

Meeting Agenda
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 12/19/2022
Minutes approved 12/27/2022

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Ron called the meeting to order at 6:06pm
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ron moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Elaine seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports:
 - The Knox people have been provided with the necessary information.
 - 16 boxes were delivered, took 4 hours and all received the boxes they requested.
 - Ron asked if Jim had information on a fuel tank. It looks like it will be a spring project.
 - There have been several calls this past week.
 - Elaine asked about warming stations should people be without power for a long period of time.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
 - ½ day today doing tree work on the roads
 - Joe Medley came in to complement the public works department on the work they did in the storm.
 - Travis and Ryan appreciated the reimbursement for time worked.
 - Travis asked what was paid this week that would cause his account to increase by approximately \$9,000. Cindy reviewed the bills paid this week. Cindy will review the account and determine if the fix done by Trio caused this discrepancy.
 - Travis will be working on the culverts on Thursday and asks that people not plow snow from their property into the culverts on the roads. Steve suggested that we send out a letter to those doing it to remind them that it is not to happen. There is a policy on the town website. Travis has spoken to those individuals who have done it. Steve will contact Bill Kelly, town attorney, to review the town's options. Ron made a motion for Steve to contact Bill Kelly and determine what can be done to deal with this issue, Elaine seconded and all approved.
 - Steve expressed concern about spending ¼ of a million dollars doing roads. He suggested that a bond be considered if the roads are to be completed. A bond payment would be approximately \$40,000 per year. The payment is based on the terms and rate. Travis expressed concern about not paving while making bond payments. It is difficult to pave while bond payments are being made.

- There will be a bridge project and traffic will be rerouted through Pleasant Street and High Street. This will not be occurring until 2024. The state is having a virtual meeting to discuss this.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll warrant \$9801.52, A/P warrant \$12,062.22
 - 941 IRS payments were presented and reviewed, Ron asked about what was presented in the original warrants and if they all needed to be corrected and how this affected the current balance in the checking account. Steve requested verification from Camden National Bank stating that the money was in a separate account and just needed to be transferred to the IRS. It was later revealed that the money has been in the town checkbook.
 - Cindy spoke with Kate Howell at Key bank with regard to the cemetery account. The account was going to be closed due to lack of activity. They would have turned over to unclaimed property. There is a question as to who are the authorized signers on the account. (Smithton Cemetery Account.) Steve would like a signed letter from the bank as to who the authorized signers are. He has also requested a summary of what has occurred on this account. Dividends from the Black Hills stock should be going into that account every year.
 - The 2022 audit has been scheduled for the week of January 30th.
 - Maine Dept of Labor has sent us a bill
 - 2022 workers comp is paid in full
 - 2022 property and casualty has been paid in full.
 - State notice about the bridges is posted.
 - Cindy requested that use the credit card to pay for Kristy to become a notary public. Ron made a motion to allow the credit card to be used for Kristy to become a notary public, Steve seconded all approved.
 - Elaine made a motion that the Payroll warrant \$9801.52, A/P warrant \$12,062.22 be paid, Steve seconded and all approved.
 - Steve stated that 95.6% of this year's budget will have been spent once accounts are fixed. General assistance and general government need to be merged. Elaine expressed that perhaps they should remain separate due to the purpose of these accounts. Steve will contact Karen regarding account changes. Cindy suggested that he ask her about the IRS payments as well.
 - Steve pointed out that there are two different sets of figures under solid waste and would like an explanation.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report:
- Report to be provided next week.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions:
- Citizen complained that the minutes were not on the website or up to date. This has been addressed and minutes are now available on the website and in the binder at the town office.
8. Review Correspondence:
- Renewal for workers comp was presented.

- Bridge construction was reviewed.
- Northern Border Commission: awards for forestry, create training programs for individuals that want to work in the forestry industry, it also provides funding for roads that have “wood traffic”. Ron will submit a letter of intent. Steve suggested that they mention the importance of fire safety as well.
- Sea Coast Security was contacted about an annual inspection. \$20/mos for each location within the town. Ron suggested that we pay as we go. The cost for a fire system at the town garage would be \$4000.
- Winter relief bill hearing for tax payers in the State of Maine will be on December 21 at the state capital in Augusta. LD3
- Post office:
 - i. Kelly Stacey’s, son, Jessy Stacy from Mitchell’s roofing and sheet metal, called to report that the roof is fixed. He did not charge for this and Steve suggested that we send a thank you card from the town.
 - ii. There is a noticeable mold smell and the sheetrock has a strong mold smell. Steve suggested that this be checked out and repaired. Steve will call Pete Mattson regarding the needed repairs.

9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement Officer
 - i. Abatement request: a request was made to provide an abatement due to “cannabis being grown illegally next to their property.” This appears to be a commercial operation and is a legal issue with the State of Maine. The select people will review the cannabis rules. There was also a concern about the Jake brakes being used. Ron will look into the situation.
- 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
 - i. Drawing for Christmas stockings will occur at noon on Friday.
- Appeals Board
- Charter Committee:
 - i. Ron spoke with Tyler and he confirmed that they will not be ready by the town meeting.
- Historical Society
 - i. Winterfest February 4th 2023

- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee: 12/29 meeting
- CDAC Committee: met last week

11. Old Business:

- Road Bond: are we profit or non-profit. Steve will call and find out.
- Steve sent an email to Atty Kelly this afternoon asking about the developments on the property on Bryant Road. Atty Kelly said he had not yet received Jackie's report.
- Engineer said two more weeks before she can issue her report on the 3 properties.

12. New Business:

13. Date of Next Meeting: 12/27/2022 (Tuesday)

14. Adjourn: Ron made a motion to adjourn and Steve seconded this and all approved. Meeting ended at 8:15pm.