

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 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: May 5, 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. Christopher Coates, County Administrator and Stillman Rogers, County Commissioner: Mr. Coates and Mr. Rogers were present to update the Selectmen and answer any questions regarding the future of Maplewood Nursing Home. They were aware of the meeting being held on May 24th at 7pm in the Town Hall and plan on attending, sitting in the back of the room, to answer any questions. Russ Austin told them that a meeting was being held to gather information from the residents in town. Mr. Coates explained that the Commissioners will be making the choice of what to do with the nursing home and that the Delegation will decide the funding aspect of it. He added that there are four options if the nursing home is moved to Keene and the following three options if it stays in Westmoreland: 1) do nothing 2) do small upgrades 3) Add a new wing of 75 beds and renovate the current building in stages. They are currently working with architects. There will be 4 or 5 meetings held by the County in various towns, including Westmoreland. Jack stated that the meetings are a good idea because he is hearing that people think the County has already made up its mind about moving to Keene. Mr. Coates stated that the outcome has not been decided. Mr. Rogers stated that the bathrooms are not in compliance and that every room will have its own bathroom. He added that the generator and elevators will need to be replaced and work done in the kitchen and the cost for that has not been added. Jack asked Mr. Rogers which option he favored and Mr. Rogers said "towards a new facility". The Selectmen all agreed that after talking to people in town, that the consensus was to leave the nursing home in Westmoreland. Jack added that statements regarding the new jail (for example, not hiring more help) did not come true and he believes the public is not getting a straight story on the nursing home. Mr. Coates added that the bridge by the old jail is a major concern in the decision also.

Mr. Coates stated that in of presenting a proposal to move to Keene, the County is working on what will happen to the current nursing home. Talks with the VA and Antioch College have not progressed. County officials are talking to a private National Organization to lease the facility to house a substance abuse/treatment center. The Selectmen expressed the concern that Westmoreland does not have a police department. Mr. Coates was reluctant to say much because the County is still in the talking stages of the possible lease.

The County farm is being leased again and the County is going to the Planning Board for a subdivision to sell the Blood Farm and 5 acres of land. Mr. Coates hopes the rest of the land will be considered for Conservation in the future.

Both Mr. Coates and Mr. Rogers expressed to the Selectmen that they are willing to answer any questions from anyone.

Mr. Stalker added that he feels it would be better to take what is working and make it better instead of starting something new.
 - B. Ken Morgan of 743 Route 63 reported to the Selectmen that his dog had bitten a Sheriff's deputy who was serving papers at his home on May 18th. The dog was not current on rabies shots. Mr. Morgan was present to ask the Selectmen for their permission to keep his dog in quarantine at his house for the 10-day period instead of at a veterinarian facility. Mr. Morgan had a letter from Donna

Harwood at Animal Wellness stating that the risk of rabies exposure in Cheshire County is currently at zero. The Selectmen agreed that the dog could stay at his home if he was confined to the house or outside on a leash and that his rabies shots were updated.

4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to approve manifests of \$10,773.86 for the Highway Department and \$4,279.85 for all other bills for a total of \$15,053.71. Motion passed 3-0.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Popruk Road cars – nothing to report
 - B. Town Hall Survey – not completed yet
 - C. Union Church request to use Woodward Field: The Youth Boosters reported that they would schedule games around the weekend of Sept 23-25 so that the field would be available. Selectmen approved the use of the field on condition that a certificate of insurance is supplied naming the town as an additional insured.
 - D. Thompson Road letter: Selectmen signed a letter to property owners at 95 Thompson Road regarding possible zoning violations.
6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

 - Intent to Cut Timber: R3-5, R3-19
 - Timber Tax Warrant: R12-69, R12-70
 - Forest Fire Report/Bill: Alstead fires on April 24 & 30
 - Veteran's Credit (1)
 - Current Use: R1-5
 - Abatements/Refunds: R19-17
 - Property Tax Warrant: 1st half of 2016
 - A. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to accept cemetery funds in the amount of \$600 per RSA 31:19. Motion passed 3-0.
 - B. Cemetery Flags will be put out by the Selectmen and other volunteers by Memorial Day weekend.
 - C. Feasibility Study for Fire Station: Selectmen will review a draft for the next meeting.
7. Correspondence: None
8. The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, June 2, 2016 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Jack Zeller

Clayton R. Stalker