

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes January 3, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Tim Biggs and Amanda Jamison.
Present via Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak

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

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes as amended from December 27th Select Board meeting and place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said washing machine is broken at fire department and looking for someone to repair it. The department responded to a chimney fire in Albion. Jim will give association's cash flow through end of year to Steve. Jim will call Interstate again about Town Office fire extinguishers. Ron said all paperwork has been submitted to Sawkill Fire Department in New York to purchase truck. Jim said the department had 100 calls this past year. January 10, 2022 will be election of officers and on January 17, 2022 department will conduct fit testing of equipment.

Public Works: Ron Price gave report for Travis Price. Public Works has worked on Town Garage addition, bathroom door has been installed.

Motion by Ron: To post Public Works Maintenance worker position on website. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,983.27 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$23,784.44. The ending checkbook balance is \$447,034.74. Dyann and Select Board discussed which account to take money from for new fire truck. Dyann will work with Trio on correct way to enter straight time pay approved at last week's meeting. Steve said for employees to let Board know way in advance if someone has vacation time they are not going to use.

Motion by Elaine: To approve Treasurer's report and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,983.27 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$23,784.44. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott gave list of 2019 taxes not paid to Select Board. There are seven properties on the list. If not paid by Monday, January 10, 2022, it will result in foreclosure. There are 34 accounts not paid for 2020 taxes resulting in \$43,679.90 of unpaid taxes to date. There are 112 accounts not paid for 2021 taxes resulting in around \$134,000 taxes unpaid to date. Excise taxes received for 2021 are \$145,066.59 compared to 2020 excise taxes of \$133,540.12. 2021 cash receipting took in \$1,748,213.68.

Citizen's Issues: Elaine Higgins offered Freedom Community Historical Society Freedom Academy yearbooks. Tyler Hadyniak accepted those and said there will be a room in Keen Hall that will be a repository for items such as the yearbooks.

Correspondence: Donation requests from Hills to Sea Trail and the Woodshed.

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Town Official Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer: Ron said Jackie Robbins will write report for Town Report.

Health Official: Ron said there is someone interested in doing the job. Steve will speak with Frances Walker.

Town Boards and Committees:

Recreation Committee: Cindy said drawing for Walmart raffle is done. Stephan Whittard was the winner. Freedom Winter Fest will be on Saturday, February 19, 2022. The Recreation committee will have food at the Town Office.

Town Charter Committee: Cindy said the nominees still need a few more signatures on their ballots. It is important to note that there needs to be six people elected to Town Charter Committee and there are six people running. This is a noncompetitive election.

Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC): Next meeting Wednesday, January 5, 2022

Budget Committee: Next meeting Thursday, January 6, 2022

Old Business: Elaine asked about trailer on High Street. Ron said no change to report at this time. He is still working on it.

New Business: Steve brought draft 2022 budget to review with Select Board. There is a carryover in the General Government line. At this point, Steve is showing it as a deduction in the current budget. Dyann Anderson is looking into health insurance line expenditure for 2021. Cindy said the line for supplies for Town Office went over budget for 2021. That has never happened before. Going to move expense for portal for Dyann to work from home from supplies to contracted services line.

Motion by Steve: To go into Executive Session at 7:30pm for Legal Matter 1 MRSA 405(6)E per instruction from Town Attorney.

At 8:00pm resumed regular Select Board meeting with no decision made during Executive Session.

Motion by Ron: To have Executive Session for Legal Matter 1 MRSA 405(6)E on Thursday, January 6, 2022, time to be determined. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison