed Senator Kahn about the large increase (\$25 per ton to \$140) in the tipping fees for recyclables that will go into effect on October 1st.
Senator Kahn asked what the Selectmen thought of the battery back-up project being proposed by Eversource. Clayton answered that while the battery will help most the town, it will not affect the east side as their power comes from Keene. He added that the town does not vote to have the battery in town – it is the decision of Eversource.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to approve a manifest of \$607.93 for the highway department and \$262,468.12 for all other bills for a total of \$263,076.05. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Forensic Audit and ongoing investigation by NH State Police are continuing.
 - B. The Selectmen discussed the hiring of a Fire Station Project Manager. They would like someone with municipal experience to oversee the town's interest in the process of the planning and construction of the upcoming proposed project. Other towns will be contacted to see how they managed large projects, hours required and wage scales.

- C. The new grader will be delivered Friday, Sept 6th by Nortrax. They will take the '95 grader in trade for \$5,500. The grader will be leased for 8 years and at that time will be owned by the town. The cost of the 2019 John Deere grader was \$259,500 with yearly payment of \$36,796.50. The cost was \$24,500 less than the \$284,000 approved at the Town Meeting. Estimates are being received for the overhead door to be installed in the new fabric building.
- D. Edmond Labbe will begin working on the highway crew on Monday, September 9th.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Balance Sheet: 8/31/2019

Previous-Year Comparison: 8/31/2019

Bank Statements: Checking & Conservation

- A. John Lukin has resigned from the Conservation Commission as he is moving out of town. The Commission has asked the Selectmen to move Jeanette Hubert from an Alternate to a voting Member. A motion was made by Frank Reeder, second by Clayton Stalker to appoint Jeanette Hubert as a member of the Conservation Commission. Motion passed 3-0. A letter was signed for John Lukin to thank him for his 20+ years of service on the Commission.
- B. Russ stated that he will not be able to attend the scheduled October 3rd meeting. The Selectmen decided to change October meetings to October 10th at 10am and October 24th at 6pm.

7. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*

Notice from the Zoning Board for a hearing on September 18 for property owned by Tim & Cindy Hatt at 17 McAdam Road (R7-50) per Article IV, Section 421.1. The Hatt's are asking for a variance of the 20' setback ordinance for a portable structure. The Town is an abutter to the property.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Frank Reeder

Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING –Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES