

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes - October 17, 2022

Select Board and officials present: Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgings, Ron Price, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Eleanor MacMakin.

Citizens Present: None

Present on zoom: Ann Marie Adamson, April Turner

1. Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, Steve abstain:

To accept the amended minutes for October 11, 2022.

3. FVFD: Jim reported on two upcoming events:

Hunters breakfast Saturday November 12 5:00 am to 10:00 am at Fire station. Suggested donation is \$8.

Tabletop exercise for EOC November 25 at 6:00 pm. He requested participants arrive before 6:00 pm to participate in the exercise.

Reported the purchase of a propane stove for the kitchen at the Fire Station.

4. Public Works:

Travis requested Jim to review the 911 address he gave to Brian Fuller on Greeley Rd which Travis wants to move as requested by Brian Fuller. Travis explained that there is a driveway permit on file and asked Jim to assign a house number and move the existing marker to the new location.

Travis requested the treasurer review the billing for fuel charged to Public Works and separate the Solid Waste truck fuel costs.

Discussion about the funding source of \$20,000 for the truck payment. Steve checked the records and concluded that it came from the public works general fund.

5. Executive session 1. MRS.A 405(6)(A) at 6:40 pm about Public Works Job descriptions.

Session ended at 7:35 pm with no decisions. An outline of practices to review is the next step.

Treasurer's Report:

6. Cindy reported this week the payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,479.69 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$213,454.64. The ending checkbook balance is \$546,626.46.

Motion by Elaine, Ron 2nd, unanimous: To accept the treasurer's report and pay the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,479.69 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$213,454.64.

7. A thank you letter was received from the American Red Cross.

8. A notice from the Camden National Bank was discussed and a decision was made to pay the School Payment of \$56,629.84 next week.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, unanimous: pay the School Payment of \$56,629.84 next week.

Town Clerk:

9. An abatement for Sean Murphy of \$761.50 and a supplement of \$634.74 was issued. Jackie Robbins submitted an abatement request for James Tyler for \$431.61.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, unanimous: Approve abatement request of \$431.61 for James Tyler.

10. Ron discussed with RHR Smith when an on site visit with the Town Clerk to adjust the chart of accounts could take place. Friday was the only day RHR Smith could attend so Ron agreed to compensate Cindy for her time as Friday is her scheduled day off.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, unanimous:

Approve compensation for Cindy for 3 Fridays to meet with RHR Smith.

11. Citizens Issues:

Elaine spoke to a resident who complained about the smell of cannabis. Ron expressed that the town is not an enforcement agency and the citizen can file a legal case, if there is one.

12. Planning committee:

Prentice submitted a report regarding a Solar Ordinance proposal to prepare for new business with commercial solar companies.

13. Recreation committee:

Cindy reported that she has volunteers to make candy bags for Trick or Trunk scheduled for October 30 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Town Office. The pathogen kits arrived and each one is designed for one incident, so she will need to order more to keep on hand.

14. Charter Committee:

Steve found a new member and gave the name to Tyler. Ron has requested that the committee appoint two additional board members.

15. CDAC Committee:

Wilson is seeking grant opportunities for resiliency on the former Skidgel lot including what environmental restrictions on development exist.

Old Business:

16. Steve reported on the current situation with Peace Ridge in response to the April 2022 tax bill

that was not paid. Peace Ridge filed for an abatement September 28 to request an exception as a benevolent and charitable organization. Steve explained that in April it did not appear that the property was in use as a sanctuary.

The board will meet with Jackie Robbins to upgrade the Tax Maps. The board will review the policy for non profit property taxes.

Motion by Steve, Elaine 2nd, unanimous:

Instruct Bill Kelly to draft a reply to Peace Ridge Sanctuary.

17. Steve expressed dismay in the Hampden Waste Facility and the MRC for non performance and that Freedom is still using the Norridgewock dump.

New Business:

18. Elaine reported on the heat pump for the Town office. She needs three quotes and is scheduling first with Revision Energy and has contacted Eaton Service and Supply. There is a tax credit the Town is eligible for in making this energy upgrade.

19. Meeting adjourned by Ron at 8:28 pm

Respectfully submitted by Eleanor MacMakin