

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday September 3, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Snowdon, Bill McGahie and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 1pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: August 20, 2024. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$281,537.47 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guests: Zoning Administrator, Building Inspector, Planning Board and Zoning Board Chairs.

Building without Permits -

- Towns can implement fines for building without permits. RSA 676:17 allows \$275 per day first offense and \$550 per day subsequent.
- Town ordinances already allow selectmen to enforce penalties.
- Town's enforcement policy leaves monetary penalty as the last phase of enforcement.
- There have been several instances where people have been building without permits. Either residents don't know/understand the permit process or are ignoring the need for permits.
- All agree that a letter needs to be drafted and sent to all residents about acquiring permits prior to construction. Need to offer a time period for anyone who has built without permit to get permits in order. Need to address things like "portable" buildings that require permits and need to adhere to set backs. Letter to be drafted and sent within next few weeks.
- Fines may need to be implemented for building without obtaining a permit if it continues to happen.
- Zoning Administrator, Laurie Burt added that Nathaniel Kahler, the new owner of property on Esty Road, wants to be added to the next meeting agenda to talk to the Selectmen about building on property. Property has no frontage.

5. Old Business

- A. Solar on Fire Station using bond money. Snowdon - talked to bond attorney, Renelle L'Huillier, about using bond money for the solar on the fire station. We need to provide her with drawings and plans where solar was part of the original build and minutes about solar having been taken out to reduce cost. If we can prove it was part of the original plan we could use the money for it. May get less of a tax credit since it is not a taxable bond. Renelle recommended we talk to NHDRA about where rebate would go or how it could be used. Mark Terry volunteered to help the fire department with research needed for this.

- B. Town Hall Sprinkler System - Tying into the fire station not part of the grant. Have an estimate for most of this work from Life Safety. Need to find out the remaining cost to

see if we have funds to finish the sprinkler project. Will discuss further once provided a complete estimate for cost.

- C. River Road Bridge -Mark Terry assembled a list of questions, options, and recommendations in regards to replacement of bridge. Town, County and State agree that the bridge needs to be replaced, but both State and County agree that it should be the Town's responsibility. Snowdon - In 2022, an engineering study was performed by Beta, Inc. was performed allowing the bridge to be placed on the NHDOT 10 year plan so it could be considered for potential grant funding. Study shows uncertainty as the Beta engineer and a NHDOT engineer are not certain whether the bridge should be rated E-2 or the 10,000 lb limit. State was supposed to re-evaluate the bridge as it appears the Town posted the limit without the state recommending to do so. SNOWdon to contact NHDOT to determine if they re-evaluated the bridge. Terry - Bridge is a liability for the Town. Next meeting selectmen to discuss finding means to hire a professional engineer to evaluate safety of the bridge.

6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 9/3/2024	HealthTrust \$6463.92	USPS \$5.58
Payroll Taxes 9/3/2024	Retirement \$2845.46	Citco \$15.01

- A. NHDRA - Community Action Report received following 5 year assessing evaluation done by the New Hampshire Dept. of Revenue. Study shows town is only assessed at 68.8% of market value. DRA suggests that the Town do a total revaluation in 2025. Town is due to have a total revaluation in 2026. This is not required, but selectmen will discuss the potential of moving up when a proposal is received from the Town's assessor. .
- A. Recycling committee would like to pursue changing trucking companies from Cassela to Ruggerio. Once we have information about availability of containers from Ruggiero selectmen to discuss change.
- B. Cathy at Barn and Thistle asked selectmen about what can be done about speeding through the village on Route 63. Cathy is willing to head up a petition to appeal to the state for solutions. Snowdon - last year we applied for a Complete Streets Grant but were denied. Application is due September 27th if we want to reapply. The application has changed and will require additional work, but, if awarded, the grant would allow the Town to apply for funding to work on safety issues. This could be crosswalks, radar (your speed is) signs, all-way stop signs at South Village and both ways on Route 63, etc. Henry Underwood, SWRPC, is checking to see if there is time to place speed and traffic counters across Rt 63 to track data which will help with applying for funding and getting help from NHDOT.
- C. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie Per RSA 31:19, to accept donations for the Westmoreland Old Home Days Event in the amount of \$5110.
- D. Primary September 10th from 8-7

7. Correspondence: None

8. 2:35pm Motion by Bill McGahie, seconded by Mark Terry to adjourn meeting. Motion Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

William McGahie

Mark Terry