

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, April 7, 2016

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Austin, Jack Zeller, Clayton Stalker

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:0pm by Chairman Austin.
2. Approval of Minutes: March 17, 2016. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed.
3. Guests:
 - A. Bill Chase tendered his resignation as Emergency Management Director to be effective as of June 30, 2016. Bill would like the Selectmen to consider appointing him as a Deputy Director and to also consider Tom Finnegan as the Director. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept Bill Chase's resignation and to nominate Tom Finnegan as Emergency Management Director and Bill Chase as Emergency Management Deputy Director. Motion passed 3-0. Robert Hamilton will stay on as a Deputy Director also.
 - B. Jeanette Hubert is concerned about a washout on the east side of the Partridge Brook Road bridge and wants to encourage the repair before it comes out into the road. Road Agent Gary Hudson, who was present at the meeting, stated that he was aware of the situation and will address it as time permits.
 - C. Frank Reeder of 487 Spofford Road was present to discuss the recent major excavation that took place on his property at the Spofford Road bridge site. He thinks that the repair job was well done, but believes that when the road crew is going to enter onto private property, the property owner should be notified. He added that when the crew started the work, it looked like the intention was to drain the pond due to a beaver dam located further up the brook. He described the work as aggressive and invasive. He again reiterated that the Selectmen should have a policy that when work beyond routine maintenance needs to be done, that the property owner be notified and that the owner should be able to have some input into the solution to fix the problem. He added that the work must have cost the town in labor and material, including to fix the initial work that was done incorrectly. Jack Zeller stated that the Selectmen do not disagree with anything that Mr. Reeder has said and that is regrettable that employee error caused the situation. Clayton added that jobs done by employees should be supervised. The Selectmen will take Mr. Reeder's suggestion under advisement.
 - D. Gary Hudson, Road Agent:
 1. 6-wheel highway truck bids were opened as follows:

Patriot Freightliner-Western Star	\$105,695
Reed Truck Services, Inc.	\$100,990

- The Road Agent will look over the bids and compare them to the advertised specifications.
2. Selectmen continued a discussion regarding Mr. Reeder's concerns stated in 3.C. above. The Department of Environmental Services received a complaint about the work that was done and have written a letter to the Selectmen. DES will be doing an inspection of the site. Gary told the Selectmen that his goal for the project was to get the water back to the wetlands and he did not want to drain the pond. What he wanted was a swale along the road to allow the water to drain back towards the original channel, without entering or disturbing wetlands. He added that he does not go on private property. He admits that it occurred and will take responsibility as the Road Agent.

State Laws regulate access to private property and it is and has been town policy to talk to and get permission from property owners.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to approve manifests of \$7,472.01 for the Highway Department and \$199,923.18 for all other bills for a total of \$207,395.19. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Cheshire County request for Restoration of Involuntarily Merged Lots: Nothing to report
 - B. Town Hall Survey: Nothing to report
 - C. Popruk Road cars: Nothing to report
 - D. Post Office lease: The Selectmen signed a new five-year lease for the space occupied by the Westmoreland Post Office.
6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

 - Intent to Excavate: R17-28, R9-31, R19-6
 - Timber Tax Warrant: R17-33 & 34, R18-2
 - Intent to Cut Timber: R19-19, R19-18, R19-16
 - Veteran's Credit (1)
 - Current Use: R19-6
 - A. Our current 911 calls go to the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department and then are forwarded to Concord. The Selectmen agreed to have the primary and secondary dispatch centers be changed so that calls go directly to Concord.
 - B. Tim & Lisa Moody have requested approval to paint the outside walls of the chimney in the upstairs of the town hall. Their family is having a wedding there this summer and the chimney has a lot of creosote on the outside walls. Selectmen approved the request.
 - C. The Selectmen approved the following appointments:
 - Planning Board for 3-years: Bruce Smith, Mark Hayward, Tim Thompson & Alison Fissette (Alternates)
 - Zoning Board for 3-years: Nancy Ranson, Bill Campbell (Alternate)
 - D. A position on the Trustee of Trust Funds needs to be filled.
 - E. Russ Austin distributed an article in the recent Historical Society Newsletter regarding a vote at town meeting to see if the town would vote to have the upstairs of the Town Hall become a museum for the Park Hill Meeting House & Historical Society. Townspeople voted it down. An article in the recent Newsletter stated that the Selectmen and townspeople "did not approve the Society's offer to seek grant money toward the restoration of our historic 100-year-old Town Hall." The Selectmen disagree with this statement as the vote at town meeting did not ask to seek or approve grant money.
 - F. The 2016 Recycling Stickers will be available in May and must be affixed to vehicles as of June 1st. Stickers will be available at the Town Clerk and Selectmen's office and at the Recycling Center (by check only). No cash will be accepted at the Recycling Center.
7. Russ cannot attend the next scheduled meeting on April 21st. The meeting will be held on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 10:30am.
8. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller at 7:10pm to continue the meeting until Friday, April 8th at 11:00am to make a decision on the purchase of the new highway truck. Motion passed 3-0.

9. The meeting was reopened at 11:00am on Friday, April 8, 2016.
10. Russ had a request from Jeanie Sy of the Westmoreland United Church to borrow tables from the town hall for their annual yard sale. Selectmen approved the request.
11. Road Agent Gary Hudson had compared the two truck bids and except for Western Star changing to a smaller rear axle, the specifications were met. His recommendation is to purchase the International from Reed Truck Services. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to purchase the highway truck from Reed Truck Services for \$100,990. Motion passed.
The truck will be ordered as soon as possible. Bids for the equipment will be accepted at the next meeting on April 29th.
12. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Jack Zeller

Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING – Friday, April 29, 2016 10:30AM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES