

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes October 25, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Joe Freeman, Rene Ouellet, Peter Nerber and Amanda Jamison.
Present via Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak and Meredith Coffin.

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes from October 18 Select Board meeting as amended. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD:

Motion by Ron: To sign Freedom Volunteer Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron said the audit of the fire department funds has been completed and that money will be transferred officially on 12/31/21. Jim Waterman said he has inquired about a 2003 4X4 Ford 550 power stroke, diesel mini pumper located in Alabama.

Public Works: Travis Price said road work on Greeley Road will be finished tomorrow. Then he will put material in the ruts by mailboxes. The pad and conduit are in for the fuel tanks.

Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber said a skunk, that was found dead in a pig enclosure on someone's property on Raven Road, tested positive for rabies. Peter said to pass along to citizens that rabies is active in the area. Department of Agriculture will now work with landowner. Steve Bennett said there have been many complaints about animals in the road on Bryant Road. Peter has been to this property twice about animals in road and unlicensed dog. Peter will go to home on Bryant Road and ask for proof of vaccination and give a summons to them due to unlicensed dogs. Peter will also visit house on Bennett Lane.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$8,830.50 and A/P Warrant in the amount of \$56,923.09. The ending checkbook balance is \$525,984.07. Dyann said she is working on the Payroll deductions: Aflac, Memic and the IRA. Amy Dunn may be more available to work with Dyann. Elaine said she reached out to Harris, Local Government agency to get some help for Dyann. Elaine said what they offered didn't quite match what the Town needs. Ron would like to get stuff done in house. Elaine will call Harris and let them know.

Motion by Ron: To accept Treasurer's Report and sign warrants. Elaine 2nd. 2 votes in favor, 1 absent. Motion carries.

Citizen's Issues: Joe Freeman wondered when Raven Road will be paved? Select Board let Joe know the next Budget Committee meeting will be about next year's Public Works budget and encouraged him to come to the meeting.

Motion by Ron: To sign sympathy card for Willy Letourneau's family. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

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Town Charter Commission: Ron explained Town Charter process to townspeople at meeting. Rene Ouellet said he would like to take out papers to run for one of the elected positions on the Town Charter Commission. Select Board advised him to see Cindy to take out papers.

Town Committees:

Budget Committee: Next meeting is on Wednesday, November 17th at 6pm.

FVFD: Saturday, November 13th from 5am – 10am will host a Hunter's Breakfast.

Freedom Boosters & Recreation Committee: Sunday, October 31st will host a Trunk or Treat at the Town Office from 2pm – 4pm.

Town Clerk: Cindy Abbott said there will be an abatement for Rene Ouellet whose property was over assessed. Cindy asked Select Board about interest accrued on Avian Haven property. Steve said they do need to pay the interest. Cindy will let them know. Cindy explained papers can be taken out one hundred days before an election. Therefore, the earliest an election could take place for people running for the Town Charter Commission would be early February, which is only one month before annual election of officers prior to Town Meeting. Discussion continued about how to get working on Town Charter. Tyler Hadyniak read the Statute. Rene Ouellet suggested gathering Town Charters from other towns to review, so that once elected, the commission could attend first meeting prepared. Cindy said she turned on heat in Election Hall. The election is Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The handicap accessibility machine is set up ready to go. Cindy reported not as many absentee ballots this year, may process them on election day. Cindy received Purchase and Sale agreement for Bagley property. Cindy has not seen the quitclaim deed for property on Greeley Road.

Motion by Steve: To authorize Ron, as Chair, to sign work agreement with Boynton and Pickett on behalf of Freedom. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman said Freedom will be picking up Montville's trash for just four more weeks.

Old Business: Ron sent Seacoast Security a diagram of Public Works garage to get quote for security system. Ron suggested the door to Public Works garage should be changed to an all-steel door with no window. Ron will research cost of door and propose it for next year's budget.

Motion to adjourn at 7:24pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison