

## **Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes**

May 31, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, and Kelsey Kobik.

Present on Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak and Cindy Abbott

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

**Motion** by Ron to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2022 meeting. Seconded by Elaine Higgins. Unanimous.

### **FVFD**

- Jim Waterman discussed findings of Seacoast Security inspection of the fire panel in the Town Office. Last time anything was inspected in Town properties was in 2012. Jim recommended that they should be inspected at least every year and asked if the Town would like Seacoast Security to conduct yearly inspections. Ron and Elaine thought it was a good idea but no motion or vote was taken.
- The MMA safety grant was approved. FVFD had put in for \$772 for prevention of slips and falls and used the money for good ice cleats sized for each member of the department.
- The relabeling for Truck 3 is in progress to update it with Freedom VFD labeling. It was done enough that it went over to the Memorial Day Parade on 5/30 in Unity and members of the department threw candy and waved to the crowd from the truck.
- On 6/22/22, FVFD will conduct hose and ladder testing at the Thorndike Fire Department along with the Troy Fire Department and the Failsafe team from New Jersey.
- The flyer advertising sale of the old truck is ready and will be distributed around town. The truck will be parked (locked up) with a flyer on the windshield in front of the Town Office.
- Fuel prices are very high and it is affecting costs as well as raising concerns about heating assistance funds for the community for the coming winter.
- The property at the SE corner of Greely and North Palermo Rd has a new trailer out back and code enforcement is aware and has been in communication with occupants.
- Between 794 and 820 North Palermo Rd, there is a car and a bunch of scrap and building material in the woods.
- Jim Waterman left at 6:28.

### **Public Works**

- Travis noted that all paychecks issued by the Town this weeks were issued as though it was all overtime hours at 1.5x rate, with no hours paid at regular rate. After some discussion all were in agreement that it was a mistake, Ron set the issue aside to be discussed later with Cindy, who had not joined the meeting yet.
- Discussion of logistics for having police present during tree work scheduled to be done on Deer Hill Rd. The workers will have to stop all work to let traffic pass.
- The department is planning to spend about \$1300 on brake work on the Sterling.
- Travis asked if we know the final tonnage on Spring bulk pickup. Ron answered that we'll know when we get the bill from the landfill. Tires will be counted separately. Metal scrap will be separate.
- We haven't paid the bill on the work done on Smithton Rd yet because there is some concern about the quality of the work as well as what we are being charged for. Travis plans to talk to the supervisor of the work to discuss the bill.

Cindy joined the meeting and there was more discussion to confirm the overtime mistake with the payroll.

Cindy does not know how it happened. Cindy and Ron plan to straighten it out tomorrow.

### **Treasurer's Report (read by Ron):**

- A/P is \$147,425.23.
- Discussion about RSU#3 school payments.
- The plan is for Bangor to take over payroll.
- The new copier was delivered on 5/27 and is set up.

- Juneteenth needs to be added to the policies as a holiday: 6/19.
- Discussion of Camden National deductions check.
- Cindy is meeting with CPA tomorrow and working on figuring out how to do Quarterly Reports.
- Question of whether to accept Diane and Amy's worksheets. Ron and Elaine opted to delay it until Steve can be included in the vote.
- Work is coming along with American Funds but there are still several weeks' worth of differences to be resolved.
- **Motion** to sign Treasurer's Report seconded and unanimously accepted.

**Clerk:**

- Cindy will be doing the end of month report for May. Through the raffle, we raised \$1,000 for the Fire Department, and then a member of the Fire Department won the raffle, so in all the department raised \$2000. They also got their flags for Memorial Day. Kim and Steve put out 60 flags on Saturday afternoon. A few of them need to be fixed. Work is underway on election stuff.
- The Charter Committee has some questions for the Board but Cindy's plate is very full and she has not had time to get back to them.
- 2 computer monitors, a keyboard, and a mouse are on order from Staples. One monitor is for the garage and one is for the office.
- **Motion** to pay A/P by Elaine.
- Seconded by Ron. Unanimous.

**Motion** to table payroll for now and accept it after it is straightened out and approved by all 3 selectmen.  
Seconded by Elaine. Unanimous.

No citizen issues or questions.  
No news from committees.  
No other reports from town officers.

**Old Business**

- New tank for office bathroom.
- TAN loan.
- Cindy is staying on until March.
- CPA is coming tomorrow.
- If we want to have an open Town Meeting, we can set it up within 7 days as long as there's no closed balloting or a referendum.

**Motion** by Elaine to organize a workshop of the Select Board to work on above issues.  
Seconded by Ron. Unanimous.

Review of Holiday Policy and whether it applies to people who don't work a 52-week schedule. Discussion of how holiday pay works.

**New Business**

- Cindy is working with the CPA.
- No new info on the Peace Ridge construction project other than they have broken ground. Where they are working is just barely within the Freedom Town line.
- There's a new septic system up on the Rollins Road that looks like it's probably a replacement.
- Signed notice of a Change of Treasurer

Ron: **Motion** to Adjourn

Elaine Second.  
Meeting Adjourned 7:10pm  
Sumbitted by Kelsey Kobik, substitute volunteer minutes keeper.