

Town Meeting - Minutes
Town of Westmoreland, New Hampshire
March 12, 2024

The annual Town Elections were held on March 11, 2025. Elections were called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Moderator Peter Hills. Article one was read reflecting the Town Officials for the coming year. There were no proposed ordinance changes by the Planning Board for Article 2.

Article 1 To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

Election Results

1267 Registered Voters
2 New Voters
248 Residents Voted
Results Shared:

Town Ballot			School Ballot		
Treasurer	Joann Labarre	241	School Board Member 3 Year Term	Dean R. Priebe	185
Briggs Fund	Timothy Thompson	219		Dan Lafleur	97
	Bill Franzen	197	School Board Member 1 Year Term	Dan Lafleur	33
Welfare Officer	Rosemarie Semaski	228	Moderator	Paul Berch	205
Trustee of the Trust Fund	Timothy Thompson	228	Clerk	Michael Hinesley	215
Cemetery Trustee	Jodi Scanlan	230	Treasurer	Deborah Hatt	229
Selectman	John Snowdon	214			
Health Officer	Scott A.C. Talbot	224			
Library Trustee	Patti Seymour	184			
	Louise Slayton	184			
	James Kritzer	50			
Budget Committee Member	William Chase	228			

The annual Town Meeting was held at the Westmoreland Elementary School. The Moderator Peter Hills called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Peter Hills starts the meeting by reminding everyone the purpose of the meeting: To elect Town officers and deliberate Town business. Peter leads the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Town officials sitting in the front of the room are introduced: John Snowdon (Selectman), Mark Terry (Selectman), Bill McGahee (Selectman), Frank Riley (Town Clerk).

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Article 3 To hear the reports of Agents and Auditors and take any action relative hereto. Article 3 motion moved by Scott Talbot and seconded by John Snowdon. No discussion. Article 3 was affirmatively carried by voice vote.

Article 4 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee recommended sum of \$1,815,688 for general municipal operations. Article 4 motion moved by Scott Talbot and seconded by Mark Terry.

Discussion: Sue Nelson requested information as to why, under general government on page 8 has the planning board funds doubled. It was explained by John Snowdon that it has doubled because of the fact that the planning board has requested \$5,000 to put towards the revaluations/review of the town ordinances.

Article 4 was affirmatively carried by voice vote.

Article 5 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$34,950 to repair and paint the front, including the steeple and northside exterior walls of the Town Hall. Article 5 motion moved by Scott Talbot and seconded by Ellen Clement. There was no discussion. Article 5 was affirmatively carried by voice vote.

Article 6 To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 to be added to the Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Scott Talbot made a motion which was seconded by Mark Terry. There was no discussion. Article 6 was affirmatively carried by voice vote.

Article 7 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,600 to install a new bathroom with shower at the Highway Garage. Scott Talbot motions and was seconded by John Snowdon.

Discussion: John Snowdon makes a motion to discuss Article 7, 11, and 13, which was seconded by Scott Talbot. He explains that it should have been one combined article to put a new well, septic system in the bathroom at the Highway Department. Peter Hills took this motion to combine the three articles to one discussion. The town voted affirmatively to discuss the three articles as one project.

Questions: Patti Smith asked - How have they managed until now? John Snowdon explains the issues - Fish in the well, no potable water, nowhere to clean off if skin is burned by equipment of hydraulic fluid. Leslie Lukeman asked, how many highway men are there? The discussion continued as they questioned the cost for the adjustments to building. Gary Lukeman asked if the project costs could be spread over three years or if they can just go to the fire station. John Snowdon explains that the fire station is not always unlocked and that any further delay in having access to fresh water is a safety concern. Sharon Holmstroth asked if all the work needed to be done at once. The answer is that it does. Alan Bell asked Dave Poklemba, the head of the Highway Department, if he wanted this work done. Dave Poklemba said yes. Further discussion ensued by residents Victor Kissel, Graham Mitchell, Chris Ramsey, Emma Krishnaswami, Christina Bridges, Gary Sawyer, Candice St. John, Susan Finnegan, Patti Smith, TJ Kelly, and John Snowdon.

TJ Kelly made a motion to vote which was seconded by Jeffrey Watson. The town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 8 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Equipment Capital Reserve previously established. Harry Nelson made a motion which was seconded by Ellen Clement. The town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 9 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Bridge Reconstruction Capital Reserve previously established. Harry Nelson made a motion which was seconded by Ellen Clement.

Discussion: Kelly Wright asked how much money was already in the reserve. John Snowdon answered with \$277,801.00. Snowdon also clarified that the funds would be available to use when they need and that they would not have to wait until the next town meeting. John Bridges asked if the closed River Road bridge could be bypassed - Snowdon stated that it is a FEMA Flood Zone and that it is not possible.

The town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 10 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve previously established. Scott Talbot makes a motion which was seconded by Harry Nelson. The Town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 11 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,110 to drill and install a well at the Highway Garage. A motion was made by Ellen Clement and seconded by Scott Talbot. The town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 12 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,500 to purchase and install a fence around Edson Cemetery. Scott Talbot makes a motion which was seconded by TJ Kelly.

Discussion: Joanne Lebarre explains that the fence is required by law and that the current fence had fallen over.

The Town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 13 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,070 to design and install a septic system at the Highway Garage. Scott Talbot makes a motion which was seconded by Ellen Clement. The Town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 14 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Recreation Capital Reserve previously established. Scott Talbot made a motion which was seconded by Ellen Crumb.

Discussion: Lisa Prince asked how much was in the current reserve. Jodi Scanlan answers with \$800. Further discussion about how the funds will be used and who will be able to approve the spending ensued. There will be repairs to trails, pickleball court, but also allows funds available for matching grants.

The Town voted Affirmatively by a standing vote 94 (YAY) - 59 (NAY).

Article 15 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the Grant Matching Fund previously established. Harry Nelson makes a motion which was seconded by Scott Talbot.

Discussion: David Harlow and Patti Smith asked how much was in the reserves. John Snowdon says \$25,000 and explains how the fund can be used to get the town more money.

The Town voted affirmatively by voice vote.

Article 16 To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,500 to initiate a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program at the Westmoreland Recycling Center. Scott Talbot makes a motion which was seconded by Ellen Clement. There was quite a bit of discussion about how the new system would work, along with the expenses and estimating savings for the Town. The vote moved to paper ballot and was affirmatively approved by a vote of 104 (YAY) to 71 (NAY).

Article 17 To see what disposition the Town will vote to make the income from the Jotham Lord Fund in the amount of \$111. Bruce Clement made a motion to donate the money to the Library. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 18 To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the existing Westmoreland Veteran's Memorial Fund to the Town Common Maintenance Fund. Scott Talbot makes a motion which was seconded by Sharon Muchmore. After some discussion about the purpose of the fund the Town voted to change the name to the Westmoreland Common Maintenance Fund. Sharon Muchmore made the motion which was seconded by Scott Talbot. The Town voted affirmatively.

Article 19 To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting. Mark Terry took a moment to thank the employees and volunteers of the Town of Westmoreland.

Scott Talbot makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:29pm.