

**Meeting Agenda**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 12-27-2022**  
**Minutes approved 1/3/2022**

**In attendance:** Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Beth Owen-Mishou, Cyndy Abbott,

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Ron called the meeting to order at 5:55 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Elaine made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended, Ron seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - o Most of the power has been restored. Some localized flooding.
  - o One call last night and numerous calls for trees down and traffic cones for flooding.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
  - o Gravel hauled this past week = \$1300 used due to this past storm.
  - o Fuel \$2000 (approximately) anticipated delivery Thursday
  - o Travis requested a detailed report on winter roads so that he could analyze what is in that account. He would like it before the next budget meeting.
  - o Wash outs on Raven Road, 60 yards hauled, Mitchell 36 yards, Greeley Rd 12 yards of sand. 12 yards of gravel, needs additional fill.
  - o Some residents were concerned about driveways, due to washouts, and Travis intends to go out and take care of this.
  - o Steve has sent an email to Atty Bill Kelly and has not yet heard from him with regard to the culverts.
  - o A concerned citizen put information and pictures on Facebook with regard to how the culverts were being dug out. What the citizen could not see is that the equipment was secured on both sides and 12 culverts were completed that day. All safety regulations were followed.
  - o Russell Littlefield demonstrated inappropriate hand gestures toward Travis whenever he passed him with the town truck.
  - o Steve expressed concern about water draining from a ditch running off onto Jeff Keeting's property. Steve asked if the town would consider fixing the issue. Travis mentioned that the ditch that it should have run into, has been filled in. Ron mentioned that it should be rip wrapped and mowed on a regular basis to keep the problem from occurring again.
  - o Travis dealt with multiple ice situations on Christmas morning.
5. Treasurer's Report:
  - o Payroll warrant \$6891.42, A/P warrant \$4905.00
  - o Cindy is adjusting her hours so that she can complete the year end work.

- Year end to be completed Friday evening.
  - Cindy worked with Trio today, pay stubs should include all pertinent information.
  - Bank statements from Key bank, for the Smithton Cemetery account, have been provided for 20/21/22.
  - Ron Smith will be speaking with Kevin from Maine Revenue services.
  - Steve mentioned line 7-17 he would like that logged under public safety. Pg 2 public safety line one. Comp plan board of appeals needs to be moved.
  - Ron made a motion that the treasurer's report be accepted, Steve seconded and all approved.
  - Elaine made a motion that the warrants of Payroll \$6891.42, A/P \$4905.00 be paid, Ron seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report:
- Notices were sent out last week regarding remaining tax money owed.
  - Cindy called the state on the Hubbard property and they reported that they will be sending the check.
  - Cindy provided the selectman with information on all of the outstanding tax bills. 14% of the anticipated taxes have not yet been paid.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions:
- Dan Pittman was contacted by Steve and we can qualify for a tax exempt loan. \$3500 would be the approximate cost to apply for the load and all of the required posting and paperwork. Steve let him know that we will give him an answer by Feb. 1.
  - Pete Mattson was contacted and he will come out and look at what needs to be done at the post office for the ceiling.
  - Travis requested that the budget meeting for 12/29/22 be moved into the new year. Elaine suggested Thursday 1/5/2022 at 6pm. Ron made a motion that the budget committee meeting be moved to the 5th of January at 6 pm, Elaine seconded and all approved. Steve will send out an email to the members.
8. Review Correspondence:
- State on demand public meetings regarding bridge replacements, tomorrow is the last day to participate.
  - Cindy presented the requests for donations from various organizations. These were given to Steve to be presented to the budget committee.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement Officer
  - Health Official
  - School Board Director
  - General Assistance Officer
  - Plumbing Inspector
  - Solid Waste Director
  - Animal Control Officer
10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board
- Recreational Committee:
  - The stocking drawing occurred and the drawing was on Facebook and the stockings were picked up before the holidays.
- Appeals Board: There is an appeals board and planning board training in January. Ron suggested that someone from our boards should attend. Ron will provide the information to Mike Smith and Tyler Hadyniak.
- Charter Committee
- Historical Society
- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee
- CDAC Committee

#### 11. Old Business

- Ron asked if the engineer has provided a report yet. At this time Jackie has not issued a report on either building. Steve will reach out to Atty. Kelly and clarify what reports are needed.
- Steve will talk to Jackie about the Turner report and property.

#### 12. New Business

- Steve and Kim Holmes requested an abatement on taxes due to odors in the neighborhood and the use of jake brakes. Jackie will need to inspect the property with regard to marijuana growing and if the individuals are licensed medical providers. Steve made a motion that the abatement be denied as the town has no control of the use of Jake brakes on the state highway, the cannabis growth will be referred to the code enforcement officer in order to see if the operation is lawful. Until it has been determined if the growth is lawful. Elaine seconded the motion and all agreed.
- An ambulance call was sent to the local home and it went 5 miles out of the way. Steve asked if the town should file a complaint with the ambulance company. Ron suggested that the dispatchers contact Jim Waterman to make sure they know how to get there.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 1/3/2022

14. Adjourn: Ron moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Steve seconded and all agreed.