

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes January 24, 2022

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

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 5:58pm.

Ron discussed concern that Dyann Anderson is experiencing a lot of interruptions when she works on Sundays. He expressed to everyone to let Dyann have the facility on Sunday to get her work done.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said repair person came about washing machine. Found the problem to be water flow. Jim will investigate that tonight in the firehouse. Business meeting tonight with inspection of turn out gear. Currently three volunteer firefighters have Covid-19.

Public Works: Travis Price reported the new camera is installed over citizen sand shed and fuel tanks. Ryan and Travis worked on electrical in town garage addition. Elaine looked at cost of welders, discussion followed about type of welder the town needs, since currently using Travis's own welder.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,965.20 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$13,652.40. The ending checkbook balance is \$427,417.20. Dyann said she reached out to the auditor to get that set up. She is working with someone from MMA to help understand figures for employee health insurance on payroll. She worked with Alyssa to print W2 for employees. They encountered a glitch with Trio and could not run reports. Trio help will be at the office on Monday the 31st. Select Board agreed that January school payment should be on next week's A/P Warrant. Elaine received a quote from ADP Payroll Service. Dyann will get one from Bangor Savings Bank Payroll division and then quotes will be compared.

Motion by Elaine: To accept Treasurer's report and pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,965.20 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$13,652.40. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes as amended from January 18, 2022 Select Board meeting and place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott said that Select Board decision at prior meeting to waive David and Elizabeth Soper's remaining tax of \$6.53 needs to be an abatement.

Motion by Ron: To sign abatement form for David and Elizabeth Soper. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Cindy said 2022 Republican Caucus is on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 9am at the Wentworth Center in Belfast. Cindy must be there for the first hour to register any voters. Cindy will arrive at Town Office around 10:30am. Therefore, office will open at 10:30am rather than 9:00am that Saturday, March 5, 2022. Cindy said auditor wants specifics about \$164,000 figure. Steve will look into this. Cindy said she needs to receive information for mailing by February 7th.

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Citizen's Issues: none

Correspondence:

Maine Surplus Property –
Trio bill – Itemized bill showing Payroll portion costs \$398.99.
Municipal Review Committee (MRC) – Agenda for Public Meeting on 1/26.

Town Boards and Committees:

Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC): Steve reported the survey is not ready yet. Steve invited Colleen Hanlon-Smith from Daybreak Growers Alliance to next week's meeting. Steve talked with Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, about any outside group/business leasing space at the Skidgel Lot. It was advised that the town will need an agreement with anyone that wants to do something on the land. If a lease results, it will need to be a vote of the town.

Recreation Committee: Cindy asked if the committee could use the election hall as a warming station and for refreshments for Winterfest. The Freedom Community Historical Society felt there would be more space there for folks to distance themselves.

Motion by Ron: To use Election Hall for warming center and refreshments. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Official Reports:

General Assistance: Emergency request received.

Old Business: Ron will talk with Bill Kelly about the town's right to move trailer off High Street and report back to board. Ron is going to meet with a person with historical knowledge of line between Freedom General Store and Skidgel Lot. Steve showed letter from Marie Lougee about Bagley lot. Steve spoke with Bill Kelly about draft discontinued roads policy. Elaine asked if it should be an ordinance or policy. Select Board can adopt a policy, an ordinance needs to be passed by townspeople. It was agreed this should be a policy.

Motion by Ron: To go into Executive Session at 7:52pm for a Legal Matter, 1 MRSA 405 (6)E. At 8:05pm Executive Session ended; meeting resumed with no decision made.

New Business: none

Motion to adjourn at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison