

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, November 25, 2013

Present: Neal Boyle, Leslie R. Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Road Agent Scott Brooks; Josh Shackford, Police Chief; Karen Hatch, Town Administrator and several citizens.

Meeting opened at 6:30pm. Manifests were signed and general mail was reviewed.

Babb inquired about the new highway truck and Brooks reported that he took delivery on November 7th and reviewed several of the features it had.

Boyle asked that anyone report if they are using a recording device.

There was discussion on the cell tower Day had not received a call back from Fairpoint and Babb will provide Day with the AT&T contact number for him to contact regarding town equipment on the tower.

Day suggested clearing the logs and debris that they have not done, do it at their expense using a portion of the letter of credit. Boyle will contact town council on the legal notification parameters.

Brooks would be leaving the meeting and asked if the board had any questions of him. He did report about the paving over the new culvert and that the asphalt will settle and there be a dip which would be fixed when he hot topped next year.

Day wanted noted, for the record, the volunteers who installed the town hall window insulation. They were: Paul Tung, Phil Griffin, Mike Gaudette, Laura Robinson, Ian and Jean Marshall, Bill Elliott, Peter Park and John Shipman.

Boyle asked for public comment and Vincent Vicaro of Vitec Events spoke of some upcoming triathlons to be held this summer in town. Camp Huckins is hosting one and King Pine the other. Vicaro reviewed the routes of each race and there was discussion on safety issues. Babb asked where this was not on the agenda, that it be put on next week, for any public comment. He stated that Vicaro did not need to be present.

Deputy Young of the Sheriff's Office was not available to meet with the board as scheduled and Hatch presented a letter of support for a grant for communication upgrades at the dispatch center. Chief Shackford explained what he knew but Boyle asked that it be put back on the agenda so that Deputy Young could come in and explain the grant more. The board did sign the letter of support.

The board next met with Conservation Chairman Robert Oram and Vice Chair Jim McElroy regarding the 2014 budget. Robert Hatch Chairman of the Forest Advisory Committee was also present.

Oram stated that the operation budget would be the same as this year at \$2,800.00. McElroy provided handouts and then explained the warrant articles for the FAC and Milfoil efforts.

The Forester services by B.H. Keith were reviewed and the amount requested is \$6,000.00 for 2014. Babb asked if they had gotten bids for a forester. Hatch was puzzled on just how to do that when no other forester knew the town forest. How would it be scripted? Babb explained that the Selectmen had been asking all departments over the year to put items out to bid; he explained that it could be three prices and they could be informal quotes.

McElroy explained the second article which would be for forest maintenance and that would total \$14,950.00. He did indicate that he new FAC had been getting pricing on some of those activities.

It was also noted that there are currently monies in the 2013 budget for these two articles and any remaining monies would be encumbered and deducted from the 2014 requests.

Next were the milfoil removal efforts (Freedom Aquatic Invasive Species Committee) which McElroy reviewed. He did report that the additional hand pulling was not done as scheduled. He also reviewed the Lake Host Program and the proposed changes to that for next year. The grant status is unknown but they have gone forward and gotten 5 quotes for next year's work. Boyle questioned milfoil in Ossipee River which McElroy responded to. Boyle felt that we could possibly work with Maine on this. McElroy stated that the state of Maine has a very strong program. Boyle's concern was that boats would bring milfoil upstream. They propose that article to remain the same at \$6,500.00.

Babb at this point brought up that the FAIS Committee has not been officially formed. It was noted by K. Hatch that there are no posted meetings or minutes yet and they are pursuing grants and expending funds.

Oram questioned if it would be formed under the same RSA as Conservation with the 3-5-7 members. Babb indicated that he personally would like it to be a stand along committee and not a subcommittee of the FCC as the liked the current rapport. K. Hatch was asked to look into how to legally form the committee.

The conversation went back to the Town Forest Maintenance and Babb said that tree cutting was no issue with the budget but was there a long range plan on how long the forest could sustain itself; R. Hatch will get this from the forester.

R. Hatch discussed further the budget for the maintenance which included the road maintenance that is required from the Whip Grant money that was used in prior years. He stated he got confirmation that the upgrade could be done for \$10,000.00. Hatch indicated that that they have not yet looked into grants. Babb stated that maybe the Town can help; he would like to meet with the Road Agent and Hatch to review this.

There was additional discussion on the forester going out to bid. Babb mentioned inquiring with DRED and R. Hatch stated that in the annual report Stephen Walker had indicated what a great forester that the town had and he hoped that the town appreciated all that he did. Hatch also stated he had talked with the Town of Eaton's forester and he said that the town was getting great service for a good price and he chose not to pursue inquiring about working for Freedom.

Boyle asked for any further comments and Hatch did ask about the recent FCC vote taken on the FAC budget. He stated that there was a joint meeting and there was an unlawful assembly of 9 voting FCC members and it is a 7 member board. He would like the FCC at their next meeting to ratify the FAC 2014 budget vote to make it good.

The board gave approval to release a corrected check to the Tax Collector if there had been a mistake made.

There was no non public session; this had been left on from the prior week.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.