

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
March 21, 2022**

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

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Motion by Elaine: To accept March 14, 2022 minutes as amended place on file. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said he is writing a grant that is due April 15th for 70% reimbursement for ice cleats. Fire Department called out to assist Unity Fire Dept. on Elwell Road with putting out an illegally burning trailer. Jim said new fire truck has low band radio for EMA Directors, which is a four-frequency radio. Only two trucks in Waldo County have this frequency and one is the Freedom fire truck. Jim said old fire truck can be put out for bid as soon as fire department has it ready. Jim would like to see the money go into reserve account for another replacement.

Discussion about Sale of Surplus Town Equipment: Elaine Higgins handed out draft policy. Steve said the Fire Department and Public Works are two most likely departments to sell items. Does every department have a capital reserve account? Ron confirmed Solid Waste has one. Post Office's account is not called a "capital reserve account". Elaine suggested there be a minimum bid set on each piece of equipment the Town sells.

Motion by Steve: To apply some of the language from real estate policy that says, Select Board can accept or refuse all bids. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Cindy said that a public sale of surplus property is not required to also be advertised in the newspaper.

Public Works: Travis Price asked if he could turn Payroll slip in other than on a Sunday? Dyann said Travis can drop off Accounts Payable on Thursdays and Payroll on Mondays. Travis said they worked on the pine interior in garage addition. Travis requested an Executive Session.

Motion by Ron: To go into Executive Session at 6:32pm for a Personnel Matter 1 MRSA 405(6)A. Executive Session ended at 6:50pm with no decision made.

Travis suggested May 16 – 20 & May 23 – 27 for Spring Clean Up this year. The last day for trash would be May 26th and May 27th would be just for metal. Joe asked that items being thrown out be sorted in piles by type at the end of people's driveways. Solid Waste does not take refrigerants or electronics. Townspeople need to take those directly to the Unity Area Recycling Center. \$2,500 is budgeted for Spring Clean Up this year. Ron spoke with Mike Carroll of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). MRC is going through the process to put in a staulking horse bid of \$1,500,000. If MRC wins bid, they will use \$1,000,000 to purchase Fiberight facility and \$500,000 to pay outstanding bills. They would need to raise \$20 million to run plant. Ron said that communities that have most of the waste going to facility will be asked to raise \$20 million. Steve said he is so fed up with MRC and this failed system of dealing with trash.

Citizen's Issues: Elaine said citizen asked if Town would have a document shredding company come to the Town Office? Cindy said there will be a truck coming, but this is just for Town Office papers. The Town pays by weight for the total pounds of paper that go through the shredder. Elaine will send name of company town uses to citizen.

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Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,775.96 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$10,613.81. The ending checkbook balance is \$352,507.06. Dyann said the switch to use Bangor Payroll will most likely begin on April 13th. The end of the first quarter is a busy time, and this is soonest Bangor Payroll can begin. Steve asked if the Town has already paid for the Payroll portion of Trio for this year. Dyann said the Town has not received the 2022 bill for Trio. Cindy said when the bill comes, we'll need to cross out Payroll portion and deduct that amount from total bill. Elaine had a draft email to send to Brenda at Trio. Steve requested that Elaine email it to him. Steve is in favor of sending this but wants to look it over to make sure everything is included. Steve suggested Select Board come back in on Thursday at 9am to sign this letter. Dyann said minimum wage increased in the State of Maine to \$12.75/hour and the 2022 wages need to be updated. Select Board signed 2022 wages.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,775.96 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$10,613.81. Steve 2nd, Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott said Jackie Robbins suggested putting porta potty at least 100 feet from the pond. Elaine suggested putting it at the first parking area as you drive in. Ron said it would be hard to find a place that is 100 feet from the water at boat landing, since a wetland is on one side of driveway/road to boat landing. Steve said he didn't think a porta potty was necessary. Ron suggested getting one porta potty for Mitchell Field that is handicapped accessible.

Motion by Elaine: To get a hold of AAA toilets to put handicapped porta potty at Mitchell Field from April – October. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Steve: To preserve minutes from Annual Town Meeting and preserve them with Cindy's record of votes in the vault and to continue taking minutes at the Town Meeting in future years. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Correspondence:

Hills to Sea Trail: Trail Maps and letter from Buck O'Herin thanking Town for \$150 donation approved at Town Meeting.

RSU #3: Letter about Special Board Workshop on March 31, 2022 at 6pm to review school budget and implications of budget for 11 communities. Elaine will RSVP to meeting for three people.

Town Official Reports:

CEO: Steve said Jackie Robbins inspected 67 Belfast Road property. Jackie sent Steve an email about inspection with five or six pictures. Steve sent this to Bill Kelly to get his opinion. Steve will report back when he hears from Bill.

Town Boards and Committees:

Recreation Committee: Cindy said they are planning the Easter event.

Old Business:

Steve said he has not had a chance to call Dan Corvette but will do it and give Dan, Cindy's phone number.

Steve said he will draft three letters to citizens that live on or need to access their property through discontinued portion of the Rollins Road, Davis Road and Timberwood Lane and have Bill Kelly look at the letters. Elaine said she spoke with citizen who has line across road on Timberwood Lane. Steve said that is illegal to put a line across the road. Elaine said citizen will take down line after sap is done.

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Ron said there is a sign hung up on Timberwood Lane that says road is closed. Elaine said she does not see issues with this, since there have not been complaints. Steve and Ron said they have received complaints about Rollins Road.

Motion by Steve: To send a letter to landowners on Timberwood Lane regarding saying the road is closed when it is not.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 abstention

Ron said the surveyor is marking the line between the Skidgel Lot and Freedom General and putting pins where they think they should be.

Steve would like to call RHR Smith, the Town's auditor, to find out if they recommend any other computer programs the Town could use that could be audited. Ron said if a vote came, he would not vote to change the program. He said Dyann is at a point of understanding Trio and he is concerned it would be even more work to switch programs. Elaine suggested the next time Trio is called, that all three Select Board members be present to discuss with Trio the ongoing problems and how to fix them.

Policies:

Culvert Installation and Maintenance Policy – Cindy said to clarify what are town roads and what is a State Road so people know who to contact about a culvert.

Permit Application – Steve said there were several changes. This is the cover letter that goes with any permit application.

Winter Roads Policy – there are a few small changes

Solid Waste Policy – Select Board reviewed it and made a few more changes

Discontinued and Abandoned Road Policy – Select Board feels they need to develop a policy but the one they had was not what they wanted.

Motion by Ron: To accept the Policy of Permit Application, Select Board Meeting Policy, Freedom Winter Roads Policy, Culvert Installation and Maintenance Policy. Unanimous.

Amanda requested to be emailed the policies that were changed, so she can update the website.

New Business: none

Motion to adjourn at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison