

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes November 15, 2021

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

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

Motion by Steve: To approve minutes as read from November 8th Select Board meeting and place on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said there will be a banquet on 11/23 for Waldo County EMA Directors. He will pick up and deliver Thanksgiving food baskets this coming Saturday. The Hunter's Breakfast was successful. Jim said the firefighters are doing a major clean up in kitchen area of firehouse. The floor in kitchen and bathroom will be power washed and epoxy painted. Elaine talked about getting local food donations for next year's Hunter's Breakfast. Steve Bennett said he would donate maple syrup.

Public Works: Travis Price would like to clarify process of getting a driveway permit. The applicant must apply, and be approved by Travis first, prior to getting a building and septic permit. Steve has a draft cover letter that would accompany every permit request to clarify this process. Steve said this cover letter needs to be given to Jackie Robbins, CEO, so she knows that the driveway permit needs to be done first. Elaine would like to see a fine associated if person does not complete and have approved a driveway permit first. Steve felt that a fine would be overkill because if done properly, someone that does not get a driveway permit would not be able to get a building nor plumbing permit. Steve continued that if someone had a building and plumbing permit but did not receive a properly permitted driveway permit, those two other permits would be invalid. That could be very costly for a homeowner. Travis wants to protect infrastructure and drainage of town roads.

Motion by Steve: To approve cover letter and amended wording for driveway permit and make part of Select Board policies tonight. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Travis said he put down 353 tons of crushed ¾" minus on four dirt roads in town for \$7,729.43 for material and rental of equipment. Steve said he called MMA Risk Management about Travis's tools that he owns that are in the Public Works Garage. Currently the insurance does not protect his privately owned tools for theft. They are covered for loss or damage up to \$5,000. Steve will call and find out about a rider to cover Travis's tools.

School Board Representative: Ellie Hess gave an update to Board. She said the masking policy is on the agenda every month. Pooled testing for Covid-19 will begin at the High School November 30th and in the Middle School in December. She said the bus garage will be on next month's agenda. A proposal to build a new bus garage is on the table. The cost to build it will come from the Capital Improvement funds and won't cost the taxpayers. It will need to go before the voters to approve use of the funds. The plan is to have office space, bus washing station and lifts in new building. The district is facing declining enrollment. There is a new Director at the Waldo County Technical Center who began October 2021. The School Board is committed to increasing communication with parents and community and work on improving it.

Citizen's Issues: Joe Freeman said someone continues to throw garbage in ditch on N. Palermo Road. Ron said this townsperson needs a call or a visit to talk about this.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported three Payroll Warrants in the amount of \$4,206.78, \$691.74, \$691.74 for a total payroll of \$5,590.26 and A/P Warrant in the amount of

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\$15,241.68. The ending checkbook balance is \$542,587.07. Dyann worked with Amy Dunn on balancing a few months of the checkbook. Select Board said Dyann should include the November school payment in next week's warrant. Dyann said she is getting direct deposit set-up for Payroll.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,590.26 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$15,241.68. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy Abbott sent information about browntail moth to Select Board and to Amanda to put on the website. Cindy updated Board about a problem with Trio that she is working on with Jackie and will be fixed.

Correspondence:

Municipal Review Committee: Seeking nominations for their Board of Directors. Ron will vote.

Town Official Reports:

Budget Committee: Travis mentioned the cost of installing security system at garage needs to be in budget. It was decided this expense go under Public Works Department, Utilities. Elaine said that budgeting for installing heat pumps and a new water heater for Town Office need to be added to draft budget.

Freedom Boosters & Recreation Committee: Cindy said Veteran's Day went well with a small gathering of people. The committee plans to do free raffles for the holidays. She asked to redecorate the drop box to become a mailbox for letters to Santa. Select Board approved that.

Happy Stitches: Elaine said every Wednesday from 2pm – 3:30pm at the Town Office, everyone is welcome to come and bring hand work and socialize.

Old Business: Steve thought it best to wait to until the Annual Town Meeting to decide upon Junkyard and Automobile Statute and the Dilapidated Building Statute. Steve said he believes the Select Board should send a letter to Mr. Ripley, Mr. Feeney and Mr. Boudeau to take down their signs on discontinued roads. He noted the Town Attorney has recommended this action. Steve will contact Town Attorney, Bill Kelly, again about getting the right Quitclaim Deed that describes the purchase of Mr. Bagley's two lots. Karen York said there will be a CPR class in Montville on November 30th at the Montville Fire Station.

Motion to adjourn at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison