

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 3/6/2023
Approved 313/2023

New Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8359
Passcode: TownMeet

In attendance: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Joe Freeman, Laura Greeley

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Elaine made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Steve seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - On the 28th of February they had a communications activity with surrounding towns and all but Montville participated. Our frequencies worked with the other towns. Jim Waterman will have Brett, who runs the ham radio operation, come and access the connection with Montville.
 - Call this am at 7:30 at 602 Belfast Rd. It was a car accident.
 - Bureau of Labor standards training at the Fire Dept this evening.
 - The fire hydrant by the Lost Kitchen needs to be plowed out. Travis Price will go down and remove the snow. It was questioned whose responsibility it is to remove that snow.
 - Ron Price asked how they can make contact with Montville until then and Jim Waterman reported that he can call them directly.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
 - Made progress with truck's parts and the anti lock brake system. There should be a credit to the town once the store receives the part back. First Truck Parts, LLC
 - Damage to one of the plow trucks twice this weekend and it will be in the shop for a couple of days. Two tires need to be replaced. When the wing came off it flattened the tire.
 - He will go early and plow out the fire hydrant near the Lost Kitchen
 - Ron Price asked about the signs that were discussed for the Town Garage area. Ron Price suggested the sign go near the shed and it says no access beyond this point. Ron Price also suggested that the Skidgell Lot also be posted for no trespassing. Travis reported that there are signs there. The concern is not allowing people access to the lot. 3 signs would be needed perhaps 4.
 - No trespassing signs need to be put on the Fisher house. Travis Price will get this done. There is now liability coverage.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll warrant \$11,045.92, A/P Warrant \$9832.98

- Eliane Higgings made a motion that the payroll warrant be paid in the amount of \$11,045.92 and the A/P Warrant \$9832.98, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Cindy Abbott reported that there is an issue with Trio with double posting.
 - The town office will be closed between 2-3 tomorrow due to an FOAA training.
 - The town received 3 checks this week.
 - USPS \$844.17
 - Municipal Review Committee \$30.15
 - EQ Shareowner Services \$67.50: Steve Bennett will look into the dividend information. This dividend check should be placed in the Smithton Cemetery account.
 - Troy Industrial credit application is completed so that Public Works can bill things in the future. This is a machine repair shop.
 - Elaine made a motion to have Ron Price sign the credit application for Industrial Solutions, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Cindy Abbott asked that the ramps be cleaned better and Ron Price stated that Joe Holmes has been asked to do it and if it is not done Ron asked Cindy to let him know. Cindy Abbott also asked that the loose materials by the garden be secured so no one trips on it.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- Joe Freeman asked what they found out about the gas tanks under Main Street. Ron Price said the owner has 45 days to meet the town expectations and he will be responsible for the tank removal.
 - Laura Greeley reported that she was a bit disappointed and taken aback that the budget created by the budget committee could be changed by the Select Board. Ron Price stated that the town votes on the entire budget. She asked why they break it all out if what they decide is different than what was broken out. Why do a line item budget as a committee if it is not used. Steve Bennett stated that we have never had a line item budget. How would a resident make sure that the items get taken care of as they were stated. Ron Price stated that the budget that they create is as closely representative as they can be. Steve Bennett stated that he feels like we are being transparent.
 - Laura Greeley asked if citizens can ask for a line item budget. Steve Bennett stated that he is not sure. She asked if there were any towns with line item budgets.
 - Joe Freeman asked what happens if there is a surplus for example in the Public Works budget, Steve Bennett stated that is put in the Public Works capital reserve account.
8. Review Correspondence
- Tyler Hadyniak sent an email to Steve Bennett regarding the Charter Committee. The Select Board Members will address this at a separate time.
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
 - Appeals Board
 - Charter Committee: 3/7/2023 at 6pm in the Annex Building
 - Historical Society
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee
 - CDAC Committee
11. Old Business
- Infrastructure awards: we were not granted this to repair the bridge on the Mitchell Road, Hustis Brook Bridge.
 - Budget Workshop: Ron Price and Elaine Higgins will attend in person. Steve Bennett is going to join them in person. April 28th
 - Abandoned Roads: Steve Bennett reported that he has been doing research and has contacted MMA. He suggested that the three Select Board members meet and review the information sent to him by the MMA attorney. They will schedule a meeting at the next meeting.
 - Matt Wagner will be in town on the 17th to begin installation of the heat pumps.
 - April 4th state house action day: open to citizens and town officials to visit the state capital. Ron Price is going to try to attend. There will also be a March 22nd webinar.
 - Steve Bennett, fund balances on statement C Budgetary need clarification
12. New Business
- Ron Price made a motion that they use the credit card to purchase a zoom pro account at 22.49 per month, Steve Bennett seconded it and all approved.
13. Date of Next Meeting: 3/13/2023 at 6pm
14. Adjourn: Ron Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8 pm, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.