

# Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday October 1, 2024

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Approval of Minutes: September 17, 2024. Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests: Michelle Hayward - Mt Gilboa Road
  - Michelle Haywards submitted complaint forms from residents of Mt Gilboa Road requesting the speed limit on Mt Gilboa Road be lowered to 20mph. Residents have noticed increased speeding on the road. The road is a narrow dirt road and residents are concerned about the safety of children and pets.
  - The standard road speed limits set by the state are 30 in business and urban districts and 35 in rural residential. State RSA 265:63 authorizes local officials to reduce in both of these zones, the minimum speed limit 25 mph. Selectmen agreed that narrow dirt roads should have lower limits and authorized the road agent, Dave Poklemba, to replace the speed limit sign with a 25 mph sign.
  - Poklemba offered to create speed bumps with gravel spring through fall in a few locations on the road if residents want them as an added measure to slow traffic. These would be graded into the road before winter for plowing purposes. Hayward will poll neighbors to see if this is something they want.
  - Terry suggested that residents call State Police to patrol if speeding problems persist.
4. Old Business
  - A. River Road Bridge - Selectmen met with Jim Hollar from Cold River and Josif Bicja, a bridge engineer from Hoyle Tanner at the River Road Bridge. Both Hollar and Bicja recommend replacing the bridge and share the opinion that the bridge will not likely make it to 2032 when it is in line for the state 10 year program. Suggestions for prolonging use of the bridge include reducing speed limit and weight limit as well as making bridge 1 lane. Snowdon is working with CR Willeke from NHDOT to have the bridge load tested when annual inspection of the red listed bridge is done. Snowdon suggests bringing in NHDOT, County and SWRP to talk about best options to fund replacement of the bridge and how we prolong the use of the bridge keeping safety and liability in mind. Poklemba - If it is decided to narrow the bridge, delineators would need to be fastened to the bridge. Either extra salt would need to be used to avoid ice pooling around them or the bridge would need to be closed during the winter months. Snowdon to schedule a meeting with NHDOT, County, and SWRP.
  - B. Radio Tower - Scott Talbot - part of the radio tower arrived deformed. Talbot is uncertain if this could lead to future issues with the tower. Chief Nelson would prefer the piece is replaced, but it is unknown how long it will take to receive a new part. Without the tower the fire station has only the use of radios from inside trucks. Selectmen agree since the deformity of the part will make it difficult to assemble the tower and unknown if it will then be structurally sound for the long term the part should be replaced before assembling the tower and payment is made.

- C. Desruisseau Hearing - Town of Westmoreland vs. Paul, Kenneth and Jason Desruisseau. At the hearing September 27, 2024 about property's septic issue at 95 Thompson Road a report was discussed that indicated the septic system needed to be replaced. The report did not say if it was a failed system or if the presence of e coli in the neighboring pond is a result of the system. Town attorney asked for a 30 day continuance to do future testing which was granted. A motion was made by Bill McGahie, seconded by Mark Terry to have the town pay for septic testing at 95 Thompson Road by a licenced septic engineer to determine if the system has failed. Motion passed 3-0. Health officer, Scott Talbot to schedule an evaluation of the system and town attorney to notify the property owner 48 hours prior to testing.
  - D. Building without permits letter to residents - McGahie made revisions to the letter written by the Town Administrator however Selectmen agree that is difficult to deliver the information in a way that won't be upsetting to residents. Jodi Scanlan suggested that rather than a letter the contents could briefly be discussed in the first issue of the Westmorelander with a website link for more information. Snowdon reiterated that it is not the Selectboard's goal to enforce fines. Just want to make residents aware of procedures and encourage them to follow them to avoid need for action. A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Bill McGahie to put information about required building permits in the Westmorelander newsletter as a column that would direct residents to the website for more information. Motion passed 3-0
  - E. Per request by Ted Ferguson, Town administrator reached out to NHMA attorney, Jonathan Cowal to request information about selling a property acquired from the town with a title issue that requires the property to be held a number of years before it is able to be sold. Cowal does not know why the property would need to be held and advised property owners to work out with their attorney.
  - F. Speeding Route 63 - State Safety Engineer, Bill Lambert, to come to December 3rd Selectboard meeting to look at a 3 way stop at South Village Route 63 intersection. State has done similar projects in other towns and safety data is positive. Lambert will also forward new federal regulations for radar signs.
5. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by, Mark Terry seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$286.001.40 Motion passed 3-0.

## 6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Payroll 10/1/2024	HealthTrust \$6463.92	Amazon \$79.99
Payroll Taxes 10/1/2024	Retirement \$2799.61	Home Depot \$70.84
Bank Statements	Wex Bank \$111.70	USPS \$5.58
Pistol Permit (1)		

- A. 2023 Audit - No issues with the audit. Some additional policy recommendations that Selectmen agree would be beneficial and will work to implement in upcoming meetings. John Snowdon would like to have auditors present findings to the board in person rather than by letter in the future. Audit available in Selectmen's Office.

- B. NHDOT - Received a letter from NHDOT for a project to place emergency vehicle weight limit signs for bridges. State will provide signs 1 time. Currently the River Road bridge is listed as 10-ton which may change when load rating is done. Snowdon will notify NHDOT that there may be a change to see if the sign can be postponed.
- C. Art Loan - The nonprofit Jason Kats works with just acquired an Andy Warhol painting and would like to loan it to the Town for public display. All costs associated with the loan (insurance, maintenance, etc.) will be borne by the nonprofit. This will be totally free for the Town. Selectmen agree that displaying art is a great idea once construction has concluded and access to the Town Hall is able to be more closely monitored.
- D. Schedule Change - Currently Selectboard meetings conflict with the Master Plan Committee meetings. As of January 2024 Selectboard meetings will swap times so that the board meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6pm and the 3rd Tuesday at 1pm. In addition the Tuesday, November 5th meeting is postponed to Thursday, November 7th due to the election.

7. Correspondence: Executive Council email

8. 8:06pm Motion by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn meeting. Motion Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 15, 2024 6:00PM MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL
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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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John Snowdon, Chairman

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William McGahie

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Mark Terry