

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes - September 19, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgings, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Eleanor MacMakin.

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:0 pm.

**Motion by Steve, 2nd Ron: unanimous:**

To accept the amended minutes for September 6, 2022.

**Motion by Elaine, 2nd Steve: unanimous:**

Postpone the acceptance of Minutes from September 12, 2022.

**FVFD:** Jim reported on FVFD budget noting Knox Fire Protection 4 month payment was short. Next year he expects to increase the budget for fuel costs. Oil is \$4.30 a gallon and diesel \$5.00 a gallon. He reported that the alarm systems contractor charges \$275 a visit. He asked Cindy for the trick or trunk date and she said it is usually the first Sunday before halloween.

**Public Works:**

Travis reported the public works had used a grinder to mulch roadside brush, small trees and overhanging branches on the following roads, Greeley Rd and Smithton Rd. as well as the Baseball field, playground perimeter, behind the post office, between the town office and the fire department. Cold patching on all town roads will start on Wednesday.

Budget planning on purchasing a 2005 LT9500 Sterling plow truck for \$63,000 was reviewed by the board.

**Motion by Elaine, Steve 2nd, unanimous:** Approve travel for Travis to look at the 2005 Sterling truck.

**Treasurer's Report:** Cindy reported this week the payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,654.27 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$119,476.83. The ending checkbook balance is \$358,312.75.

**Motion by Steve, Elaine 2nd, unanimous:** To accept the treasurer's report and pay the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,654.27 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$119,476.83.

Cindy reported on the current A/P warrant and charitable donations. She noted RSU3 was paid for September. She will take PTO October 11, 12, 13.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Cindy needs the Board to sign a supplemental tax certificate from the Tax assessor.

**Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, unanimous:** Sign supplemental tax certificate

**Citizen Issues:**

Diane Winn spoke to Steve about her land and the Commitment Book and valuation.

Derrick Wilson has a deed that has raised the question about buildable lot size.

A request for donation from Hanlon Kelly of Restorative Justice for \$5000 was discussed.

**Cemetery Report:** The headstones have been purchased.

**Correspondence:**

A notice for a hearing on General Assistance guidelines will be posted tomorrow for the meeting September 26, 2022 at the Town Annex.

**Old Business:**

Steve presented 2 job descriptions he wrote;

1) Solid Waste personnel 2) Select Board Secretary.

**Motion by Steve, Ron 2nd, unanimous:** Accept and post the job descriptions.

Eleanor voiced concern that the job of Webmaster needs to be separate from the job of Secretary. She explained that requests for minutes and bulletin postings were not possible yet. A knowledge transfer of WIX management and the security hand over of account management is first.

Proposal to amend the policy for Driveway permit to establish that this is the preliminary step before obtaining building permits. Further review was agreed as a next step.

**New Business:**

Fisher Building:

Motion to authorize the Town attorney and the Code Enforcement Officer to commence an action under the Dangerous Building Statute and give notice to Christopher Fisher and Marissa Fisher for a hearing before the Select Board pursuant to 17 MRS 2851 regarding property located at 67 Belfast Rd, Freedom, ME.

Young Building:

Motion to authorize the Town attorney and the Code Enforcement Officer to commence an action under the Dangerous Building Statute and give notice to Jason Young: for a hearing; and authorize the Code Enforcement Officer to hire a structural engineer to inspect the premises, all pursuant to 17 MRS 2851 regarding property formerly known as the Bangs and Knight building located at 26 Main St, Freedom, ME.

Motion to authorize the Town attorney and the Code Enforcement Officer to commence a Land Use Enforcement Action against Brandon Sutor and Elizabeth Sizeler pursuant to the Town of Freedom Building Ordinance regarding property located at 197 Smithton Rd, Freedom, ME.

**Meeting adjourned by Ron at 8:20 pm**

Respectfully submitted by Eleanor MacMakin