

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes - September 26, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgings, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Eleanor MacMakin and Lincoln Fraser.
Present on zoom: Tyler Hydinak.

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Motion by Ron, Steve 2nd: unanimous:

To accept the amended minutes for September 19, 2022.

FVFD: Jim reported on FVFD budget noting Knox Fire Protection paid the 2nd 4 month payment and corrected the 1st 4 month payment. In addition the auditor recommended to the Select Board to add the donation of \$5,081 for the Glen Bridges memorial to the FVFD Capital Reserve account.

Motion by Ron, Steve 2nd: unanimous: record the \$5,081 for Glen Bridges memorial in the FVFD Capital Reserve account.

The FVFD participated for 4 hours in a fund drive Toll Booth on 220 near the Knox Historical Building last Saturday during the Common Ground Fair. They collected \$3,513.00 during their shift.

Public Works:

Travis requested that the Select Board agenda be posted in advance. Ron said the weekly Select Board meeting has a set agenda that is followed each meeting and if new business presents items for the floor then the procedure is to address the matter with all present. Travis is not paid to attend meetings which is an issue for him.

Ron ended discussion for an executive session 1.M.R.S.A.40(6)(A) at 6:20 pm

Discussion resumed at 6:50 pm

Travis reported:

The Greeley Rd road clearing issue with a homeowner over a pile of trimmings getting moved is ongoing. He wanted to know the road width if it's a 2, 3 or 4 rod road. Discussion on road width ensued with the decision that if there is not enough information then it is a 3 rod road.

He requested the selectman to assist in researching the width in rods for all town roads (especially the Greeley road) for reference when dealing with residents with questions about what can be done within the towns right of way where it meets their property.

A request for permission to purchase a 2005 LT9500 Sterling truck and a new combination dump and sander body. The board voted to explore the financing.

The truck he went to see last week is a "rust bucket" so a different truck has been found that can meet his needs. It has low mileage and is automatic. Discussion on selling Truck 8 and Steve calculated costs on a leasing option. The estimated cost for the truck is \$85,000.

Motion by Elaine, Steve 2nd, unanimous: Approve Travis to purchase truck in Seabrook with a lease to own terms. Ron will negotiate the lease and Steve will contact the seller to make the commitment.

Travis reported on a request for a driveway permit from Brandon Suitor. Discussion about the repeated violations still unresolved on his property and the fact that Jackie Robbins is his point of contact and we need to hold off on any changes.

Discussion regarding Derrick Graton permit application on Greeley Rd which was approved by the Code Inspector. Lincoln Fraser was present to hear the findings on this matter and was satisfied when he left.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported this week the payroll warrant in the amount of \$10,753.82 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$71,766.20. The ending checkbook balance is \$461,540.20.

Motion by Elaine, Ron 2nd, unanimous: To accept the treasurer's report and pay the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$10,753.82 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$71,766.20.

Cindy reported:

Kristy will be on PTO Monday and Tuesday and she would like time cards by Thursday.

State revenue sharing check for \$14,267.84 arrived.

New account for the Public Works grader on next warrant. Travis said he has accrued approximately \$1000 in expenses to date. Cindy gave him a list of accounts to use and asked that he write the account # on invoices submitted for payment.

Tax Collector's Report: Cindy needs the Board to sign a supplemental tax certificate from the Tax assessor for the following properties:

12 Burnham Hill Rd	\$485.00
47 Davis Rd	\$450.72
650 Hunter Rd	\$501.54

The Anderson Christian Jones and Groton property is still under consideration.

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

Cemetery Report: Elaine reported that Penny Samson has volunteered to help the committee clean stones.

Correspondence:

Ron received a letter from Delta Ambulance to meet and enter negotiations for a fee structure of a new service charge to the Town starting in 2023. Meeting scheduled for October 12 at 1pm.

The posted GA hearing for a new MMA ordinance adoption concludes with a motion.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd, unanimous: Accept the MMA A-G appendices. Schedule dates for hearings (?) October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023.

Recreation Committee:

Cindy requested to purchase a bounce house for \$1000.00 for Town events. She reported the cost savings of ownership. Discussion about event insurance resulted in Steve offering to check pricing on insurance before moving forward.

New Business:

Budget Meeting scheduled for October 20 at 6 pm.

Discussion about Evaluations and land designation for taxation. The Avian Haven property at 418 N. Palermo Rd presented an example of open space, agricultural and residential acreage that is under a zoning review.

Ron reported about the MMA Board of Appeals workshop in Bar Harbor and said Tyler Hydiniak was attending.

Elaine updated the job description for Public Works personnel.

Eleanor wrote a job description for a new position to consider for Webmaster. Discussion on need and resources resulted in Steve making some edits to the description and the board agreeing to consider the proposal.

Elaine has drafted a Winter roads policy for notice to the public about parked vehicles in the road setback in a snowstorm. Discussion resulted with the issue not pressing enough to act.

Meeting adjourned by Ron at 9:02 pm

Respectfully submitted by Eleanor MacMakin