

Select Board and officials present: Elaine Higgings, Ron Price, Eleanor MacMakin.
Citizens Present: Tyler Hadyniak, Sandra and Douglas Gould.
Present on zoom: Cindy Abbott.

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

2. Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd: unanimous:

To accept the amended minutes for October 3, 2022.

3. Public Works: None

4. FVFD: None

5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported this week the payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,125.64 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$19,202.04. The ending checkbook balance is \$754,798.28.

Motion by Elaine, Ron 2nd, unanimous: To accept the treasurer's report and pay the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$4,125.64 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$19,202.04.

Cindy reported one thank you letter for donations from the Lifelight foundation. Cindy requested the Select Board approve the purchase of a dolly to move the bounce house. She explained that the Recreation Committee raised the funds for these purchases.

6. Motion by Elaine Ron 2nd: unanimous:

Authorize Cindy to purchase a dolly.

7. Tax Collector's Report:

Cindy reported that absentee ballots can be returned by mail, in person or the drop box at the Town office. Request for absentee ballots deadline is Thursday, November 3rd unless special circumstances exist.

8. Appeal Committee: Ron discussed the date set for the Appeals Board to hold a public hearing. The meeting will be on October 22 at 6:00 pm at the Town office. Eleanor will write the notice, once Ron has provided the message content.

9. Citizens Issues:

Sandra and Douglas Gould raised two concerns:

Sandra requested an explanation for the property tax increase this year. Ron advised a meeting with the Assessor but they did not agree. A discussion resulted in Douglas requesting that they are given notice prior to the Assessor's visit on site.

Douglas requested that the Town pick up garbage at no charge. Ron suggested that such a change is possible but that decision is not up to the Select Board. Ron said the \$21,675 in sticker sales offset the operation cost of \$48,000. The General Store adds a surcharge of .25 to each sticker so purchasing at the Town Office is recommended. Douglas argued that when he

comes down the Town Office is closed and with the price of gas included to get stickers is not reasonable.

10. Tyler Hydiniack invited the Select Board and others to a class he will teach on disabled veterans law at Mt. View on November 10 from 6:30 to 8:00. Register online through RSU3.

11. Old Business: None.

12. Correspondence:

Elaine reported on a scheduled meeting with Bill Kelly and the Health Officer Monday October 17. She also approved one General Assistant applicant's request for aid.

13. Planning committee:

Tyler reported that the committee is preparing a draft ordinance for solar power to get ahead of the game for Freedom residents. The focus will be on commercial solar projects not homeowners.

14. Budget committee:

Meeting scheduled for October 20 at 6:00

15. New Business:

Elaine is working on procuring a heat pump for the Town office and needs an assessment done.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd: unanimous:

Approve the energy solution study offered by the heat pump provide

16. Discussion about Solar energy with Prentis who arrived at the end of the meeting. He explained that commercial solar energy systems are stalled because the electric grid is full. Also the return from excess power is steeply reduced with the current net metering. Elaine and Ron discussed how solar tax offsets affect the Town and financial matters about application credits from the State. The Town does not charge a fee for homeowner solar systems.

17. Meeting adjourned by Ron at 6:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Eleanor MacMakin