

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2016

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Austin.
2. Approval of Minutes: April 29, 2016. A motion was made by Jack Zeller, second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Guests:
 - A. Gary Hudson, Road Agent: After reviewing the proposed specs from Tenco and HP Fairfield, Gary recommends that we purchase the equipment for the new highway truck from Tenco. He would like to negotiate with Tenco on the nose plow as he has questions regarding the quality of the plow. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to purchase the truck equipment from Tenco at a cost not to exceed \$64,984. Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. Scott Talbot was present to inquire of the Selectmen what the next step is to have the feasibility study done for the station. He has acquired feasibility studies from other towns to show how they were done and offered his assistance to help if needed. Jack Zeller stated that now that the town hall survey is done, the Selectmen will review the material from the studies that Scott presented and discuss how to proceed.
 - C. Paul Berch, State Representative: Paul was present to update the Selectmen on the progress being made at the County level regarding Maplewood Nursing Home. He feels that the decision will begin to move quicker now. He serves on the sub-committee that is looking at five or six options, including doing nothing, building a wing and doing repairs to the current facility and moving to Keene. Options for Keene include a greenhouse concept, traditional model or a combination of both. Assisted Living would remain in Westmoreland. It will cost \$300-500,000 a year to maintain an empty facility.

The County is also looking at what would happen to the current facility if the nursing home is moved to Keene. The main focus currently is to have a Substance Dependence/Mental Health Residential Treatment Center.

The Sub-Committee will present a proposal to the Executive Committee and then it will go to the County Delegation. The County wants a decision made before the November elections. Paul feels that now is the time for the town to take a position that he can bring to the Sub-Committee.

All of the information on the various options are on the County website- www/co.cheshire.nh.us.

There will be more informational meetings done by the County in various towns, including Westmoreland. The Selectmen discussed having a meeting to get the thoughts of residents prior to that meeting. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24th at 7pm in the Town Hall. A mailing will be done to all households in town. Paul Berch will lead the discussion.

Malia Boaz asked if the future of the old jail was discussed when the County was proposing the new jail. It was not.

Jeanette Hubert stated that she had attended a Delegation meeting where a power-point presentation was done on pushing to have the substance abuse treatment center in Westmoreland.

Paul added that a nursing shortage in the area will affect both the nursing home and the rehab center.
 - D. Patricia Rodrigues and John Corduff, 56 Old Route 12 North: Ms. Rodrigues asked the Selectmen what they planned to do after reviewing the information on Graves Trucking gravel pit she presented at the April 29th meeting. Russ Austin stated that the town's attorney opinion is that she has three options: 1) present new evidence to the Planning Board of violations of the conditions set by the Planning Board. The Planning Board are the regulators of RSA 155-E – Excavations. 2) go to the

State with evidence of violations on any State permits or 3) go to Superior Court and file a civil action against Graves Trucking. Jack Zeller added that State permits are monitored and enforced by the applicable State agencies.

Ms. Rodrigues stated that she believes that the Cheshire Rail Trail is very important and should be included in the Master Plan. Clayton Stalker informed her that it was in the approved Master Plan.

Ms. Rodrigues added that she cares about the environment, Westmoreland and the State of New Hampshire and that she wants to see historic resources maintained. John Corduff stated that when the site visit occurred, that the entire site was not looked at.

Jack Zeller stated that he doesn't believe anyone doubts her (Ms. Rodrigues) sincerity.

Ms. Rodrigues stated that the gravel bank happened because of greed and corruption and she will continue to work towards getting the truth out.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Jack Zeller, second by Clayton Stalker to approve manifests of \$4,203.81 for the Highway Department and \$305,193.91 for all other bills for a total of \$309,397.72. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Intent to Cut Timber: R9-1

Excavation Tax Warrant: R17-28, R9-31, R1-20, R1-19, R19-6

Cemetery Deed (1)

A. Request was received from the Union Church to use Woodward Field the weekend of September 23-25 for a church activity (Johnny Appleseed Festival). Selectmen were notified by the Recreation Committee that the summer and fall schedule for the youth sports teams was not done yet. Selectmen will wait until the schedule is completed before answering the request. The priority for use of the field is for the youth sports programs. If the weekend is available after games/practices are scheduled, insurance will have to be provided.

B. Jo Ann reported that the Road Agent will be taking 8 Mondays off in May, June and July towards his earned vacation days, but will be here when paving is being done.

7. Correspondence: None

8. The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, May 19, 2016 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

Russ Austin, Chairman

Jack Zeller

Clayton R. Stalker