

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 22, 2021**

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

Steve Bennett noted the 58th anniversary of JFK's assassination.

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

Motion by Steve: To approve minutes as amended from November 15th Select Board meeting and place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said anyone getting a driveway permit needs to get a 911 address. He noted that it is currently not written in the building permit about getting a 911 address. The Select Board noted that and the need to amend the permits. Elaine asked if a wood harvesting operation needs a 911 address. Jim said that yes those do. Jim thanked Dave Bennett for epoxy painting the kitchen and bathroom in the firehouse. Jim delivered 12 boxes of food on Saturday to 12 Freedom residents. Jim said he gave out two new 911 addresses on Greeley Road.

Public Works: Ron Price noted that Travis Price is on vacation and gave report for him. Ron said Travis noted a drainage ditch installed around someone's entire property that drains into the town ditch along the road. Ron said there are a few other places in town where this is happening. Ron wanted to make Steve and Elaine aware of this and wondered if this should be addressed in the building permit package that starts with the driveway permit? Steve mentioned major storm events could impact the town's ditches if someone drains their property into it. He brought up Beaver Hill Road being impacted during a hurricane in the 1950s. Eleonor MacMakin acknowledged a climate emergency agenda that climate changes are happening and that towns be concerned about it.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported two Payroll Warrants in the amount of \$3,663.12 and \$1,437.16 for a total for Payroll Warrants of \$5,100.28. There are two A/P Warrants in the amount of \$61,561.39 and \$1,148.55 for a total of \$62,709.94. The ending checkbook balance is \$486,653.63. Dyann explained there is a second A/P Warrant because these payments were found from a debit card purchase, that needed to be input into Trio in order to balance the checkbook. Dyann sent 45-day foreclosure notices. She met with new Public Works employee to do paperwork.

Motion by Elaine: To allow Dyann to set up a remote work from home for the rest of the year. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrants in the amount of \$5,100.28 and the A/P Warrants in the amount of \$62,709.94. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott showed the brochure from the Unity Public Library and asked that the information be put on the Town's website. Cindy brought up an application for a property tax abatement that she hadn't heard from the Select Board about. Select Board reviewed it and asked if homeowner has application for homestead exemption on file to receive it? Cindy will contact landowner about this. Cindy said Town Office will be open Wednesday, 11/24 from 9am – 11am, closed Thursday for Thanksgiving. Next week Kristy Palmer will be in

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office Monday through Thursday as Cindy will be on vacation. Cindy did send Bill Kelly email about Quitclaim Deed for Blake and Hazard building.

Citizen's Issues: Eleonor MacMakin asked about Community Development Advisory Committee and the Skidgell Lot now known as the Town Lot. Steve explained there will be no meeting in December. They will meet again in January. Two committee members are working on a survey to send to townspeople about the Town Lot. Next meeting is Wednesday, January 5th at 6pm.

Correspondence:

Hospice Volunteers of Waterville area: Steve has letter asking for a monetary donation from the town.

Municipal Review Committee: Letter stating they are still in negotiation with a new buyer of the facility.

Town Official Reports:

Budget Committee: Next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2nd will go over General Government, Public Safety, Town Committees.

Solid Waste: Elaine Higgins reported for Joe Freeman that the Town of Freedom is no longer working with Montville. Montville will return recycling trailer by 12/1. Montville has their own trash collection system.

Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition: Elaine said the committee is looking into and learning about a new technology where broadband runs to a tower and then transmits the signal from the tower. Elaine wondered if the wind turbines could be tower that housed the broadband? Ron said that the wind turbines would not be suitable for that based on how they operate and turn at the top.

Old Business:

Rider for insurance: Steve followed up with insurance company about adding a rider to cover employee's tools, has not heard back.

Dumping Trash: Elaine will talk with person on N. Palermo Road dumping trash in ditch.

Bagley Lot: Bill Kelly has reviewed deeds describing Bagley Lot that the town has approval to purchase. Bill Kelly is not finding a deed description for the property the town wants to purchase. Ron said survey has been started by Boynton and Pickett and hopefully this survey will clear this up.

Junkyard and Automobile Graveyards and the Dangerous Buildings Statutes: Steve spoke with Bill Kelly who said a town does not need to adopt either one of these statutes. They can be enforced by the Select Board as is. Steve would like to apply the Dangerous Buildings Statute to the Anderson building and just start with one building in town at this time. Elaine agreed with that because by going through the process the Select Board would learn a lot.

Motion by Ron: To have Steve tell Bill Kelly that Select Board wants to start with the Anderson House using the Dangerous Buildings Statute. Unanimous.

Resident signs on discontinued roads: Steve said that something needs to be done about the signs hung by residents on Timberwood Lane and Rollins Road. Ron agrees that Steve's thoughts are correct. Ron is concerned about the town ending up in a legal battle. Ron

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wondered if people are complaining about the signs? The Select Board said they have heard of one person that couldn't get through due to a court decree.

Motion by Ron: To go into Executive Session for Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405(6)A to discuss a General Assistance application at 8:13pm.

At 8:25pm Select Board resumed regular meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison