

**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**11/21/2022**  
**Minutes approved 11/28/2022**

**In attendance:** Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Tim Beals, Bill McKenna, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Cynthia Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Ron Price
  
2. **Secretary's Report:** One correction was made to the meeting minutes from 12/14/2022. Item 1 in public works should state that \$800 was put in the capital reserve fund. Steve Bennett made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction and Elaine Higgins seconded it.
  - o The November 7th meeting minutes are being corrected and will be presented to the board upon completion for approval.
  
3. **Fire Chief and EMA Director Reports:** Jim Waterman reported the following:
  - o 14 Thanksgiving boxes were distributed along with one gift card.
  - o 11 applications for the Holiday baskets were handed out. These will need to be returned by 12/1/2022 with an anticipated delivery date of 12/17/2022.
  - o Wix : Ron stated that each card should allow 5 fill ups each day up to \$300. Jim mentioned that they were not working properly so Hilltop will be sending a bill to Cindy. Ron is going to look into why they are not working.
  - o Travis Price asked for clarification with regard to sanding and salting in front of the bay doors at the fire station. Jim stated that he would like it sanded and salted when it is icy.
  
4. **Public Works Director Report:** Travis Price
  - Sullivan Tire: is under new management and he is working to get them to acknowledge a credit that the town has with them prior to paying the most recent bill.
  - Garbage Truck: the code scanner is reported that there is an issue with the wiring harness. All have been checked with the exception of the one in the oil pan. They will continue to assess the issue.
  - Ryan has been using his own computer for the assessment of the vehicle.
  - Fuel for solid waste: He is aware of the issue and it has not been corrected yet. The town needs the amount per gallon to be stated on the invoices. This will be corrected by the end of the year.
  - Regina Basford: Is the new superintendent for our Post Office. She has requested:
    - o That the back doors be painted, due to rust and signage.

- Spider webs and bugs be removed from the building (this was done last month).
- Walls and ceiling in the lobby be painted.
- Ron stated that these are jobs that would be appropriate for Jeff Holmes (building maintenance) to complete and Ron will contact him.
- Delta Ambulance: Tim Beals, Director of Delta Ambulance and Bill McKenna spoke to the board about ambulance services for the Town of Freedom.
  - Delta ambulance has been providing service to the Town of Freedom for 20 years.
  - Due to cost increases they are now requesting that all towns they serve contribute to the operation costs. They are a 501 c3 not-for-profit currently serving 14 towns.
  - They are proposing that Freedom contributes \$15 per capita which would be approximately \$10,665 Which would be paid at the beginning of the town's fiscal year.
  - It is currently costing them half a million dollars per year to run the ambulance.
  - They average 50 responses to Freedom each year.
  - A report and proposal was provided to the select persons.
  - Steve Bennett asked if they bill if they do not transport patients and they responded no. They also do not charge when they are asked to “stand by” at a fire.
  - They will transport to any local hospital from Freedom. (Belfast, Waterville, Bangor, Augusta)
  - The select persons will present the Delta Ambulance Proposal at the budget meeting on 11/29/2022 at 6 p.m.

**5. Treasurer's Report:** Cindy Abbott (report was provided)

- Warrants for payment were presented: A/P warrant: \$11,985.48
- The town hall will be closing at noon on Wednesday and will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving.
- Line items on the report were discussed and Cindy was asked to create a new line item and move items to better reflect the purpose of the expense.
- The select people will be presenting information to the budget committee with regard to reimbursement for boots and clothing for the Maintenance Department Elaine Higgings made a motion to allow Travis and Ryan to be reimbursed one time per year up to \$200 for safety boots. Ron Price seconded the motion and all were in favor.
- School payment for November is due. Ron moved that \$56,629.84 be brought by warrant to the meeting next week. Steve Bennett seconded this and all approved.
- Steve Bennett motioned to pay \$4359.48 for the payroll warrant, \$11,985.48 for the A/P warrant. Ron Price seconded this and all approved.

- Nomination Papers for open town positions are due by January 17th. The following positions are currently available:
  - Town Clerk
  - Excise Tax Collector
  - Select Board Member/ Overseer of the Poor
  - Tax Collector

**7. Citizen's Issues and Questions:**

- Beth Owen-Mishou asked about a car excise tax payment that was returned to her from CMP and a double payment of property taxes. Cindy Abbot explained both to the best of her knowledge.

**8. Review of Correspondence:** there were not correspondences to present.

**9. Town Officials' Reports:**

- Animal Control: Cindy Abbott reported that the town has started to accept dog licenses as of October 15, 2022. These will be accepted until the end of January 2023. As of February 1, 2023 there will be a \$25 late fee.

**10. Town Boards' and Committee Reports:**

- CDAC Committee: this committee has 9 members.
  - David Bridges Asked to resign so the committee is down one member.
  - Lex Bennett would like to be on, in place of David. Steve Bennett will present this to the committee.

**11. Old Business:**

- Beaver Ridge Road: Steve Bennett drafted a letter and presented it to the other select board members to be reviewed and finalized at the next meeting. When approved, this letter will be sent to all people affected. They will then have 10 days to request a hearing if 25% of those affected make this request. When approved this letter will be sent via the postal service.

**12. New Business:** No new business was presented

Ron Price motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm and Elaine Higgin seconded this, all in attendance approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Beth Owen-Mishou

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