

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Alyssa Brugger, Tyler Hadyniak, April Turner, Dylan Turner, Nathan McCann, Travis Price and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

FVFD: Jim Waterman reported that the fire department held elections held on 1/11/21. President of the Association is Hank Elkins, Jim is the Treasurer and Secretary. FVFD received \$2,000 safety grant from Maine Municipal Association to go into Freedom Volunteer Fire Department reserve account.

Covid 19 vaccine – Jim inquired with the fire department as to how many people are interested in getting the vaccine. Six people out of twenty-three are interested in getting the shot. People who are 70 and older can call Waldo County General Hospital, 505-4949, leave a voicemail, your name and age and phone number so they can call you back to schedule your Covid-19 vaccine. It is the Moderna vaccine. Jim has notified a number of people in town over 70 about this phone number to schedule their vaccination. <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines> Website link for more information.

Public Works: Travis is working on fixing fill pipes for fuel tank at the Post Office building. Steve asked for Travis to let him know when that work is finished, so Steve can contact John Chapin. Cindy let Travis know the mirror is out of whack. Travis knew that and needs one other person with him to be able to fix that. He will do that as soon as he can.

Citizen's Issues: Tyler Hadyniak, on behalf of the Historical Society, let the Select Board know that they are actively pursuing grants. Many grants require the Historical Society to show that they have matching funds. Tyler asked the Select Board to release the Historical Society's funds, so that they can include this money as a match? Elaine asked if they need just a motion or also the money in hand. Tyler said they would like to have the money in hand to be able to report that on grant applications. Steve asked if the Historical Society Treasurer could put together a report of how much money was requested and spent. The Select Board is receptive to releasing this money to the Historical Society rather than holding onto it and only doling it out when they make requests. Ron asked that the Historical Society give an end of the year report to the town, since the Historical Society is a 501c3. Ron said that in this next week we should figure out how much money is in that account.

Old Town House – Tyler reported that the Historical Society was approached by a few residents to use the venue as a place to hold a wedding in the summertime. Historical Society has no problem with this but was concerned about the liability. Does the town's insurance cover a situation like this? Steve said that the town is insured for an event at the meeting house, but a private entity is not covered. Therefore, there would need to be a separate liability policy. The Maine Municipal Association does have an insurance policy called TULIP that can be purchased by an outside entity that uses a municipal building. Ron noted that this building is town property and the town prohibits use of alcohol and drugs on town property, so that information should be shared with people interested in using the building for a wedding.

Steve made a motion to accept 1/11 minutes as presented and put them on file, Elaine 2nd, unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Payroll Warrant this week is \$3,822.02. A/P Warrant this week is \$17,436.85. Ending Checkbook balance is \$319,214.57.

Alyssa will remove a check in the amount of \$375.94 from the A/P Warrant, therefore, the A/P Warrant will be in the amount of \$17,060.91.

Steve made a motion to accept Treasurer's Report, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy reported that Steve Bennett, Nathan McCann and April Turner have turned in their nomination papers for Selectperson. Diane Anderson and Brandy Kimble have turned in their papers for Treasurer. Cindy Abbott has turned in her papers for Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Excise Collector.

Cindy plans to have a mailing complete on Thursday, 1/21/21. This mailing will inform people who will be on the ballot. Remind people that there is the drop box to drop off their ballots.

Cindy reported that the drop box leaked during the last storm. Select Board will look at drop box tomorrow.

Dog licenses are due by January 31st. People can call Cindy and license dog over the phone as long as the rabies information on file is current. If not, people can email Cindy the updated rabies vaccination record or have the veterinarian email it to the Town Office. Cindy reported that people can license their dog(s) online, as long as it is before February. 1st.

Cindy said the light looks wonderful at the Town Office, and it will be very handy on Monday nights.

Town Official Reports:

CEO is back to work full-time.

Planning Board: Select Board did receive list of approved commercial fees. Prentice is going to check with MMA about what a town can do if a business wants to come to town but has many extra costs associated with being able to start their business such as permitting and different regulations. Prentice is specifically checking on whether the business can be charged those extra costs rather than the town incurring those costs.

Recreation Committee: Cindy said the next event is the Easter Egg Hunt, and the committee will have to figure out how they would hold that event with Covid-19.

Budget Committee: Steve said there is one minor change since last Budget Committee meeting. In the carryover for public works, the carryover line for the capital reserve account of \$2,500 left over from 2019 will be applied to 2021 budget. Bottom line is this year's tax budget is \$8,000 less than last year's tax budget. There was \$70,000 carryover from last year's tax budget to be used for 2021. 2021 tax budget is in the amount of \$624,197.89. Steve said the Budget Committee did a fantastic job and participated fully. Ron made a motion to accept the budget for 2021 as presented by the budget committee, Elaine 2nd, unanimous. Steve will start on the warrant. Cindy has to post it by the latest March 5th.

Old Business: none

New Business: Ron made a motion to have an executive session workshop at 10am on 1/20/21 for a personnel matter. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to adjourn, Elaine 2nd at 7pm.