

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
June 27, 2022**

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

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

Motion by Elaine: To accept June 21, 2022 minutes as amended place on file. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman reported hose testing was done. Jim gave copy of agreement with Knox to Select Board. Ron will follow up about Knox's payment.

Select Board opened sealed bids for 1981 GMC, 4X4, Model 3500, Freedom Volunteer Fire Department truck for sale.

- 1) Dustin Brown of Gardiner bid \$2,727.00
- 2) Peter M. Gagnon of Wiscasset bid \$3,250.52
- 3) John Sweeney of Mt. Desert bid \$4,785.00
- 4) Ronald Porter of Freedom bid \$3,453.00
- 5) Michael Willette of Winslow bid \$4,001.00
- 6) Richie Peterson of Unity bid \$3,500.00
- 7) Moe Hills of Belmont bid \$3,002.99
- 8) Brock Wakefield of Unity bid \$4,500.00
- 9) David Smith of Unity bid \$3,556.00
- 10) Prentice Grassi of Freedom bid \$3,260.00
- 11) Matt Curtis of Unity bid \$3,579.00
- 12) Eric Tarr of Holden bid \$3,379.99
- 13) Jeff Plummer of Palermo bid \$3,800.00
- 14) Elijah Giguere of Somerville bid \$4,400.00
- 15) Joe Travis of Palermo bid \$5,150.00
- 16) Mike Parks of Readfield bid \$5,051.00
- 17) Dana Willis of Castine bid \$6,543.00
- 18) David Flood of Belfast bid \$7,200.00
- 19) Ben Pierce of Bethel bid \$3,300.00
- 20) Justin Beaulieu of Wells River, VT bid \$2,828.00

Bid awarded to David Flood of Belfast for \$7,200.00

Public Works: Travis Price asked that excavator parts be billed half to capital reserve account and half to vehicle repair line. He reported the garbage truck is fixed. Discussion about ditching along Deer Hill Road to improve water drainage. Culvert will be installed at Toby Allan's place by Public Works. One culvert will be installed across from R. Littlefield's place for access to land and otherwise ditched along there. Select Board decided that if landowner wants more access to land beyond Public Works installing one culvert, then landowner will need to apply for a driveway permit and pay for additional culvert with Public Works installing it. Steve will call landowner to let landowner know one culvert installed and paid for by the Town and ditching cannot be filled in with gravel once completed.

Citizen's Issues: Ron reported that a landowner on Rollins Road asked about any town ordinances that deal with gravel pits, as the landowner is interested in opening a gravel pit on their property.

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Treasurer's Report: Ron read the Treasurer's report. The Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$10,740.65 and the A/P Warrant is in the amount of \$4,022.49. The ending checkbook balance is \$108,767.76.

1. The Town Office will be closed Friday, July 1st – Monday July, 4th.
2. CPA, Joanne Pease, worked with Cindy to correct Payroll deductions.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Joanne Pease out of Emergency Fund in the amount of \$1,700.
Unanimous.

3. Town received Maine Revenue Sharing check with a deduction of \$1,813.00 that Town owed to State for payroll taxes.
4. Spring Clean Up tipping fees totaled \$2,649.02 for 32 tons of waste.
5. R. Smith will work with Cindy to help get the checkbook balanced.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$10,740.65 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$4,022.49 and to put the school payment of \$52,112.00 on next week's warrant. Steve 2nd,
Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott sent out 30 day notices. Marc Payne gave the Town an old postcard of Freedom to donate to Historical Society.

Correspondence:

1. Letter from the Department of Environmental Protection stating they are going to be testing wells and soil in Freedom on identified parcels of land for PFAS.
2. Maine Municipal Association official ballot for legislative policy committee.

Motion by Steve: to mark ballot for David Michael Ray. Unanimous.

3. Second payment for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) came.

Town Official Reports: none

Town Boards and Committees:

Recreation Committee: Cindy said the next meeting is on July 6th at 4pm. Jim Waterman donated two swings to committee. Select Board advised Cindy to try to sell them as a fundraiser. They did not think MMA would approve the swings to be hung at Mitchell Field. August 20th will be the Town Parade. Committee is discussing doing a Trunk or Treat for Halloween. November 11, 2022 at 11am will be the Veteran's Ceremony. December 10, 2022 will be Christmas Craft Fair. Committee will discuss electronic sign they'd like to purchase for outside the Town Office.

Appeals Board: Ron spoke with Mike Smith about notifying landowner who filed appeal by letter of Appeals Board decision on appeal and sending it certified letter with return receipt.

Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Committee: Elaine reported that the Interlocal agreement decided on by committee will now go to all five towns for a vote. July 14, 2022 at 6pm will be a Public Hearing about the interlocal agreement. Steve will draft language for it. July 21, 2022 will be vote on interlocal agreement. Select Board wants to include a vote on warrant to make Treasurer's position appointed instead of elected. Warrant needs to be ready by July 7, 2022.

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Old Business:

1. Discussion about Town cemeteries. Steve has map and location of all cemeteries and who maintains them. Steve showed Elaine and Ron draft letter to landowner whose property abuts a Town cemetery. Steve will review list of cemeteries with Steve and Kim Holmes. Discussion about adding two State statutes to cemetery policy along with the list of cemeteries.
2. Discussion about nonprofit property tax exemption.

New Business:

Motion by Ron: To raise the hourly wage of Deputy Clerk and Select Board Secretary to \$17.00/hour. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:38pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison