

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 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 held at the Town Hall.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Also present was Rob Cunio, Melissa Florio Nicoll, Jeff Nicoll, and Justin Brooks

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

White discussed a necessary amendment to Warrant Article No. 18 where the funding source is incorrectly listed as Town Forest Maintenance Fund. The correct funding should be the Special Revenue Fund for Land Use Change Tax.

Babb reviewed the amended Danforth Bay Bridge engineering agreement with the NH DOT as well as two applicable change orders and made a motion to authorize Fall to sign as representative. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session held on 2/22/2021, the Selectmen's Meeting held on 3/1/2021 and the Non-Public Sessions held on 3/1/2021. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb reviewed the amount the insurance company will pay for the ballfield bleachers damaged last fall noted the amount as \$2,663. White added that the deductible will reduce the insurance proceed to \$1,663 but the amount can be used to offset the monies raised in the Warrant Article.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 11 active cases of Covid-19 although only 5 are reported town-to-town. Call volume included 2 CO alarms; one valid due to a generator, 1 service call, and a busy storm cleanup that had 4-5 roads closed. Liberty and Huckins remain without phone service as they wait for Consolidated to repair downed lines. CPR recertifications are currently in progress and the grant for the new truck is under review. Cunio stated that he has been unable to receive any guidance on how to proceed on the Ossipee Lake Road property cleanup. The rescue sled is out of service until some fabrication can be done to repair known issues.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks stated that George and Ray are doing a great job running things while he is out. A load of steel is ready to be hauled out but things are running smooth. Brooks requested a non-public session.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White announced the resignation of ZBA alternate John Quigley after approximately 14-years and the Zoning Board is in need of alternates. She will be posting the various board/committee openings to the Town's website.

White stated that she would like to add an agenda item for discussion on creating an office reopening

plan. She spoke with Town Clerk Libby Priebe and both are in agreement that it is time. White announced the auditors are scheduled to complete their field work the week of March 29.

Public Input:

Jeff Nicoll, acting Chair of the Conservation Commission, discussed a wetlands permit application for West Bay Road and requested clarification on the review timeframe as additional time is needed for more complex submittals. Fall responded that they rely on the FCC’s input and normally an applicant will come in prior to application submittal to review what they are looking for if they are looking to expedite the application process. The FCC should be in direct contact with NH DES. Nicoll stated that the State has reviewed the application and acknowledged it as incomplete but he wants to make sure the FCC is able to give it a thorough review. Babb suggested contacting the applicant to let them know they need more review time.

Old / New Business/Discussion:

White questioned the status of the Masonic Lodge acquisition and whether it should be forwarded onto the Conservation Commission and Planning Board for comment? Babb stated that he would like to give time for the Town Office Advisory Committee to determine their course of action. Fall stated that it will be early August before Bergeron will begin any review so time is not of the essence. A report completed on the building 11-years ago will be referenced. Although the building code has changed, the issues have not and the changes are in the building’s favor. Babb suggested keeping it on as an agenda item noting it will be a long process of continued discussion. Day questioned if the buildings more recent historical designation will change anything? Fall responded that the designation will be helpful in eligibility for possible grant funding and L-Chip funding.

Non-Public Session(s):

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (a) for personnel. Babb seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Fall-yes, Day-yes, Babb-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:00 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Non-Public Session– 2/22/2021	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 3/1/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 3/3/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 3/3/2021	Approved
Agreement for Construction Engineering Services, Change Order No. 2 & 3	Approved
Employee Time-Off Request	Approved

Correspondence:

Quote – Alacity Solutions re: appraisal for ballfield bleachers damage	Reviewed
E-mail – CMA Engineers re: winter conditions change order request	Reviewed
Letter – NH Retirement System re: request for interest penalty abatement	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax lien payment and summary of account	Reviewed
Wetlands Permit Application – West Bay Road, Map 38, Lot 1 – Incomplete Notice	Reviewed
Report – Action Ambulance, January 2021	Reviewed
Audit – Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2019	Reviewed
Parade Permit – Ragnar Reach the Beach Relay, 9/7/2021 & 9/18/2021	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall