

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes July 18, 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 Steve: To accept minutes as amended from July 11, 2022 and place on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: no report

Public Works: Travis Price asked about sick time/PTO policy. Select Board said Town will give full-time employees who are employed on January 1st, 40 hours of sick time/PTO time up front for the year, instead of waiting to accrue it. Those full-time employees who start at another time of year, would accrue one hour of sick time/PTO for every 40 hours worked. Overtime does not count to accrue sick time. Travis would like hours reflected on his paystub. Travis brought up three current instances where people are not following the permitting process laid out by the Select Board in their Select Board Policies. Travis expressed the need to follow up on these and implement the Select Board Policies for permitting driveways, buildings, and septic systems.

Motion by Steve: To have Jackie Robbins, CEO, take action against Brandon Suitor and inform him he'll get a per day fee levied every day that he doesn't have a driveway permit and any other permit he needs. Unanimous.

Motion by Elaine: That Travis gets a sign for Beaver Ridge turn around that says, "No parking in turn around. Vehicle will be towed." Unanimous.

Ron will talk with Jackie about contacting landowner about a driveway installed without a driveway permit on Mitchell Road for a camper.

Ron said 4-cycle weed whips are on back order at Chase's. All agreed to order it, and in the meantime, the maintenance employee can use the Public Works weed whip.

Citizen's Issues: Elaine said a citizen reported people using boat landing after dark. Ron will call Waldo County Sheriff's Office to remind them to monitor it after dark.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,359.43 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$16,059.59. The ending checkbook balance is \$86,060.43.

Motion by Ron: To approve Treasurer's Report and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,359.43 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$16,059.59. Steve 2nd, Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott said Elaine will take the 38 liens to the Waldo County Registry on Wednesday.

Correspondence:

1. Harris – August 22 & 23 will be a Trio Users Conference. Two full days of complimentary sessions, support clinics.
2. Property Tax Freeze – State program for anyone over 65 for 2023.
3. Maine Municipal Association ballot that Select Board will complete.

Town Official Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer: Steve reported that Health Officer, Code Enforcement Officer and Animal Control Officer visited a property on Bryant Road. Jackie Robbins, CEO, has sent

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a certified, follow up letter to property owner and tenants. Discussion that historically, certified letters sometimes don't get accepted by receiver. Select Board agreed any certified letter needs to also be sent with PS Form 3817 and record of Form 3817 be kept at the Town Office. Steve said Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, suggested that Select Board give property owner 30 days to begin cleaning up property. If no action occurs during 30 days, then next steps need to be taken.

Discussion about property on Belfast Road that Jackie Robbins visited. Jackie sent two certified letters, but no card has been returned to signify letters were accepted. Discussion about sending another letter with Form 3817. Select Board decided to wait to take action until next Monday, July 25, 2022 to see if certified letter card arrives at Town Office, acknowledging receipt of letter. If not, then Select Board proceeds with next steps decided at next meeting.

Town Boards and Committees:

Recreation Committee: Cindy asked Select Board to vote on theme for parade, from suggestions received. Select Board decided on "Celebrating Freedom".

Old Business: none

New Business: Steve showed a picture of the post office building. A truck backed into side of building. Ron will call Kenny Overlock about fixing it.

Motion by Ron: To adopt Policy for PTO/Sick Time and vacation for full-time employees. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison