

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting  
Thursday, October 20, 2016

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:00AM by Chairman Austin.
2. Guests/Public Business:
  - A. Nancy Mayville, Municipal Highways Engineer, NH Department of Transportation:

Ms. Mayville was present to inform the Selectmen of the process for applying for State bridge aid engineering and construction. The State will reimburse the town 80% of the cost of a bridge when all the phases of the bridge are done according to State standards. Funds would not be available until 2026±. There are currently 365 red-listed bridges in the State. An increase in gas tax was done by the State 2 years ago with those funds going towards the State Aid Bridge Program, but only approximately 9 bridges can be funded each year. If the town wants to participate in the Bridge Aid program, application to the State should be done as soon as possible, knowing that the funds will not be available for several years.

Preliminary steps for bridge aid include hiring a professional engineer by a qualification-based selection that must be approved by the State and obtaining permits, including conservation/water issues.

The town must appropriate the total cost of the bridge to pay the bills and will be reimbursed by the State upon completion. 40% of the engineering money will be paid by the State up-front.

Russ Austin asked if there was a possibility of a bridge being moved up on the list. Ms. Mayville stated that would only occur in an emergency situation where the bridge was impassable and there was no other route to use.

The Selectmen thanked Ms. Mayville for attending and she left the meeting.

The town of Westmoreland currently has two red-listed bridges: at the end of Spofford Road and the River Road bridge (near the old jail). A preliminary estimate of repairing the River Road bridge was obtained by the State in 2011 at a cost of \$1,300,000.
  - B. Anthony Malloy was present to let the Selectmen know that he was interested in buying back the property taken by tax collector's deed in 2015 that was owned by his father, George Malloy (R14-58). The Selectmen believe that he has time to accomplish this and referred him to the Tax Collector for the correct procedure.
3. Approval of Minutes: September 29, 2016. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Russ Austin to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to approve a manifest of \$47,429.08 for the highway department and \$57,588.06 for all other bills for a total of \$105,017.14. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Old Business:

- A. Feasibility Study for possible future use of town-owned property (780 Route 12): Scott Talbot was present to request clarification on why the feasibility study has not progressed. The study is to let townspeople know what the status of the current fire station is and what possible changes are needed. Jack Zeller and Clayton Stalker will work on getting the Request for Proposal sent out.
- B. The NH Retirement System Audit has been completed.
- C. The Road Agent has a Do Not Enter sign and will be putting it up on the Glebe Road side of the town common.

6. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Intent to Cut Timber: R10-1

Veterans Credit

Cemetery Deed

- A. Richard Schmidt and Donald Farquharson have resigned from the Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee (of the Connecticut River Joint Commission CRJC). A motion was made by Jack Zeller, second by Clayton Stalker to nominate Perry Sawyer and John Lukin as town representatives on the Wantastiquet Region River Subcommittee. Motion passed 3-0. The appointment will be done by the CJRC.
- B. Recycling Center Supervisor Ron Fish would like to put a Planet Aid bin at the facility. He believes the town will be paid by the pound for clothes that are put in the bin. The Town Administrator has not been able to reach anyone at Planet Aid to confirm payment or the process to obtain a bin. Jack Zeller spoke on the negative media attached to Planet Aid regarding the sale of the clothes donated and where the money was going. The Selectmen made the decision to not have a bin at the recycling center.
- C. Reynolds Road entrance: After further review, it was learned that the current entrance to Reynolds Road from the River Road is actually a right-of-way that goes across private property currently owned by David and Lauren Bressett (R1-5). The original entrance to Reynolds Road from River Road, which is a Class VI road, was washed out years ago and is impassable. A right-of-way was given by Donald Blood to New England Lumber Company in 1963 and has passed on to the current owner, 3R Realty, who is the only person(s) that has permission to cross on the private property. Anyone wanting to access Reynolds Road will have to use the Poocham Road entrance by the Red Schoolhouse.
- D. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to accept a donation of \$47 made at the Town Hall Celebration. Motion passed 3-0. The donation will be added to funds for kitchen supplies in the Town Hall.
- E. Fire Department Defibrillator Grant: There are excess funds from the approved FEMA grant after the purchase of a new defibrillator was made. The town attorney will be submitting his opinion of the possibility of being able to use the funds to purchase other fire equipment that was not part of the grant.

7. Correspondence:

- A. Carlson Barrett, Town Band Director: Carlson notified the Selectmen by email that he has given the Town Band members notification of only parking on the curb side of South Village Common Road. Any additional parking should be behind Fellowship Hall.
- B. Patricia Rodrigues and John Corduff (R17-18) sent a copy of an appeal they have made to the Water Council division of the NH Department of Environmental Services regarding an After-the-Fact permit (1154) given to the George Graves excavation site located on tax map R17-29.
- C. 2016 Tax Rate: The Department of Revenue is waiting for final revenues from the school before the tax rate can be set.

8. The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre  
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Russ Austin, Chairman

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Jack Zeller

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Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, November 3, 2016, 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES