

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, January 25, 2021**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall. Also present was Don Johnson, Bill Elliott, Rob Cunio, Josh Shackford, and Scott Brooks.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Discussion:**

Don Johnson clarified the Town is legally able to hold a bifurcated Town Meeting. White responded that Attorney John Ratigan validated the vote at Town Meeting in 2014 still stands. Johnson presented an additional option which is to delay the Town Meeting until April, May, June, July, but no later than September. Johnson stated the option for the elementary school as a venue is only a COVID-19 precaution and as soon as it is safe to do so, he recommends elections and Town Meeting resume at the Town Hall. Various options and configurations were reviewed. All were in favor of a temporary move of the election and Town Meeting to the elementary school. Babb made a motion to hold the election on March 9 at the Freedom Elementary School and the Town Meeting on March 13 also at the Freedom Elementary School. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Elections will be held from 9am – 7pm and Town Meeting will begin at 9am until adjourn. The school meeting was noted to be scheduled for Monday, March 8 at 7pm.

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes**

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Fall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Session held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Department Head Updates:**

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 3 medical aid, 3 mutual aid for structure fire with 1 being a cancelled call, 1 fire alarm, 3 new positive Covid-19 cases. Cunio reports he receives his second vaccination tomorrow and other members to follow. The Fishing Derby is still looking good for 2/6/2021. Raymond Johnson was noted to have sold \$3,000 in derby raffle tickets. Cunio reviewed the three options available for purchasing AED units for the Town Office, Highway Department and Transfer Station and recommends purchasing the Defibtech fixed location option at \$917. Fall made a motion to proceed with purchasing the three units as recommended. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford had nothing new to report.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks provided an updated quote from Allied Equipment based on the hydraulic option at \$61,000 along with a diagnostics summary on the truck to be replaced. Based on the updated quote, Brooks recommends a total for the Warrant Article at \$205,000 to be safe. The cost of the 1-ton will be \$70,000.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White reported that the Town Report is in process of being compiled in order to go off to print mid-February. Preparations for Town Meeting and upcoming

budget hearing are being made. The year-end wrap up is also in process and the 2020 audit has been scheduled for the last week of March.

**Public Input:**

None presented.

**Old / New Business/Discussion:**

Brooks questioned if preauthorization can be given to order the new truck in order to get it in the queue for building sooner. The Board discussed and stated that the proposed budget is fairly level so there should be no issue with it passing. Brooks was asked to see if Mack would proceed with processing the order with the caveat that it is pending funding approval at Town Meeting as had been done with the police cruiser purchase last year.

White questioned how the Board would like to proceed with the expenditure for cleaning out the Ossipee Lake Road property. One quote has been received with another incoming. The Board agreed to proceed with scheduling a public hearing for the emergency expenditure. Further discussion on the scope of work to be completed.

**Non-Public Sessions:**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:29 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Day made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:51 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to sign the settlement proposal for the Linda Worthen case. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall made a motion to accept grant funds in the amount of \$15,437 from NH DES for milfoil treatment in 2021 and also authorized Babb to sign as representative. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 1/19/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 1/13/2021 & 1/20/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 1/13/2021 & 1/20/2021	Approved
Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit	Approved
Letter – Bill Howlett, thanks for donation	Approved
Employment Agreement – James Mullen	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Minutes – Conservation Commission – 1/19/2021	Reviewed
Minutes – Town Office Advisory Committee Meetings – 1/13/2021 & 1/22/2021	Reviewed
Newsletter – Green Mountain Conservation Group Watershed News	Reviewed
Receipt – Library Return of Surplus Appropriation	Reviewed
Receipt – Donation, Camp Calumet	Reviewed
Letter – to NH DOT, Request for Reimbursement of Bridge Expenditures	Reviewed
Letter – Northeast Earth Mechanics re: wetlands permit completion of work	Reviewed
Report – Action Ambulance Activity Report through 12/31/2020	Reviewed
Public Notice – Budget Hearing – 2/2/2021	Reviewed

E-Mail – Regional Ambulance Group re: Ambulance contract call volume review                      Reviewed  
Letter – Carroll County re: Rescission of late payment penalty assessment                      Reviewed

Being no further input, Day made a motion to adjourn. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

---

Leslie R. Babb                      Ernest F. Day, Jr.                      Alan G. Fall