

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, August 4, 2016

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Austin.
2. Guests: County Commissioner Stillman Rogers and Chair of the County Delegation, Dan Eaton were present to discuss the River Road South Bridge (near the old jail). The bridge is currently posted at 10,000 tons. Mr. Eaton stated that regardless if Maplewood stays in Town or not, the bridge needs to be addressed. He added that not being in the 'cue' with the State to obtain bridge aid is a disservice to the residents of Westmoreland and that putting in a box culvert might be a cheaper option. An estimate from the State obtained in 2011 was for \$1,300,000 with State aid of \$1,040,000 (80%) and the town share of \$260,000 (20%). State bridge aid will not be available until the year 2024 or 2025, but Mr. Eaton stated that he could possibly help in moving it along. Jack Zeller stated that because there is another access, the bridge does not have to be fixed, but if the Selectmen decide to fix the bridge, they would appreciate any help that Mr. Eaton can give. Mr. Eaton believes that the Delegation will think the Town is serious about wanting Maplewood to remain here if a commitment is made to fix the bridge. Jack Zeller asked Mr. Eaton if the Delegation would make a commitment to keep Maplewood in Westmoreland if the town committed to fixing the bridge. Mr. Eaton does not know how the Delegation will be voting at this time. The Selectmen have no issue with getting on the list with the State for bridge aid construction and feel that the town should start raising money to have it available if we are serious about replacing the bridge. (see 7.D. below)
Russ Austin asked Stillman Rogers what option the Commissioners voted for. Commissioner Rogers answered that the three Commissioners presented two options to the Delegation: 1) to move to Keene or 2) add a wing to the current location. He added that they are waiting for more answers before making a choice.
3. Approval of Minutes: July 22, 2016. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0
4. Chief Harry Nelson reported to the Selectmen that the Town will receive the grant money (Warrant Article #9 - \$40,000) to purchase a new defibrillator for the Fire and Rescue Department. The grant is for \$38,000 with another \$2,000 raised by taxes. Chief Nelson added that it may be possible to replace the AED in the town hall also.
5. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to approve manifests of \$1,680.58 for the Highway Department and \$243,657.03 for all other bills for a total of \$245,337.61. Motion passed 3-0.

6. Old Business:

- A. Popruk Road cars – taking the cars off the property will be delayed as an heir of the property owner prior to the town taking the property may come forward to pay the back taxes.
- B. Planning Board Clerk: a replacement has not been found yet.
- C. Spofford Road restoration plan: the project has been completed. Frank and Vicki Reeder sent an email expressing that they are pleased with the work done on their property. The engineer (SVE) will be monitoring the new plantings for two years.
- D. Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: the 10 day preview period has been completed and there being no further changes, the Plan will be sent to Southwest Region Planning Commission and then to FEMA for their approval. Following FEMA approval, a public hearing will be held followed by adoption of the Plan by the Selectmen

7. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Cemetery Deed

Intent to Cut Timber: R13-32

- A. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to accept, per RSA 31:19, cemetery funds in the amount of \$200. Motion passed 3-0.
- B. The Town has been randomly chosen to be audited by the NH Retirement System.
- C. The Selectmen received a schedule of State election training sessions being held.
- D. The Selectmen agreed to look further into the process of replacing the bridge, with the knowledge that the decision will be made by voters at the Town Meeting in March of 2017.
Nancy Mayville of the NH Department of Transportation will be asked to meet with the Selectmen to review the process for State Bridge Aid regarding the River Road South Bridge (near the old jail).
- E. Jack Zeller reported that the Town Clerk/Tax Collector has cancelled a scheduled appointment with the auditors for the fifth time. The NH Department of Revenue Administration will be asked what the next step would be to get the audit completed.

8. Correspondence: None

9. Public Business: Jim Starkey asked if there was a possibility of putting a road through the County-owned corn field on the corner of River and Partridge Brook Roads to avoid the high cost of fixing the bridge. Jack Zeller stated that an engineer would be able to make that determination.

10. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(d) at 7:15pm. Motion passed 3-0.

11. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 7:27pm. Motion passed 3-0.
12. The Town Administrator will be out of the office from August 10th through the 12th.
13. The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Jack Zeller

Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, August 18, 2016 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES