

**Westmoreland Town Board
Regular Meeting
March 10, 2025**

Supervisor Charles Hebbard called this regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm on March 10, 2025. Present at this meeting were Councilpersons Burton Seymour Jr., Randy Rundle, Kirk Donley and Pete Smith. Also present were Highway Superintendent Russell Young, Sole Assessor Holly Osterhoudt, Codes Enforcement Officer Fred Fox Jr., Attorney Gregory Mattacola and seven (7) audience members. Absent from this meeting was Building Inspector Patrick Baron and Tax Collector Margaret Leone.

Supervisor Hebbard asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hebbard then recessed the regular meeting to allow comments from the floor.

There being no one wishing to address the board, he reconvened to the regular session.

Highway Superintendent Russell Young submitted this report:

- Ordered 200 tons of salt on 2-11-25, haven't received any yet.
- It's been a long hard winter on equipment and our budget
- I apologize for sidewalks. Snowbanks are too hard. When we get a couple of good days, we will open up snowbanks at the end of driveways with the Gradall.
- We finally got time to wash up trucks and check them over.

Supervisor Hebbard says that Utica Mack has a second truck for us, just waiting for a set price, once we know that we can move forward and order it. But we are in line to get the second truck. Councilperson Pete Smith questions if the truck has been ordered yet, as the previous minutes say a second truck has been ordered. Highway Superintendent Young states that only one truck has been ordered at this time.

Councilperson Seymour asks if any applications have been submitted in response to the Help Wanted posting, Superintendent Young says yes, we got a few.

Sole Assessor Holly Osterhoudt submitted the following report:

This month is devoted to completing the exemption processing and adding value for the 2025 assessment roll. The tentative 2025 roll will be submitted to Oneida County the first week of April. If you have any questions, please feel free to call @ 315-853-8001, ext.#8.

Sole Assessor Osterhoudt also told the board that the tentative roll is going in, then no changes will be made except grievances and court orders.

Supervisor Hebbard thanked the Assessor.

Codes Enforcement Officer Fred Fox submitted the following report:

Complaints

4-15-19 5845 Scadden Rd. Violation notice sent for junk and debris on the entire property (scrape metal, demolished trailer etc....) property maintenance on the house, garbage & junk vehicles. Order to Remedy Date 5-21-19.

3-9-20 Spoke with deceased owner's son, Brian Grant. Going to work with him on cleaning up property. He has already started. Photo(s) taken 3-12-20.

11-23-21 Re-Checked property. Vast improvement noted from initial inspection. Re-cited under Brian Grants name with an OTR date set for June 1, 2022.

7-12-22 Re-Checked progress still being made. Have to track down owner again, phone numbers I have are disconnected.

10-23-23 inspected property. high grass made it hard to view. Majority of junk and debris from initial violation notice was abated. To date no contact with owner's son, Brian Grant.

6-4-19 5651 Blackman Corners Rd Burn out house on Cattle Farm. Zoned Agriculture, researching how to pursue posting property.

7-2-19 No permits pulled to demolish or repair. Will move to post building unfit/unsafe and move the case to court. Property posted. Owners indicated through counsel that they would like some time to consult a contractor for advice how to proceed, either demo or repair.

8-2-22 Spoke with Owner, gave him the number to call Dept of Labor to determine if house can be declared an agricultural bldg. or get an asbestos contractor to determine if there is any in the building. Owner indicated he will be demolishing the building. 5-9-23 spoke with owner and advised he would need an asbestos testing report before filing for demo permit. A letter will be sent to owner giving him until 5-23-23 to apply for his demo permit barring any scheduling conflict with third party company assigned to conduct testing. He has applied for demo permit, waiting on asbestos report.

3-19-24 Demolition permit picked up.

2-4-25 Building is down and cleanup is in progress.

2-10-25 Demolition completed.

10-11-22 (6000) Greenway-Lowell Rd. Notice of violation written for unsafe structure and junk and debris. Building placarded for unsafe structure (foundation wall). OTR set for 11-8-22. 11-8-22 No progress made. Preparing paperwork for court. 11-15-22 Court paperwork filed. Court date set for 12-7-22. 12-6-22 No contact with owner as of this date. 12-20-22 I have to file court paperwork after the 1st of the year.

6-4-24 Sent a certified letter requesting owner to contact our office immediately upon receiving the letter. 6-26-24 Certified letter was received, no contact from owner to date.

7-9-24 Court paperwork submitted and mailed certified letter. Court date set for 8-28-24.

8-28-24 Owner appeared in court. Progress made on clean up. On site inspection set for 9-3-24. Adjourned until 10-23-24. 10-23-24 Clean-up is done, adjourned until April 2025 to finish structural repairs on the building.

8-30-23 6385 Rt.26 Notice of Violation written for junk and debris and junked vehicles (camper and boat). 7-9-24 Bank foreclosed on property, emailing Notice of violation to property management company.

3-19-24 6613 Cooper St. Notice of violation & posted unfit/unsafe written for partial collapsed building. OTR to have demolition permit set for April 19, 2024. 9-10-24 mailed final notice with OTR set for 9-24-24. Set for court 11-13-24. Adjourned until 1-8-25 for owner to find a demolition company. 1-8-25 Owner failed to show. Trial set for 3-12-25.

3-19-24 6645 Cooper St. Notice of violation & posted unfit/unsafe written for partial collapsed building. OTR to have demolition permit set for April 19, 2024. 9-10-24 mailed final notice with OTR set for 9-24-24. Set for court 11-13-24. Owner did not show. Adjourned until 1-8-25. 11-19-24 emailed court paperwork to a process server per town attorney. 11-26-24 Owner has been served by process server. 1-8-25 Case is put on hold. Owner is deceased and Greg Mattacola will try and reach out to the attorney for the estate.

5-22-24 4783 Stop 7 Rd. Notice of violation written for multiple unregistered/inoperable vehicles on the property. OTR set for 6-25-24. 7-2-04 spoke with owner, extend to 8-27-24. 12-10-24 spoke with owner extend until 12-17-24. 1-14-25 extending to 2-4-25.

2-4-25 summons to court on 3-12-25. Changed to 3-26-25 for court appearance.

6-11-24 4741 French Rd. Notice of violation written for property maintenance issues with an order to remedy set for 7-30-24.

6-11-24 6858 Fairway Dr. Notice of violation written for j/d, j/v and w/g with an order to remedy set for 7-16-24. Extended. 9-10-24 j/v has been removed.

7-23-24 6368 Rte. 5. Notice of violation written for property maintenance issues with an order to remedy set for 8-27-24. 9-24-24 majority of the work is complete.

1-7-25 5273 Furnace St. Notice of violation written for junk and debris in front yard. Order to remedy set for 1-21-25. 1-21-25 Extend one week, emailed owner. 1-28-25 summons to court on 3-12-25. 3-4-25 violation has been abated.

1-21-25 7327 E Main St. Notice of violation written for junk and debris on side yard and on front porch. Order to remedy set for 2-4-25. 2-4-25 Abated.

2-4-25 5218 Rte 233. Notice of violation written for garage roof. Order to remedy set for 4-4-25.

2-26-25 5483 Rte 233. Notice of violation written for collapsed barn. Order to remedy set for 4-29-25.

1203 Fire Prevention Inspections:

6-25-24 4769 Rte. 233 Ballet Arts of Central NY. Notice of violation written with an OTR set for 7-30-24. .

10-29-24 45 Seymour Ln. Borza's Rec Center. OTR set for 12-3-24. Extended. 2-10-25 Verified two of three violations have been abated.

11-11-24 4836 Rte. 233 Station 233 The Simple Bar. OTR set for 12-18-24.

2-10-25 7359 Rte. 5 Starr Mechanical. OTR set for 3-4-25. 2-26-25 ABATED.

2-11-25 6506 Rte. 5 Hodge Podge. OTR set for 3-4-25. Extended to 3-11-25.

2-11-25 7355 Rte. 5 MT Repair. No violations.

2-25-25 6505 Rte 5 Olde Kountry Market. OTR set for 3-10-25.

2-26-25 6541 Rte 5 Just Like Grandma's. OTR set for 3-19-25.

2-26-25 6541 Rte 5 Hill Top Repair. OTR set for 3-19-25.

Building Inspections: By Pat Baron

Month	Feb-25	Westmoreland Town Board: Building Permits/ Septic Systems Monthly Report					
Date	NO.	Last Name	First Name	Address	Tax Map ID #	Type Of Permit	Fee Paid
2/4/2025	2025-001	CRENSHAW	KENNETH	6613 COOPER ST	313.000-2-21	DEMO 1 FAMILY	\$ 50.00
2/4/2025	2025-002	CLIFFORD	FUEL CO.	7481 RTE 5	327.000-6-8	RENOVATION DUNKIN	\$ 123.00
2/25/2025	2025-003	CLIFFORD	FUEL CO.	7481 RTE 5	327.000-6-8	RELECTRICAL WORK	\$ 123.00
							\$ 296.00

Water Plant Operator Ted Flint submitted the following report:

Westmoreland Water District

- Completed monthly sampling requirements - no issues.
- Performed several UFPO dig requests.
- Still working on getting quotes for a “Water Main Leak Detection Maintenance Program” through two different vendors. This program could save us a ton of money mitigating unknown leaks throughout of water system.
- A Sanitary Survey with the Oneida County Health Department was completed on February 24th for all 3 water systems. No issues were noted.

Tindall Corners Water District

- Completed monthly & quarterly sampling requirements - no issues.
- Performed 2 UFPO dig requests.

Spencer Settlement Water District

- Completed monthly & quarterly sampling requirements - no issues.
- Working with GPRS out of Syracuse on Friday 3/7 to try and locate a possible leak. Our “charged” meter reading versus what we are charging our customers is way off and costing the water district a lot of money.

Supervisor Hebbard stated that a leak was in fact detected in the Spencer Settlement Water District, and he has advised the City of Rome of the findings. In order to pay for repair, the customers of that district will see an increase in their water bill. Supervisor Hebbard has drafted a letter to send residents, informing them of the increase.

Reading Center Clerk Sarah Pullman submitted the following report:

- In the month of February, we were open for a total of 40 hours. We welcomed 48 visitors into the reading center. We checked out 58 items within the reading center, 38 e-books, 32 audiobooks, 28 e-magazines and 70 holds filled for other libraries, giving us a total of 226 items circulated in February.
- We successfully held our first book club meeting and have scheduled our next book club to meet on March 27th.
- We are in collaboration with other Mid-York libraries and will be holding an event called: “The Great Mid-York Lego Challenge”. There are three categories that patrons can choose to design: Westmoreland Library Exterior, Westmoreland Library Room or Space, and Favorite Book or Bookish Space. Patrons will use standard LEGO bricks to create a replica of their chosen category. The event will be held in April and voting will take place with Mid-York announcing winners and distributing a prize. We will advertise on our Facebook page.

Town Clerk Anna C. Storey submitted the following report:

In February, the Town Clerk's office sold two (2) new dog licenses and renewed forty-seven (47) individual dog licenses, for \$355.00. Of that, \$65.00 was sent to the Department of Ag & Markets for New York State's Dog Population Control Program. The Town Supervisor received \$290.00.

On February 25, 2025, renewal notices were sent out for thirty-seven (37) dog licenses due in March 2025. Late renewal notices were sent out for January's overdue licenses, totaling sixteen (16).

There were two fishing licenses sold in February, for a total of \$30.00. The Department of Environmental Conservation received \$28.34 and the Town's commission was \$1.66.

There were no marriage licenses or marriage officiant licenses sold in February.

There were no peddler's permits issued in February.

Six (6) certified copies were issued for \$60.00. There were three (3) fire inspections conducted in February, totaling \$150.00. There were three (3) building permits issued in February for \$296.00.

Fifteen (15) permanent and one (1) temporary handicapped parking permits were issued or renewed during the month.

Checks Received:

1.	Town of Westmoreland Fire District	Dec 2024	\$840.93
2.	Town of Westmoreland Fire District	4 th Qtr. WC B Szarek	\$3,484.00
3.	Town of Westmoreland Clerk	Jan. 2025	\$479.00
4.	Town of Westmoreland Clerk	Feb. 2025	\$852.66
5.	Town of Westmoreland Justice Court (2)	Court Funds Jan. 2025	\$8,650.00
6.	Ground Penetrating Radar Systems LLC	refund of overpayment	\$1,050.00
7.	Clark Mills Fire District		\$209.23
8.	Charter Communications	franchise fee	\$16,940.32
9.	E-Z Riders Snowmobile Club	Fuel January	\$110.38
10.	Camelot Partners LLC	Camelot Water 8/21-11/20/24	\$13,875.51
11.	Westmoreland Central School District		\$11,397.08
12.	County of Oneida	Q4 Sales Tax	\$552,684.69
13.	FNTS Holdings, LLC	water search	\$20.00
14.	Central Oneida County VAC		\$3,539.70

Communications Received:

1.	Ride for Missing Children	Roadway Permissions
2.	Deferred Compensation Plan	Enrollment Information
3.	Cornell University	NYS LTAP Cornell Local Roads Program Infographics
4.	NYAOT	2024 Laws Digest
5.	NYAOT	Public Hearing on the 2025-2026 Executive Budget
6.	Talk of The Towns	Jan/Feb 2025 issue
7.	NATaT	Special Report
8.	NYAOT	Newsletter

There was no Oriskany Creek Watershed Commission report submitted this month.

Board Comments:

Councilperson Rundle inquired on the status of National Grid for the baseball field, Supervisor Hebbard says decisions need to be made on where to run the lines, and this will be dependent upon the weather.

Councilperson Rundle wanted to make the board aware that the fire department has damaged a water shutoff on Seymour Lane, he already spoke to Water Plant Operator Ted Flint regarding the repair.

Councilperson Rundle spoke to the Town Justices about their grant and they would like to use the town credit card to purchase a room divider, that will be paid for with the grant money by the end of the month. There was some discussion about the type of room divider, the cost, and the method of payment.

Councilperson Seymour suggests that the town hall install a drop box outside, in order to collect documents and checks after-hours. Supervisor Hebbard agrees with this idea and mentions that the clerks have been looking into drop boxes.

Councilperson Seymour brings up the fact that this has been a difficult winter for the highway department, and that putting up a salt barn might be helpful for future winters, to store salt in preparation. Highway Superintendent Young concurs with this idea.

Councilperson Donley provides an update on the new town website that is in production, he hopes to go live in April.

Councilperson Donley is still at work on the water project and has received contact information from the school for the engineers and wetlands experts that they work with. He plans to set up a meeting with the school and county, and Margaret has helped him update his list of landowners.

Councilperson Rundle lets the board know that the school will soon be taking core samples in preparation for the new track and field project. Attorney Mattacola says that communication from the school has been good, but they have not yet stated what materials will be used in the project.

Councilperson Smith asks about the format of the board meeting minutes, do they start over at #1 for each year, and if so, why do the January minutes jump from motion #25 to #29. The town clerk states that the audit meeting took place in between, and it contained three motions.

Councilperson Smith brings up the possibility of placing a new tax code that will allow the town to charge penalties to residents for codes violations. This will help enforcement. Attorney Mattacola states that this item has been researched previously, but it does require legislation through the state. Also, Westmoreland has no town tax, and the county does not allow for a town tax to go through the county.

Councilperson Smith did find a discrepancy in the tax roll, where some residences were not being charged a fire department tax, and provided that information to Sole Assessor Osterhoudt to look into.

Supervisor Hebbard advises that due to the leak in Spencer Settlement water district, the water bill for City of Rome was double the usual amount. With this and the expense of the leak detection and repair, the fund balance for Spencer will be depleted.

35 Councilperson Donley advanced a motion with conditions, to pass the Local Law #1 of 2025, which contains the updated fee schedule for codes and permits. The corrections are to alterations commercial and work start without permit. Councilperson Seymour seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

36 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to allow Highway Superintendent Young to order a new truck with a max cap of \$180,000.00. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

37 Councilperson Rundle advanced a motion to allow Supervisor Hebbard to oversee the ordering of room divider for the justice court, per the grant. Councilperson Smith seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

38 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to approve and place on file the Supervisor, Town Clerk and Codes Reports for February 2025. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

39 Councilperson Smith advanced a motion to approve and place on file the minutes of the Regular Meeting February 10, 2024. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

40 Councilperson Rundle advanced a motion to approve and order paid the vouchers of the General fund, vouchers #49 through #82, which total \$30,554.20. Councilperson Donley seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

41 Councilperson Donley advanced a motion to approve and order paid the claims of the Highway fund, vouchers #36 through #55, which total \$122,206.56. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

42 Councilperson Smith advanced a motion to approve and order paid the claims of the water districts as follows:

Tindall Water District	voucher #3-5	which totals	\$ 12,832.87
Westmoreland Water District	vouchers #13-19	which totals	\$ 55,646.45
Spencer Water District	vouchers #3-4	which totals	\$ 347.25

Councilperson Seymour seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE and the motion was declared carried.

Supervisor Hebbard stated the next Regular Meeting will be held Monday April 14, 2025 at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Hebbard paused the regular meeting to allow comments from the floor.

There being no one else wishing to address the Board, Supervisor Hebbard reconvened to the regular session and asked for a motion to adjourn.

43 Councilperson Seymour advanced a motion to adjourn this meeting. Councilperson Rundle seconded the motion. All Board members voted AYE. Supervisor Hebbard declared the motion carried and adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna C. Storey
Town Clerk