

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes  
May 23, 2022**

**Present:** Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Wilson Hess, Toby Allan, Kenneth Overlock and Amanda Jamison.  
Present on Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak

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

**Motion** by Steve: To accept May 16, 2022 minutes as amended place on file. Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**FVFD:** Jim Waterman discussed Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance and proposed a change for it to include, the Fire Chief has a longer period of time to file claim, 10 days, with Central Maine Cost Recovery.

**Motion** by Elaine: To make changes as requested by Fire Chief. Unanimous.

Jim ordered propane heater for kitchen area of firehouse. The heater should be delivered tomorrow. The MMA Safety grant has been approved for ice grips. Jim will order them and will be reimbursed for 2/3 of total cost.

**Public Works:** Travis Price discussed tree work to be done on Deer Hill Road after Toby Allan asked for details of work to be completed. Steve will call Bill Kelly to have letter about tree work by June 2, 2022. Discussion about whether to close a town road or not when paving. Select Board agreed that next year this needs to be discussed and decided ahead of paving so that communicating for a quote with paving company is clear and that there is clear communication with residents that live along any road that will be paved. Travis discussed need to buy material to back up the paving that was just completed on Beaver Hill Road and Rollins Road. Travis said with both paving and material purchase for Smithton Road coming in over budget and purchase of material to back up paving, this will be around \$12,000 over budget. Select Board said to cover the cost this year, money will need to come from Winter Roads lines. Travis asked that for following years, the Budget Committee add a dedicated "equipment replacement fund," so that money is set aside every year for equipment. Discussion about budgeting a certain amount of money per year to go to Public Works Capital Reserve Account rather than just relying on end of year surplus that rolls over to account. Travis completed opening roads for Spinney and Hutchinson Road cemetery access. The Town is required to maintain access to ancient burial grounds. Travis discussed parts needed to do work on tracks on excavator.

**Motion** by Elaine: To authorize Travis to get new tracks for excavator at a cost of \$8,392, half of expense coming out of Town Garage line and half of expense coming out of Capital Reserve Account. Unanimous.

**Motion** by Ron: To authorize Travis to purchase signs. Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**Citizen's Issues:** none

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron Price reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,514.18 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$61,232.14. The ending checkbook balance is \$225,380.61. The A/P Warrant has the March 2022 school payment included. Paperwork has been sent to Bangor Saving Bank for payroll service to begin.

**Motion** by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,514.18 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$61,232.14. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>, Unanimous.

**Motion** by Elaine: To have Ron sign the 2021 audit and send back to auditors. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

## **Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes May 23, 2022**

**Motion** by Ron: To authorize Steve to finish contract with Camden National Bank to get Tax Anticipatory Note (TAN). Unanimous.

**Motion** by Elaine: To appoint Cynthia Abbott as Treasurer of the Town of Freedom. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:** Cindy Abbott said Town Office will be closed on Monday, the 30<sup>th</sup>, due to Memorial Day Holiday.

### **Correspondence:**

1. Waldo County Emergency Management Agency: Creating a Family Emergency Preparedness Plan, Thursday, June 2, 2022, 7pm – 8pm.
2. School Budget Meeting, Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 5:30 and 6:30pm.

### **Town Official Reports:**

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Jacki Robbins is working on the Errors and Omissions Survey.

**General Assistance:** Elaine said there is one pending. Another application was denied because applicant was over income.

### **Town Boards and Committees:**

**Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition:** Elaine Higgins thanked the Town for use of Town's Zoom account. The SWCBC now has their own Zoom account. Elaine Higgins and Wilson Hess gave update about coalition's work. Based on the completion and recommendation in the feasibility study, the Board of the SWCBC voted to create a utility district. The creation of utility district will need all five towns, Freedom, Liberty, Montville, Palermo and Searsmont to sign an interlocal agreement. This agreement will allow for all five towns to work together to create a Broadband Utility District that has local representation. For a Town to sign this agreement, this needs to go to voters at a Special Town Meeting.

**Cemetery Committee:** Kenneth Overlock asked Select Board a few questions about Smithton Cemetery.

1. What is status of Black Hills account?
2. Could the Thurston CD be cased out?
3. Requested \$750 in Town Budget for 2023.

Steve will look into these questions and get back to Cemetery Committee.

**Budget Committee:** Next meeting Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 6pm.

**Recreation Committee:** Cindy said students from Mt. View Middle School will be volunteering to clear trail behind Mitchell Field this Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Cindy said the fundraising for flags and flag holders is close to raising enough funds to purchase them. The committee would like to have flags in cemeteries by Memorial Day.

**Motion** by Ron: To authorize Cindy to order flags and keep track of money. Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**Old Business:** Joe Freeman asked for clarification on wording in Employee Holiday Policy. Select Board agreed wording should be rewritten for clarification.

**New Business:** none

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison