

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Snowdon - Thank you to all who volunteered time in the search efforts for Mr. Clay.
3. Approval of Minutes: June 17, 2025 Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Mark Terry to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$287,923.72. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business
 - A. River Road Bridge - Received notice that of the 5.6 million requested in congressional grant money through Senator Shaheen's office the town is on the list for consideration for \$800,000. Federal money cannot typically be used to match the 80/20 bridge grant from the state since federal money is already a portion of that. Davis Bernstein, Director of Executive Services and Communications helped the Selectmen apply for the funding and will reach out to Shaheen's office to see how the Town would be able to spend the \$800,000 if awarded. Will not know if awarded until March 2026. Snowdon has also been in contact with an engineer and CR Wilkee of NHDOT to see if only state money could be used with the federal funding as a match. 2 issues with doing this include taking money from other town's projects and money available from leftover paving that could be used will expire before the Town is ready for the funds. Selectmen have been told in the past that it would take 1 year for the bridge studies to be completed and now NHDOT says it will likely take 2 years. Ron Fish asked how much a Bailey Bridge would cost. Grant funding isn't an option for a temporary bridge and with the length of the bridge it would not be cost effective for the Town.
 - B. Recycling Center - Pay As You Throw (PAYT)
 - a. Bags available at Westmoreland General Store, Barn & Thistle and Market Basket and J&J Discount. Handouts are available at the recycling center to explain the new processes.
 - b. Kara Cote - was told the Town would be hiring 4-5 more people. How would this save the Town money? There is a long term plan and eventually if efficiency of recycling improves more people may be hired to manage the process. There is no budget to hire more employees at this time so volunteers will be needed.
 - c. Matt Lilly, Westmoreland General Store - 1 of 4 places bags are sold. Stores make no profit on the bags and have to front money and space for them. While stores benefit from more foot traffic a lot of people purchase bags, get a free coffee and leave. Lilly doesn't mind supporting the Town, but wants to know how can the Town help the small local vendors? Terry asked Matt to keep notes of the process and the committee will talk to WasteZero.
 - d. Ron Fish - Compactor needs to be fixed. Selectmen agreed that Fish should find a welder to work on the compactor and get it done. More issues with people not properly recycling cardboard and paper. If the bins have incorrect contents the Town loses money. Selectmen agree that if residents found to be improperly recycling a warning letter will be sent and if continued they could lose privilege to use the facility.

- C. Facebook - Stop Signs on Route 63 - Snowdon - Facebook is a place where people who don't know things get information from other people who don't know things. It would seem the intent is to stir up discontent and controversy rather than get information from a reliable source. It is disappointing to see the negativity and the things people say to their neighbors. Selectmen have been advised by the Town Council not to engage in conversations on Facebook and would encourage those with questions or concerns to call them directly.

The most common complaint in town is speeding. For years there has been an increasing concern for pedestrians walking in the village as well as people who park in front of the Town Hall pulling out into traffic. Last December the selectboard met with NHDOT as well as Southwest Regional Planning (SWRP) to discuss options. NHDOT presented the selectboard with studies of other towns where a 3 way stop was found to be an effective way to slow down traffic. This type of an intersection would allow the town to work with NHDOT to implement a crosswalk which has been denied for years. Selectmen asked about the radar signs which NHDOT allowed with their approved placement.

There are pros and cons to placing a 3 way stop, but with 2 accidents on the corner in the last 6 months it would seem the safety of those walking and parking in the village outweighs the few seconds it takes to stop. It is still being determined if the radar signs are effectively slowing traffic and it is unknown at this point if the state will implement a 3way stop.

- D. Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) - The cost of electricity will be increasing by 38% for August - January for those participating in CPCNH. Typical residential rate will increase from 9.7 cents per kw to 13.2-13.7 cents per kw. Eversource rates will increase 43%. See attached Rate Adjustment Notice. Customers are free to change to other options at any time.

E. Health Officer Updates

- a. Crystal Drive - Tenants out. Meeting with the Building Inspector and Electrician Thursday to do inspection to follow up with code violations. If everything has been addressed Florenz will be ready to continue his Site Plan Review with the Planning Board.
- b. Pioneer School - Lead in water. Has been using bottled water for the last 10 years however students are still in contact with lead when washing hands etc. The school has installed a filtration system and once inspection takes place health inspection can be signed off.
- c. Tower 95% complete just need to run wire up. Delayed due to heat.
- d. Ed Johnson resigned as Fire Warden. Scott is interested in the position. The online fire permit process is working well. Snowdon - some residents who don't want to use PAYT are talking about burning their trash. Talbot - burning trash is not allowed.

6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following

Payroll 6/21/2025	DRA Form Decline PA-28	Retirement \$3040.24
Payroll Taxes 6/30/2025	HealthTrust \$7149.24	The Bash (OHD) \$180.16
Warrant for Unlicensed Dogs	Savings Bank of Walpole -	Granite State Foam (OHD) \$575.00
Pistol Permits (2)	TANS \$201,208.21	

- A. Fire Station Sealcoat - 2 estimates for 2 coats and striping - Stripe-It-Seal-It \$4, 960 and Green Mountain Sealcoat \$3,350.00. Motion made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the bid of \$3,350 from Green Mountain Sealcoat. Motion passed 3-0

B. Memorandum of Understanding with Maplewood - The Town was recently asked by Maplewood to take care of cremation costs for a resident. After consulting with the Town's attorney, it was determined that the Town was not responsible. Selectmen agree they would like to have a meeting with Maplewood to have an understanding of what the County and the Town's responsibilities are including when it is necessary to have the volunteer department assist CCEMS with Maplewood calls.

C. Eversource Outages - Eversource was invited to meet with Selectmen at the May 16, 2023 meeting to discuss continued outages, in particular the outages caused from the March 2023 storm. At that meeting Eversource talked about Hendrix Wire and trip safes, but all the only thing addressed was some tree trimming. Westmoreland continues to have one of the highest outages in the State and a letter has been written to invite Eversource to the August 5th meeting to discuss options. Prior to writing this letter research about other types of wires that could and should be used was done including webinars and a tour with a former lineman to see the difference between them. Walpole has Liberty and bare wire was replaced with Tree wire there. Tree wire doesn't short if a limb falls on it therefore Walpole has little to no outages. Westmoreland's wiring is noticeably different as it is still bare wire spliced in many areas. A recent survey of outage notices in different areas in town shows that there were 10 outages this year and all but one were attributed to limbs falling on wires. At this time the Selectmen want to again address the issue with Eversource without involving the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). If unsatisfied residents are looking for a more effective way to make Eversource accountable than airing complaints on Facebook please send letters to the PUC.

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301-2429

7. A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie per RSA 31:19 to accept donations for the Old Home Days Event in the amount of \$5,425. Motion passed 3-0
8. 7:56pm Motion by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to enter nonpublic session per RSA91-A:3 II(c). Motion passed 3-0.
9. 8:20pm Motion by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to leave nonpublic session, return to public session and adjourn meeting Motion passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY JULY 15, 2025 1:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John Snowdon, Chairman

Mark Terry

William McGahie

June 27, 2025

Rate Adjustment Notice

CPCNH Board of Directors Adopts Rate Increase for Period Aug 1, '25 – Jan 31, '26

Electricity rates are scheduled to increase for utilities and suppliers across New Hampshire. The electricity market is driven by factors such as the regional and global price of natural gas and other fossil fuels, availability of fuel and electricity supply, customer demand, and weather events. New England's electricity market is heavily dependent on the price of natural gas, which is driven by global market trends and can react with volatility to geopolitical events around the world.

On Thursday June 26, 2025, the CPCNH Board of Directors approved a rate adjustment that will go into effect starting August 1, 2025. For the typical residential customer, rates will increase from 9.7 ¢/kWh to between 13.2 – 13.7 ¢/kWh, depending on the cost to serve different customers. **Visit www.communitypowernh.gov to view all rate options.**

The rate adjustment represents an average 38% increase relative to current residential Community Power rates. [Proxy supply rates](#) from Eversource, Unitil, Liberty, and NH Electric Co-op are set to increase an average of 43% from current period rates. Some utility rates include partial adders to collect prior period losses, while some losses are deferred for collection in future periods.¹

As a result of engagement across our membership and [CPCNH testimony before the PUC](#), utility under-collections will be recovered in utility supply rates and not as added charges to Community Power and market customers. Through the Coalition, members help ensure state energy policy decisions reflect customer interests and unlock greater value by modernizing our energy system.

Community Power Coalition of NH is controlled by its members and makes our state more energy independent. Through our public power agency, members are beginning to see the benefits of developing local projects like the [5-megawatt Poverty Plains community solar array in Warner](#) (equivalent to ~1,200 households) scheduled to come online in 2026. Development of locally controlled energy assets can enable long-term stability, cost savings, and greater energy security.

Customers are free to choose between Community Power, third-party options, or their utility. To opt in, out, or to select cleaner power, customers can:

- ✍ Visit www.communitypowernh.gov/ and use the online portal.
- ✍ Call 1-866-603-7697 (POWR) or email Info@CommunityPowerNH.gov.

¹ The PUC has ordered Liberty to refile their rates and defer part of their under-collection, which will lower Liberty's proposed rate.

How are Community Power rates determined?

Over the past six months, CPCNH personnel have made significant technical improvements to core power resources and financial business systems. CPCNH now has confidence in the functionality and accuracy of systems and tools for (1) load forecasting, (2) financial modeling, (3) cost of service analysis, (4) rate setting.

- ✧ Improvements to our **load forecast** model enable more accurate predictions of the patterns of customer electricity usage over time to inform energy purchasing and portfolio management.
- ✧ The improved load forecast connects to newly constructed **probabilistic cashflow model** to create a clear view of CPCNH's financial position and outlook across multiple scenarios.
- ✧ We then conduct a **cost-of-service** analysis to create a detailed understanding of all cost drivers. Costs are then allocated across different customer classes (e.g., residential vs. general service) and utility territories to ensure fair cost allocation and to minimize cost shifting.
- ✧ The resulting **rate setting** scenarios from these improved technical systems ensure informed decision-making and that rates cover costs.

Rate scenarios are publicly deliberated by CPCNH's Risk Management and Finance Committees and approved by our Board of Directors.

Why do different classes of customers, and customers served by different utilities, pay different electric rates? What are "cost-of-service" rates?

Customer classes in different utility territories have different costs of service. This is visible in the variation in supply rates charged by different utility companies. The difference in residential rates across utility territories is primarily driven by varying energy capacity costs. These costs are charged to CPCNH by ISO New England to ensure sufficient generating capacity for system reliability. CPCNH follows cost causation principles, meaning customers should pay for costs associated with serving them and not those associated with serving other customers. Cost of service rates ensure fair treatment of customers and equitable contributions to joint reserves by different member cities and towns.

What are the components of the rate?

Rates for the upcoming period are set to cover a forecasted total of \$96,829,495 in costs, including:

- ✧ 86.4% energy supply (\$83,628,968)²
- ✧ 8.6% contribution to members' joint reserves (\$8,370,236)
- ✧ 5.0% operating expense (\$4,830,291)

Members' joint reserves support local control, ensure long-term stability, and enable members to finance local energy investments to increase energy independence. CPCNH aims to meet minimum reserve targets to cover 60 days of expenses over a 3-year period.

² Includes energy, capacity, other ISO-NE charges, Purchase of Receivables discount, annual rate adjustment, and the RPS obligations.