

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 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/Public Business:

Earl Kathan, Jr., James Kathan and Charles Kathan were present to ask the Selectmen the following requests in honor of their father, Earl Kathan. Earl worked at the Recycling Center for Waste Management for several years and worked for the town from April 2008 until his retirement in October of 2014.

 - a. They would like to put a picture of Earl in the shed at the facility.
 - b. They would like Earl remembered in the upcoming Town Report.
 - c. They would like the shed built in late 2014 to be dedicated and named for Earl.

The Selectmen have no issue with putting the picture in the shed and having a write-up in the Town Report. The decision was made to not name the shed. Historically, the town has not done this with any buildings due to the fact that there have been many residents over the years who have dedicated years of service in various ways. Naming buildings after people can generate controversy and should be done with careful consideration.
3. Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2016. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
4. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to enter into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3,II(d) at 6:14pm. Motion passed.
5. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to seal the non-public session minutes and return to public session at 6:21pm. Motion passed.
6. At 6:25pm, the Public Hearing on the merits of the proposed Hazard Mitigation Plan was opened. There was no public input at this time.
7. Opening of bids for the Fire Department Facility Feasibility Study were opened. Two bids were received: Scully Architects of Keene, NH - \$8,000, Galante Architecture of Cambridge, MA - \$7,800. While Galante Architecture has done some very large projects, the Selectmen's opinion was that Scully Architect's experience was closer to what the town needed. A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Jack Zeller to hire Scully Architects to do the Feasibility Study. Motion passed 3-0.
8. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to appoint the following people to a Fire Department Facility Advisory Committee: Harry Nelson, Tom Finnegan, Scott Talbot, Graham Gitchell, Bob Bartlett, Wes Staples, Clyde Simino and Bill Campbell. Motion passed. The job of the committee will be to recommend how to proceed following the results of the 'needs assessment' that will be done by Scully Architects. Tom Finnegan was present at the meeting and agreed to organize the first meeting of the committee to include a tour of the fire station.

9. Accounts Payable: A motion was made by Clayton Stalker, second by Jack Zeller to approve a manifest of \$18,446.74 for the highway department and \$900,546.29 for all other bills for a total of \$918,993.03. Motion passed 3-0. The manifest included the County Tax, which will be paid the week of December 12th.

10. Old Business:

Use of Reynolds Road: At the last meeting, Andy Russell had questioned the fact that the public was being denied access across a private right-of-way originally given by Don Blood in 1963 to New England Lumber Company to access their property on Reynolds Road because the original layout of the road became impassable. Mr. Russell believes that after the public using the road for over twenty years, it becomes a public right-of-way. Upon the opinion of the town's attorney, Silas Little, the twenty-year public access would have to have occurred prior to January 1, 1968. (RSA 229:1) Since Mr. Blood gave the private right-of-way in 1963, it is assumed that the private access was not used by the public for twenty years prior to 1968.

11. Prior to closing the Public Hearing on the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Emergency Management Director, Tom Finnegan reported to the Selectmen that Southwest Region Planning Commission had added the Connecticut River as an identifier issue. This means that if property owners along the River experience damage caused by River may be eligible for grant money. A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Jack Zeller to adopt the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion passed 3-0.

12. New Business:

Signature Approval was given for the following:

Timber Tax Warrant: R14-60

Equalization Certificate

New Truck Registration

A. Town Hall Rental Policy: A motion was made by Russ Austin, second by Clayton Stalker to amend the Town Hall Rental Policy by clarifying the wording regarding the use of alcohol 'on the premises' instead of 'being served'. Motion passed 3-0.

B. Assessor Steve Allen had concluded the 2016 Cyclical Revaluation Manual. It is in the Selectmen's office for viewing.

C. Health Agency Appropriations: The Selectmen decided to appropriate the \$5,000 budgeted at the last town meeting to the following health agencies:
Monadnock Family Services - \$2,000, Home Healthcare (including Friendly Meals) - \$1,200, Southwest Community Services - \$800, Community Kitchen - \$1,000.

D. Starkey/Cobb Christmas Fund: The Selectmen discussed the distribution of the 2015 interest of the fund to elderly and needy in town at Christmastime.

13. Correspondence: *All correspondence is available for review in the Selectmen's office.*
County Commissioner, Stillman Rogers, sent a letter to the Selectmen asking what plans the town has taken or will take to work towards the replacement of the River Road South Bridge. The Selectmen have met with Nancy Mayville, a Municipal Highways Engineer in the Bureau of Planning and Community Assistance at the NH Department of Transportation. Ms. Mayville reviewed the process for obtaining State Bridge Aid and we are in the process of applying to be included on the State list for aid (80%/20%). State funding will not be available until 2026±.

14. The Selectmen adjourned the meeting at 7:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Ann LaBarre
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Russ Austin, Chairman

Jack Zeller

Clayton R. Stalker

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, December 15, 2016, 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED
SIGNATURES BY SELECTMEN DENOTE APPROVAL OF
MINUTES