

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, February 8, 2021**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was originally scheduled to be held at the Town Office and started there.

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

Due to a number of public attendance and the inability for one resident to access the second-floor meeting space, Babb made a motion to recess the meeting and relocate to the Town Hall. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Recessed at 6:34 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 6:43 PM.

Also present were Rob Cunio, Paul Elie, Bonnie Elie, Pat McCoy, Janice Zecher, Emily Fournier, Libby Priebe, Justin Brooks, Josh Shackford, Scott Brooks, Melissa Florio-Nicolls, Jan Smith, and Bill Taylor.

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

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

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Sessions held on Monday, February 1, 2021 and Friday, February 5, 2021, and the Budget Hearing held on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Department Head Updates:**

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 5 known positive Covid-19 cases in Town although the State is only reporting 4; 3 calls for medical aid; 1 of which was for a structure fire, 1 motor vehicle accident; a plow truck that hit an underground tank valve requiring 4-hours of propane monitoring. Members received their second round of the Covid-19 vaccination this past week. An invoice has been submitted by West Ossipee Fire for coverage during the bridge closure totaling \$768.00 for a total of 8 calls during the closure. Cunio reported the Tahoe was taken to Advanced Diesel on Wednesday for mechanical issues. The Derby held Saturday was very well attended and went well. The raffle did exceptionally well and although there were few fish bites, it was reported to be good time. The grant application for the radios has been submitted and the application for the truck will be submitted tomorrow.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported receipt of the tonnage report; solid waste was up by 200-ton which is the equivalent of four 4<sup>th</sup> of July's, demo was down but everything else was up. Brooks stated this is a permit year and questioned if the Board wants to forego the renewal and allow a grace period for this year to reduce personal contact necessary to get renewal permits. The Board was in agreement. Discussion on the renewal term when permitting resumes. Babb stated that he would like to see the renewal stickers be maintained on a two-year cycle. Brooks reported the permits account for approximately \$20,000 in revenue.

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

Town Clerk's Office – Town Clerk Libby Priebe stated her agreement with the decision on the Transfer Station permits and added that it may be an option to be added in as an online service in the future. Preparations are in the works for elections in March, ballots have gone to the printer, and a newsletter from the Moderator has been posted to the website with related information.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White had nothing new to report.

**Public Input:**

Melissa Florio stated that she agrees with keeping the sticker renewal at two-years as that is what people are accustomed to.

Bonnie Elie questioned the increase in solid waste? Brooks responded that it is due to a lot more people being in town at their second home, and staying/working from home.

**Old / New Business/Discussion:**

None presented.

Babb stated they will be entering into non-public session. Jnaice Zecher requested a public meeting as she had requested last week. Babb responded that they have been advised by legal counsel that the discussion should be held in non-public session. Zecher reviewed RSA 91-a. Babb responded that she can request a public meeting but the Board does not have to grant one. Babb confirmed that should could invite members of the public to be part of the non-public session.

Scott Brooks informed the Board that the International truck is at Advanced Diesel using antifreeze. They have the head disassembled and are gathering a parts list to get it back together but is estimating \$15,000-20,000 to do so. Babb questioned if Brooks spoke with Mack about authorizing a pre-order for the new truck purchase. Brooks confirmed that he did and they were not willing to do accept that. Day questioned the timeframe to get the truck back? Brooks stated they just replaced the filter in the spring and it is already clogged and one of the turbos has failed. Discussion on repair options including the replacement of the whole motor estimated at \$40,000. Jan Smith questioned if items like this go out to bid. Babb responded that they do not, authorized vendors are used to complete necessary emergency repairs. Babb reviewed the purchasing policy which requires purchases to go out to bid and the necessity to use a qualified garage to complete the repairs. In this instance, the highway department is down a truck in winter season so emergency provisions are in place.

Zecher reviewed RSA 91-a regarding the compensation, promotion, discipline or dismissal of any employee. Babb responded that legal advice received today was that it would only apply if there was a collective bargaining agreement or section in the employee manual that would allow an employee a public hearing and there is not. Babb confirmed the meeting could be recorded. Zecher reviewed her email request for a public meeting. Babb stated Zecher is the only one authorized to speak during the non-public session. Zecher questioned how she could request a public meeting allowing others to speak. Babb responded that the public comment portion of the meeting has already taken place. Discussion on non-public sessions and what the Board is legally able to discuss outside of a non-public session. Zecher agreed to proceed with a non-public session as long as she is able to invite everyone in the room to attend and also record the meeting. Zecher then invited attendees to include: Rob Cunio, Justin Brooks, Melissa Florio, Bonnie Elie, Pat McCoy, Jan Smith, Bill Taylor, Paul Elie, Josh Shackford, Libby Priebe, and Emily Fournier.

Florio asked if Babb could explain the proceedings. Babb stated he would as soon as they get into the non-public session. Babb stated they would make a motion to go into non-public session for discussion on an employee and disciplinary action taken.

**Non-Public Sessions:**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:19 pm pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (a) for a personnel matter with Janice Godfrey and the people she has invited to attend. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Fall-yes, Babb-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:39 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Discussion continued:**

Babb called for a decision based on the information received tonight. Fall, Day and Babb all were in favor to terminate Janice Zecher. No further discussion.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meetings & Non-Public Sessions – 2/1/2021	Approved
Minutes – Public Budget Hearing – 2/2/2021	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 2/5/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 2/3/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 2/3/2021	Approved

**Correspondence:**

2019 Audit – Management’s Discussion & Analysis	Reviewed
Email – Jon Hooper re: Book Donation Bin	Reviewed
Carroll County 2019 Financial Audit & Management Letter	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White, Town Administrator

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

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Leslie R. Babb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Alan G. Fall