

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes August 30, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dyann Anderson, Cindy Abbott, Tyler Hadyniak, Wilson Hess, Anne-Marie Adamson and Amanda Jamison

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

Motion by Elaine: To accept minutes from August 16th as amended and place them on file. Unanimous.

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes from August 23rd as amended and place them on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said there is a copy of the Waldo County Emergency Management Association long term recovery plan in the Town Office. This plan addresses if there were a major catastrophic event that affects municipalities. In regard to fire department capital reserve account, Jim notes that the money that gets rolled over year to year does not always show in the Annual Town Report. He is concerned about that. He believes there is a discrepancy in what he believes is in the account versus what the Town Report shows.

Public Works: Travis Price gave an update about Town Garage addition. The overhead doors have been installed. He is working on the interior walls.

Motion by Elaine: To sign letter to Deer Hill residents and landowner abutters. Steve 2nd.

Motion amended: To sign letter to Deer Hill residents and landowner abutters and mail it by certificate of mailing. Unanimous.

Southwest Waldo County Broadband Coalition: Wilson Hess let the Select Board know that he came to the meeting to answer any questions they may have in regard to what the coalition is doing. He asked the Select Board to read the Warrant to request funds for feasibility study that will be voted on at the Special Town Meeting. Wilson showed a map made by Connect ME that shows the speed of internet in our area. Wilson also recognized the work of Phil Bloomstein in this effort to expand broadband.

Citizen's Issues: Tyler Hadyniak presented the Board with a packet entitled "Beaver Ridge Road Status Clarification" which summarizes his legal findings about the status of the road. His research found the road is trifurcated: abandoned, discontinued with public access, and maintained. Tyler requested Select Board read his findings, and if Select Board endorses his findings, he asks that the Select Board record it in the Registry of Deeds. Tyler felt this clarification would be good for current residents and future residents. Select Board requested that Tyler come to next week's meeting, so they had time to read his research and discuss next week.

Ron said he received call from Rhoda Waller wondering if the town would cut out the tent caterpillar nests at the end of branches specifically on Greeley Road and N. Palermo Road. Steve said the town usually only trims limbs when they cause obstruction for cars to pass. Elaine will call Rhoda to follow up.

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Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$8,521.83. There is no A/P Warrant this week due to issues with Trio. Checks received this week: Maine Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$10,663.73; Post Office August rent in the amount of \$661.50; MRC in the amount of \$83.28.

Motion by Elaine: To approve and pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$8,521.83. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Elaine called Trio and let them know that the Town can not do business when the program does not work. The person Elaine spoke with agreed that it is a problem with the program not operator error.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott had report from 2018 until now on people that have not renewed the license for their dog.

Motion by Ron: To give list of delinquent dog registrations to Peter Nerber to contact all of them. Don't collect late fee but do collect registration fee for 2021. If dog owner does not pay fee in 30 days, they will have to pay late fee for every year that dog has not been licensed. Unanimous.

Select Board said Cindy should go ahead with Beaver Ridge Wind abatement. Cindy said excise agreements back from Montville, Jackson and Thorndike, waiting for Knox, and she needs to send one to Unity.

Correspondence:

Hospice Volunteers: Ron read they are looking for volunteers.

American Recovery Plan: Ron read the town needs to make an application for the funds online. Ron will look into doing this.

DEP funding: They are accepting proposals to pay a portion for stream crossing replacements/culverts. Accepting proposals 8/30-11/19.

Town Official Reports:

Cemetery Committee: Stones have been ordered.

Budget Committee: Next meeting is September 15th at 7pm, Town Office.

Elaine brought up the importance of members staying connected throughout the entire process. Elaine thought the Treasurer should be involved. Ron agreed that it is helpful for the Treasurer to be able to provide information as needed for committee.

Old Business:

Motion by Steve: To authorize Amanda to pay Wix fee for hosting new website with debit card. Unanimous.

Steve still trying to call Black Hills Stock to get process going to reinvest dividends.

Motion by Ron: To send letter out to town. Letter will be finalized and Select Board will sign tomorrow and send with ordinance and warrant to all residents of town. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison