

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes

6/21/22

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Travis Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Kelsey Kobik

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

Review of the previous meeting's minutes.

Question about if Robyn Stanicki gets elected in terms of her involvement with the Advisory Committee?

Steve believes it's not a problem, thinks that's what Wilson said.

Motion to accept previous meeting's minutes: Elaine

Steve: Second

Accepted, unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Payroll \$3769.59

Gross pay \$4579.89

Deductions are \$2647.93

There are two AP payments this week: Pike Industries and the May School.

We asked Camden National to transfer to checking \$100,000.00 today.

Pike industries: \$28,150.95

May School: \$52,112.00

Old info:

Harris Computer sent a bill, should we add it to the next warrant?

The Kyocera Bill: there was an overage, we think they owe us money from previous arrangement to apply toward this new copier. A message has been left with them.

The checkbook is not balanced because of the TAN thing. That needs to be straightened out tomorrow.

Elaine: **Motion** to pay payroll for the \$3,769.59 amount and the first AP warrant \$100,735.57 and the second TAN warrant in the amount of \$0.00

Ron: Second

Unanimous.

Warrants were signed.

Public Works

Truck Rental: they need to see a binder from our insurance company for liability and collision. Rider could do it for about \$215 per day, and one day would be enough. Insurance and Cindy will need serial numbers of trailer. Travis plans to get them Thursday night.

Public Works started work on Deer Hill today and were filmed the whole time. Ronnie walked up and down the road, some lunging but no attacking.

During the process of trying to avoid stepping on his property to dig out trees that needed to get out, Travis broke his personal big nylon rope and the town will have to replace that. The trees are all cut and stacked neatly and the stumps are out.

We will wait to ditch that road until all the trees are out.

Above Littlefields' property has never been ditched since Travis has worked here, we will need to ditch it. He will ditch both sides of that road from top to bottom.

Steve thought he was only going to the end of the Littlefield property, not so. It will be ditched. Travis thinks all the people there know about it. Still figuring out how exactly some of the places will be ditched. Not sure if he will put in a culvert at one place or not. He has \$6000 in the budget for culverts which is not going to go very far this year, about half as far as it went last year.

Travis would really like a detailed expense report on town garage at some point, no rush but sometime.

Cindy can do that.

Ron: Out of curiosity, what more detail do you want?

Travis: Where the mechanic charges came from, general supplies and expenses, and supplies. Be nice to know what those two items are.

Ron: Well you've got garage addition, repairs and maintenance, equipment rental.

Steve: supplies, gas, and equipment.

Travis: so mechanic would be the only thing really. And what is winter expenses?

Ron: Well that was a mistake, I think that was wages.

Steve: I believe it was for plowing.

Travis: Why isn't it under winter roads?

Ron: That's where the mistake was, it should have been under winter roads.

Haven't had a chance to look at check stubs, have there been corrections to vacation hours?

Elaine: Well we just voted on them, so you'll get 'em tomorrow

Travis she usually sends an email, I don't know if any changes were made. Doesn't matter, I'll figure it out when we see it.

Ron: Well you do know we have some payroll issues, and it will be a while before we get it all resolved. Might not be before December 31. I hope not, but that may be how it is.

Travis: I'm going to take Ryan Hall for an orientation at the quarry after I finish mulching on Thursday.

Travis has his own CB radio in the truck. The town should buy their own for it.

Ron: There is a town one in the trash truck.

Travis: But all those trucks should have one, the plow trucks. I want to take my handheld home and the town can get one.

Elaine: **Motion** to buy handheld CB radio for no more than \$120.

Steve: Second, but where can we take it out of?

Travis: Take it out of Truck 8 line. It's not doing anything.

Steve: Sounds good to me.

Travis: I'll use the town account at the rope place in Newport to replace my rope. The town has one and its just way too long. The one I had was 16 feet. You wouldn't want it longer than that, 20' max. It was rated for 30 tons.

Elaine: Could we have our long rope cut and spliced?

Travis: Don't know of who, you'd have to pay.

That rope could be split into two 20 footers that would be usable.

Elaine: Maybe the place in Newport would do it. Ask them.

Ron: I ordered that long one, it was on sale from that place that's closed now.

Elaine: maybe we could call and ask a marine place? I could call and ask

Travis: The one we have is way too big

Elaine gets details from Travis about exactly what ropes he wants.

Travis is also going to check the place in Newport.

The rope he had has been really useful, pulled many plow trucks out.

Steve seconds motion for CB radio purchase

Unanimous

Steve has questions about this well issue on the Skidgell site. What was the length of the casing?

T: 6 feet? I added to what was sticking through the ground because we didn't have a pitiless adapter. It had a foot valve.

S: Do you know what the cost of the adapter and the casing?

T: It was \$4000 for everything, I traded scrap steel for the casing. I would say \$500 if I had to.

S: What's the depth?

R: 180'

T: and there's 165' of pipe in it. All new wiring. pumps 10 gallons/minute.

Elaine called around to get quotes for costs of drilling and casing. It was all within about \$50-\$55/ft for drilling plus casing.

