

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes November 8, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Tim Biggs and Amanda Jamison.
Present via Zoom: Eleonor MacMakin

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

Minutes: Ron Price gave update on work done since last meeting. Ron called Sheriff's Department about the boat landing. The Sheriff's Department will put boat landing on their patrol list. Ron talked with Jackie Robbins about Basil Barnes 9.59 acres parcel of land. Jackie said she would not assess it as an undeveloped lot. Ron sent information needed to Seacoast Security about Public Works garage. Elaine will call company about gutter shields.

Motion by Steve: To approve minutes as read from November 1 Select Board meeting and place on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said there was an automobile accident on Belfast Road today. Jim will be picking up Thanksgiving boxes from Waldo CAP on November 20th. Christmas food boxes are available on December 18th. Jim is checking on driving licenses of volunteer firefighters.

Public Works: Travis Price noticed a wood cutting operation that crosses Hutchins Road. Travis mentioned impact on the road with dragging wood across it. Travis has material being delivered on Wednesday to fix various town roads.

Motion by Elaine: To approve that expenditure for up to \$7,000 for material to improve roads. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Travis received bill from electrician for job at Public Works garage addition. Bill was for \$9,900, yet all the work has not been completed. Ron will call electrician about the bill. Travis would like to get electrician back to also look at new fuel tanks and wire them. Steve read updated Driveway Entrance Siting and Culvert Installation and Maintenance Policy.

Motion by Ron: To accept changes to Driveway Entrance Siting and Culvert Installation and Maintenance Policy and have document become part of policies for issuing permits. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Elaine had quote from Hammond Lumber for steel security door for Public Works Garage, \$500 - \$600.

Citizen's Issues: Eleonor MacMakin asked about the Town Lot formerly the Skidgell Lot, wondering what is happening with it. Steve explained role of the Community Development Advisory Committee, currently compiling a list of ideas for the lot. He also said two committee members are creating a survey of land use for the Town Lot that all townspeople will have opportunity to fill out.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,763.51 and A/P Warrant in the amount of \$9,129.63. The ending checkbook balance is \$554,581.02. Dyann worked with Amy Dunn on Sunday and focused on reconciling American Funds, Simple IRA payments. Dyann stated she needs to figure this out before she can work on balancing the checkbook. There was discussion about Trio and some problems the program is having. Ron asked if we need to get someone from Trio to come and help? Dyann said she does not think

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Trio can provide the type of support she needs. She asked for one or two weeks to figure out balancing the checkbook.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,763.51 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$9,129.63. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy Abbott said the election went very well. 273 ballots cast on election day and 43 absentee ballots. She said the drop box is not watertight. After the rainstorm, it was full of water. Ron said the drop box needs to be looked at to plan on how to fix it. Steve offered plexiglass that he has, if needed for the fix.

Motion by Ron: To have Cindy order a phone to replace broken phone for Town Office. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Select Board signed supplemental tax for Basil Barnes' 9.59 acres.

Correspondence:

Maine Municipal Employee Health Trust – a 4% increase for purchased health insurance for 2022.

Town Official Reports:

General Assistance: Elaine said an application has been completed and applicant now waiting on oil delivery.

Budget Committee: Elaine will see if she can find out how much Palermo pays to put up salt and sand.

Freedom Boosters & Recreation Committee: Veteran's Day gathering will be on November 11th at 11am. Outdoor flag raising and wreath laying followed by indoor finger food social in basement of church.

New Business: Ron said Travis has a lot of his own tools at the Public Works garage and wonders if his own tools are covered by insurance policy? Steve will check with insurance company to find out. It was also noted Travis should update his list of tools. This list is kept at the Town Office.

Ron said there will be a job interview taking place at the Town Office on Thursday, November 11th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison