

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 22, 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.

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

Also present was Melissa Florio and Rob Cunio.

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 Minutes and Non-Public Sessions held on 2/8/2021 and the Emergency Selectmen's Meeting held on 2/9/2021. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion on scheduling a meeting to review the ambulance statistics. White stated that an email sent by Effingham Selectman Mike Cahalane requests a meeting be scheduled to review the proportion of fees in relation the call volume in addition to having other conversations on the ambulance service.

Day made a motion for Babb to sign the 2019 Auditor's Report completed by Vachon & Clukay. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Correspondence from Jane Ferrini, Assistant City Attorney for the City of Portsmouth, regarding the return of the donor town education funding model was reviewed. Babb provided history stating the Town donated to the legal fund several years to get rid of being a donor town resulting in a significant decrease in the tax rate. No action taken at this time.

Discussion on a request received to place a book bin at the Transfer Station. Day did not see the need. Fall expressed concern for maintenance and upkeep around. All were in agreement to not allow this. Brief discussion on changing the traffic pattern to assist with increased volume of dumping at the Transfer Station.

The Board reviewed the formal authorization received to sell the Carroll Lodge #57 property to the Town for \$1.00. All were in favor of this transaction. Babb requested it be added as an agenda item for further discussion.

An agreement presented by Bergeron Technical Services to conduct the Town Office Feasibility Study was presented for signatures. Babb made a motion for Fall to sign as Selectmen's Representative. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The State Bridge Aid Program Project Agreement for the Ossipee Lake Road Bridge over Danforth Bay Outlet was presented with an updated project total cost of \$1,348,470 was presented for signatures. Day made a motion for Babb to sign the agreement. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported two weeks of call volume including 8 medical aid; 1 fire alarm; 1 service call – landing zone at King Pine later cancelled. The State list shows 1-4 active positive Covid-19 cases but there are currently 9 with two additional known cases for a total of 11, the most at one time in Freedom. The Tahoe was taken in for service and it required ball joints, wheel bearing, stabilizer bar and pads and rotors. The Snowmobile Winter Carnival was covered this past Saturday. The event went well with no issues. The ice certification class was held Tuesday and the practical took place off of West Bay Road yesterday. Participants spent 5-1/2 hours in the water and all went well. Cunio was able to determine that the wet gear they anticipated purchasing will not suffice due to the amount of time it took to get them on.

Day questioned if Cunio has received any negative feedback on the ambulance service? Cunio responded that the response has been on time better than 95% of the time. In addition, they have provided necessary training and the instructors are knowledgeable and very helpful.

Babb reviewed an emergency meeting that was called on Tuesday, 2/9/21 regarding the 2013 International AWD plow truck. Two options were presented; \$15,000 in parts plus labor to repair the engine to get through the remainder of the winter season, or \$25,000 to replace the engine (plus labor). The labor was the same in both instances. Babb stated the Board authorized the replacement of the engine at that time which will clear out the known issues. Fall added that the engine replacement will also make the truck more valuable in trade where as it was estimated to only yield \$12,000 in trade value with the known engine issues. Babb reviewed the Purchasing Policy requirements noting that both the professional service and emergency expenditure sections apply allowing the authorization granted by the Board. Florio questioned if there will be a warranty. Babb responded that he is unsure for how long it will be warrantied.

Public Input:

Gordon Nason discussed his idea to host car shows in town utilizing either the Public Safety Building or School as locations with paved driveways. This would be a great wage to engage the youth and fundraise toward a camp tuition or for other charitable purposes. Discussion ensued. The Selectmen agreed that the School would be the best option with patron parking the ballfield for Nason to pursue. An additional option for entrance in the Old Home Week Committee's parade was also suggested. Babb suggested Nason contact the school to obtain permission. All were in favor of supporting the idea presented. Florio added that raffle permits are required to be obtained from the State of NH.

White reported that the Town Report went to the printer last week and they are anticipated by the end of the week but could be received the first of next week. The Town Warrant and MS-636: Proposed Budget have been posted at all statutorily required locations. The ZBA meeting scheduled for tomorrow evening will have to be rescheduled due to a noticing error.

Day questioned when warrant article assignments will take place? Babb suggested to do them when the Town Reports are in.

Old / New Business/Discussion:

None presented.

Non-Public Session:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:28 pm pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (a) for personnel. 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 8:02 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Babb made a motion to post the Administrative Assistant job opening as a full-time, 40-hour position. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meetings & Non-Public Sessions – 2/8/2021	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 2/9/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 2/10/2021 & 2/17/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 2/10/2021 & 2/17/2021	Approved
Letter – Placework re: TOAC Request for Qualifications submittal thank you	Approved
Letter – SMP Architecture re: TOAC Request for Qualifications submittal thank you	Approved
Letter – Vachon & Clukay representative letter	Approved
2021 Town Warrant	Approved
2021 MS-636: Proposed Budget	Approved

Correspondence:

Minutes – Planning Board Meeting – 2/18/2021	Reviewed
Minutes – ZBA – 1/26/2021	Reviewed
Minutes – Town Office Advisory Committee – 2/16/2021	Reviewed
Minutes Excerpt – Carroll Lodge #57 – 2/11/2021	Reviewed
Email – Action Ambulance re: Quarterly/Biannual Meeting Requirement	Reviewed
Letter – Modern Concepts re: Website development	Reviewed
Community Action Report – DRA – multiple visits in January 2021	Reviewed
Letter – Charter Communications – Annual Franchise Fee Payment	Reviewed
Letter – Resignation – Paul Elie, Conservation Commission & Planning Board	Reviewed
Letter – State of NH Div. of Forests & Lands – Appointed Forest Fire Warden/Deputy	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall