

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, December 3, 2025

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

Meetings are recorded by Town Hall Streams https://townhallstreams.com/towns/westmoreland_nh

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: November 18, 2025 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 \$1,177,822.89. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Old Business
 - A. River Road Bridge Proposal to County Commissioners
 - County Commissioners invited Selectboard to attend their meeting this morning at 8:30am to present a proposal to share the cost of a feasibility study for the River Road Bridge near Maplewood Nursing Home.
 - Hoyle Tanner Associates quoted the cost for the study to be approximately \$100,000 of which the State would pay 80% and the Town 20% with the 80/20 10 year grant.
 - Selectboard proposed that the County collaborate with the Town to find a solution to the loss of the bridge which provides the Nursing Home with an emergency evacuation route, more timely ambulance service, easier access for 500 people who are either residents, staff, visitor, or delivery services associated with Maplewood.
 - Commissioners unanimously agreed to use the Hemingway Fund to match up to \$15,000 which would include original feasibility study for a road through the field owned by the county, a permanent bridge and additionally have the cost of a temporary bridge included in the study. Grant from the NH does not pay for a temporary solution, however commissioners want to have all options shown in the study. Once study is done which will take about a year and options are laid out with actual cost Selectboard intends to review findings with the County and open discussions for further collaboration.
 - Motion made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to use \$15,000 to match the County's contribution to do a feasibility study to find options to replace the 089/100 Bridge. Motion passed 3-0
 - B. Tax Rate Breakdown (slide info. attached)
 - 4 components of tax rate: Municipal, County, Local School & State School
 - The municipal portion is 22% of the tax rate and the only piece Selectmen are in control of. The municipal portion is made up of the operating budget which increased 4.1% primarily due to increased costs of operation and salary increases and Warrant Articles up 11.9% Budget and warrant articles are voted on by the town's legislative body - residents.
 - Budget Hearings - Friday February 6, 2026. Town 6-7 followed by School.
 - C. Old Engine 2 - Decision postponed to research if the truck could either be repurposed for the recycling center or be traded toward equipment to aid in reducing cost. After research it has been determined that it would not be worth pursuing either of these options at this point. Selectmen agreed it would be best to use an auction site to list the truck as they will photograph it, advertise and sell it without any cost to the town. Motion made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to contact auction group to post the truck. Motion passed 3-0.

5. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following

Payroll 11/22, 12/6	Election Stipends \$2,100	Retirement \$3104.56
Payroll Taxes 11/22, 12/6	HealthTrust \$7149.24	Invoice Cloud \$50.60
Solar Exemption (1)	USPS \$401.32	

- A. \$19,744 Remaining Fire Station Build Money. Unused in account \$10,653, rebate from solar purchased with bond \$2,040 and remaining from generator purchased with bond interest and federal grant \$7,051. Money can only be used for construction not maintenance. Selectmen agree the best option for remaining bond money is to add additional solar to the roof to further reduce electric cost. Motion made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to use remaining \$19,744 fire station bond to add solar to the fire station. Motion passed 3-0
- B. Job Openings - Listings for a full time Highway Maintenance Person and a part time Recycling Center Supervisor have been posted in the Keene Sentinel. Information and applications can be found on the town website home page.

6. Acknowledgements

- A. Planning Board Chair, Lauren Bressette and the rest of the board did a superb job preparing the hearing that took place December 1st. The meeting was well attended. It can be viewed at the link above.
- B. Dan and Alisson Fissette for once again coating the dining room floors at no charge.
- C. Share Shack - The selectmen recognized Kristin Bell, Janet Shook, Judy Young, Gwen Mitchell, Chris Niland, Beth Buoro, Karen Leduc, Debbie Bright for volunteering their time to organize and run the share shack at the recycling center.
- D. Dave Poklemba, Harry Nelson and Luke Patnode did an excellent job clearing the roads and a huge thank you to Matt Lilly who although the store was closed took the time to feed the crew dinner at no charge.

7. 7:29pm Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2025 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

Mark Terry

William McGahie

Slide 1:

December, 2024 vs December, 2025 tax rate breakdown:

Dec 2024: \$23.06		Dec 2025: \$25.92 (+12.4%)	% of Total Tax Rate
County:	\$3.03	County: \$3.00 (-1%)	11.6%
School:	\$13.48	School: \$15.67 (+16.2%)	60.4%
Town:	\$5.11	Town: \$5.72 (+11.9%)	22%
State Ed:	\$1.44	State Ed: \$1.53 (+6.2%)	6%

Increase in the primary town budget before warrant articles: 4.1%

- Due to: Salaries, increases in cost of operation and materials
- 2024 annual inflation rate 2.9%

Increase including town approved warrant articles: 11.9%

Slide 2:

Excerpt from:

"New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute does some myth-busting ahead of potential Thanksgiving discussions"

By Rick Green Sentinel Staff

Nov 25, 2025

NH tax bite*

- New Hampshire does not have an income tax or a general sales tax, but it does have some of the highest local property taxes in the nation.
- When state and local tax revenues are both included, New Hampshire ranks in the middle of the pack in terms of the tax burden on residents, the NHFPI said, citing Census data.
- More than half of all state and local government tax revenue in New Hampshire comes from local property taxes.
- New Hampshire's state government provided a smaller share of total local public education funding than any other state in the country in 2022, relying instead on local property taxes, the NHFPI said.

*Data copied from Nov 25, 2025 *Keene Sentinel* article by Rick Greene

Slide 3

“While New Hampshire ranks in the Top 10 for public education funding, nationwide we rank 50th in state funding for public education. That means we, the property taxpayers, are forced to cover the balance because the state will not pay its fair share. Providing students across our state with a quality education is a shared responsibility and we need Concord to do their part – not take more public dollars out of public schools to pay for private school vouchers for wealthy Families.”

- Megan Tuttle, NEA-NH President (2025)