

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 2/21/2023**  
**Approved 2/27/2023**

**In attendance:** Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Wilson Hess, Lynn Hadyniak, Chuck Hadyniak

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:20pm
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ron Price made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Steve seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - o Payroll warrant \$5874.10 A/P warrant \$64,545.75
  - o Elaine made a motion to pay the payroll warrant in the amount of \$5874.10 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$64,545.75, Steve seconded and all approved.
  - o Steve Bennett stated that the winter roads account still has not been corrected.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - o The Hadyniaks asked for clarification about the status of their request.
    - Elaine Higgins would like to have a conversation with the other stakeholders to see how they are feeling about their request.
    - Chuck Hadyniak asked why the town has any interest in the road since there has been no interest in this since 1948, with that portion of the road. He provided information regarding the town's past involvement or lack thereof with that portion of the road.
    - They are willing to work with the owners of adjacent property regarding access to their property. They feel that it is between the landowners to determine access and not the town.
    - They had a concerning interaction with 2 female individuals on an ATV.
    - Lynn Haydiniak asked why the town feels that the town feels that it is not abandoned.
    - Elaine Higgins has requested time to speak with the other landowners.
    - Lynn Haydiniak asked what information needs to be gathered to determine if the road has been abandoned. There are other access points for the properties above the road. The question was asked if it was abandoned with or without an easement. She reported that there is no physical way for a vehicle to get through the "road" at this time.

- Steve Bennett discussed the past history of the road. To his knowledge there was never a public or private easement on that piece of that road. (everything from end of the discontinuance, but open to the public, from the intersection with the Smithton road to where it intersects with the Sibley Road. From the turn around.
  - Chuck Haydiniak requested that the town make a decision formally so they can mark it as private property and he is open to conversations with other landowners about access.
  - Steve Bennett stated that the town needs to follow its process, research and have a vote on this issue. He would like to get an opinion from Atty. Kelly as to the process or from MMA.
  - Steve made a motion that he contact Bill Kelly regarding the timeline for this issue and bring this topic up at the next select board meeting, Elaine seconded and all approved.
8. Review Correspondence
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
  - Historical Society
  - Cemetery Committee
  - Budget Committee: 6pm Thursday 2/23/2023 meeting
    - Steve Bennett received information on the town's assessment from Waldo county. He would like to meet with the other select board members Thursday at 9 am if that is possible.
  - CDAC Committee
11. Old Business
- Dave Allen with the Maine DOT checked out the intersection and there have been no accidents, which is the precursor to changing an intersection. Any changes would be the responsibility of the town and state financially. He is going to set up a meeting with his engineer with the Selectmen.
12. New Business
- Ron Price made a motion to go into executive session at 7:40 pm for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A, Elaine seconded it and all approved. They returned from the executive session at 7:45 and no decision was made.
  - First Amendment Audits:

- Mark the employee only areas
- Do not respond to provoking behavior
- Ron Price suggested that a sign be posted at the maintenance area and Skidgell property that says authorized personnel only.
- MMA conducted a training that Ron Price attended with regard to these situations.

13. Date of Next Meeting: 2/28/2023 at 6pm

14. Adjourn: Ron Price made a motion to recess until 4pm on February 24, 2023, Elaine seconded and all approved.