S: We may have to buy it for that amount, minus what we've put into it.

3600 for drilling

only about 20 feet of casing.

Drilling is most expensive. Whole thing costs around \$4200 (not rigging, whoever uses it does the rigging)

Town will have to buy whatever piece of ground the well exists on.

After a survey we figured out that this well is on a neighbors property. We are in negotiations about how to figure it out.

Travis left at 6:48

Steve: What if we made an offer of \$5000 on the well including a little piece of land?

Elaine: and we pay all the legal fees.

Looking at the survey from 2014, shows the well house within the line.

The next one shows the well different.

Ron wants to check with Jackie about rules about how close you can drill a well to a boundary line.

Ron: if you guys agree, I'll take this to Bill and ask him what to do and put a letter together to serve our best interest.

Ron reads from letter from the property owners' lawyer, which has some errors and is a cease and desist or pay up type of thing.

Steve: **Motion** that Ron go meet with Bill and get his ideas, draft a letter, and make some kind of reasonable offer.

Elaine second.

Unanimous

Town Clerk is not here, no issues.

Citizens issues:

Elaine: Ellie Hess asked if they could use this room for school board meeting, Elaine said she could open it up for them, it would be about two hours.

Steve: you'd think they'd want to use the annex?

Ron: Why do they want to come here?

Elaine: She thinks it would be more centrally located for everyone. It might just be for the new people, not the whole board. I will call her right now.

Elaine calls Ellie. Answering machine.

R: When was this supposed to happen?

E: It's in the daydream stage right now.

Ron: when we have more info we can vote on it.

We have this appointment we need to do.

S: **Motion** to appoint Patricia Ashland as the new Health Officer for the Town of Freedom

Ron: And it's a 3 year term

Unanimous

There's a vehicle survey for 2021, Ron will do it some rainy day

Ron talked to Jackie, she is getting ahold of TMJ to see if they can take down that building on 137. She also asked if Peace Ridge has gotten any building permits, and they have not!

Correction: Peace Ridge did get a building permit on March 31, 2022.

We are going to commence with an inspection of a property for possible enforcement action.

Steve: do we want to get those three individuals together to go visit that house?

R: Yes.

S: We ought to meet with them and get organized. I think the letter should go to the owner, not the occupants, and just a day or two ahead. I don't think we need to give the people that live there any warning.

Solid Waste:

They want us to buy in on a 20 million dollar bill to start back up the solid waste plant.

The contracts were with the previous owners. We don't have any skin in the game.

Charter Committee:

S: Tyler said they had had a discussion about whether the charter should be liberal or conservative, or carry on the way it is? S said his understanding is that as long as there is language in there that allows the development or change of those things, then you don't need to go to crazy. If you don't have language like that, you can't do anything to change it unless you start a whole other Town Charter again. They're still working on it.

CDAC

we've signed the paperwork so they can get an environmental study. There's a form letter that we could take to Knox. Steve will give Wilson a call and see if he's got information so we can get on that.

Budget Committee

Anything that needs to be brought up at budget committee?

Elaine: New chairs for town office

Ron: We should make sure they're aware of the problems we're having with our payroll

Nothing was done right from 2019 on, when we started doing health insurance. There's some paperwork that we can't quite locate either.

Joanne has more info that needs to be handed over to RHR Smith, who is helping straighten it all out for us.

We have not made our payroll deduction payments for April and May of this year.

E: We should talk about cost of everything going up, fuel, paper, trash bags, everything.

S: Will we have the percentage for the charter of accounts done? Ron thinks we will

R: I made a list, this is what I gave him today: payroll audit 2019-22, settle everything with IRS, prepare for Bangor Savings to take over payroll on July 1, balance checkbook, furnish correct balances for various accounts, furnish a correct copy of 2021 audit if necessary. That's what I gave him today and he thought that was pretty good.

He said when Erna was the treasurer, she would call him whenever she had a problem. I thought that was a good idea.

New business

S: Got that letter from Mark Boudreau, and he's wrong on a third of that road. I drafted a letter, I'm still working on it. There are three different roads there, each one is different. One is discontinued with no retention of public easement, one is discontinued with a public easement, and we have a good record of that, and the last one, the one that goes past his camp, we don't have anything on it. To me, that would be a good argument to declare that road an abandoned road. It has been treated like a private road and no one has ever debated him. Rick owns one side, Mark owns the other. There are a couple of cellar holes but they go way back. That was clearly a through road to 137 at one point, but I'd like to declare that road abandoned. What do you think?

R & E: I think that's fine.

I would add to the letter the state statute of ancient burial grounds, we have to maintain access and we do maintain it, there are two there.

I think we ought to have a policy dealing with private cemetery lots, over half of them are on unmaintained roads, and they don't belong to the people who own the land around them. We need to develop a policy, put it on our website, people can find out where their relatives are. They can call the town office to get info and access info, these people have a right to go visit them.

R: I don't have a problem with that, people have a right to access and visit them.

E: **Motion** to adjourn

R: Second

Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned about 7:40 pm.

The smoke detector in the room is acting up.

Submitted by Kelsey Kobik