

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes January 10, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Joe Freeman and Amanda Jamison.
Present via Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 5:56pm.

Motion by Elaine: To accept minutes from January 3, 2022 Select Board meeting and place on file. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said there is a business meeting tonight and election of officers will take place. He said hose testing pricing has gone up from \$3,000 last year to \$3,221.75 this year. Maine Forest Grant that Jim wrote was approved and will pay 50% for eight pants, shirts, and coats to wear for forest or grassland fires. Total price is \$3,605, will be reimbursed \$1,802.50. Jim gave Select Board accounting for 2021. Steve asked for next year to show where the money came from and who it went out to. Jim found repair person for washing machine, he is waiting for them to come fix it.

Public Works: Travis Price said the Public Works garage addition needs three doors and at least one ceiling fan maybe two, for an estimated cost of \$1,000. Budget Committee will put \$1,500 as a place holder for garage addition. Travis said he has put 21 yards of sand in Citizen Sand Shed this year. Townspeople are using this, and question was raised if people from other towns are getting sand too? The sand is mixed with some salt, so that it doesn't freeze. Travis said someone dumped garbage behind town garage.

Motion by Ron: To install a camera at the Public Works garage and to authorize Travis to purchase it. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Ron: To install a sign on Citizen Sand Shed that says, "Freedom Residents Only". Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve Bennett had list of Travis's tools and their value that Travis uses and stores in the Public Works garage.

Motion by Steve: To request MMA to put coverage on the tools up to \$18,000. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$6,446.21 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$18,991.50. The ending checkbook balance is \$441,415.30. Dyann said Amy Dunn will work with her this Sunday. Dyann will find Post Office funds account to find out how much is in it. Steve said this is a key source of revenue that can be utilized to offset taxes. We budgeted to take \$25,000 from the Post Office fund, but we didn't spend it.

Motion by Ron: To accept Treasurer's report and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$6,446.21 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$18,991.50. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott said the nomination papers are turned in. Cindy will send a mailing to let townspeople know who is running for which positions. Travis suggested including information that Solid Waste will no longer pick up trash on holidays but will pick up the following week. March 12, 2022 is the date scheduled for Town Meeting. Cindy will call to

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see if Mt. View is available. Ron will call Mike Thibodeau and ask him to be the moderator. Cindy said dog licenses are due 1/31. Rabies Clinics on 1/12 at Troy Town Office from 5pm – 7pm. Another rabies clinic in Dixmont on 1/25 from 6pm – 7pm. Both clinics offering rabies vaccine for \$10. The next Select Board meeting will be Tuesday, 1/18 due to Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Motion by Ron: To waive David and Elizabeth Soper's 2019 unpaid taxes of \$6.53 and lien fees of \$78.68 for not paying the tax. Unanimous.

Steve has job descriptions of employees. Cindy will look to see if there is a notebook of job descriptions in Town Office.

Citizen's Issues: none

Correspondence: The Game Loft sent a thank you note.

Town Boards and Committees:

Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC): Next meeting Wednesday, February 2, 2022. Steve said members of the committee and himself will meet soon with Daybreak Growers Alliance to show the lot. Daybreak Growers Alliance distributes local foods and is looking for a place to expand their business. Ron said that the Town should keep in mind that a substantial portion of the lot should be kept for Public Works. He said it is important to think about the long term and know Public Works needs room for a burn pile, truck parking, potentially another building to put stuff undercover, place to put ditching material.

Budget Committee: Next meeting Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Old Business: Ron is still working to get the trailer on High Street moved. Ron said by next week, if nothing is in the works with the landowner, the Select Board needs to come up with a plan to get the trailer moved.

New Business: Steve handed out to Select Board a draft proposed ordinance to discontinue public easements on discontinued roads written by Bill Kelly, Town Attorney. Steve said Freedom has 10 miles of road that have been discontinued but the public easement is retained. Cindy mentioned the town cemeteries on some of these roads still need to be accessed by the public.

Motion to adjourn at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison