

**APPROVED MINUTES
FREEDOM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 21st 2015**

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PRESENT: Selectmen Ron Price (Chair), Ken Overlock and Steve Bennett. Also in attendance were Erna Keller, Barb Littlefield, Frances Walker, Scott Holmes, Kim & Steve Holmes, Jackie Robbins, Mike McCoy-Montville, Myrick Cross and superintendant Paul Austin.

REVIEW MINUTES: Minutes from September 14th 2015 were reviewed. Steve/Ken, made motions, to accept with one added comment (under comments add Steve stated Bob at a special town meeting a citizen can't take out absentee ballots-A citizen has to be there to vote.) and place on file; motions passed.

CITIZEN'S ISSUES:

- selectmen introduced them selves to Paul Austin-new superintendant for Mt View
- Paul Austin- Thank You and I am delighted to be here
- I want everyone to know that the lines of communication is always open, if you need anything just call me. Whether it is about the budget or some other issue.
- Steve: Last week we saw Paul bar-b-qing at central office
- Paul Austin- That was my thank you to central office for all the hard work they have done. We are people doing the best we can do.
- Steve: What goals do you have?
- Paul Austin- My personal goal is to survive and get out and meet as many people as I can in our community.
- My fathers from Thorndike and a proud alumni of Freedom Academy.
- My grandmother lived in Thorndike Lillian Austin
- I am going to try and get to a select board meeting in each town
- Ken: When will you be holding the meeting for the selectmen?
- Paul Austin: Proactive-would like to meet before budget is set.
- District wide- We are preparing our students for the absolute best for their future.
- The community gives me the key to the front door and what they would like.
- Taxes: increase in the budget, how to balance both to get the best quality school for the budget we come up with.
- We need to work with our Senate and Legislature
- We are up against it... If we keep things exactly the same there will be an increase of 2 to 2 1/2% increase. What can be shaved that won't hurt anyone?
- There are 20-23 students per classroom
- 80% of budget is salary. How do we effectively & efficiently maximize the budget
- Steve: How is moral after 25 teachers left
- Paul Austin: There has been alot of turnover. We have 18-20 right out of college that we are introducing to the district. This is a great community to raise a family.
- Major initiative is not to have such a big turnover.
- Ken: If you did a poll of whether it is easier or harder - It would be around 60% for harder. The cost vs everyones income. Peoples income is not increasing to cover the high cost of living.
- Paul Austin: No recovery yet from the 2008 recession
- Need to work with Augusta and try to change the structure. Augusta needs to realize that if you live in Westbrook compared to here -80% poverty, it's different and they need to do some restructuring to help the smaller communities.
- Community program -All kids eat free
- We have to be very creative

- Don't be shy to ask questions- We are in difficult times and we need to work together to make it home
- SELECTMEN: THANK YOU FOR COMING & WELCOOME TO THE COMMUNITY.
- Jackie: It is nice to have someone with roots here
- Paul Austin: My goal is 13 to 15 years is my intent. This isn't a stop over. I need to make sure I am effective-Don't be a stranger.
- Ken: If you see ways to impact Augusta please call us
- Kim: Are you a sit behind your desk or a get out in the schools kind of guy?
- Paul Austin: Reality is I have only 2 days so far that I haven't been out in the schools or in the community meeting people & students. I love football and have been to every game so far.
- **Michael McCoy:**
- I have a complaint against my neighbor on the Penney Road. They are hosting weddings out of their house. We have a 10 month old who has been woke up from the fireworks. Is there any ordinances or zoning issues for this? He also has golf course there and I have a whole bin full of golf balls in my vehicle.
- Steve: No Zoning- sounds like commercial activity
- Jackie: You are talking about Richardsons- I will look into it and get some answers
- Ron- At this point and time we will have to wait for our code enforcement officer to look into and report back
- Jackie: I will call Montville and check to see what there ordinaces are. Jeff lives in Freedom and Montville.

TREASURER:

Erna reported:

Payroll Warrant..... \$1414.19
 A/P Warrant..... \$4163.43
 Ending checkbook balance.....\$594,801.66

- Payroll Warrant this week is \$1414.19 (clerk, treasurer, cleaning lady & road crew)
- A/P this week is \$4163.43

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|------|--|----------|----------|--|--|----|-------------------------------------|
| 1759 | | 239.08 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00007 CENTRAL MAINE POWER CO. |
| 1760 | | 443.19 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00010 FREEDOM GENERAL STORE |
| 1761 | | 132.64 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00012 THORNDIKE AUTO PARTS |
| 1762 | | 1,498.00 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00019 TREASURER, STATE OF MAINE-BMV |
| 1763 | | 242.13 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00036 655-Fairpoint Communications |
| 1764 | | 85.00 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00052 AAA PORTABLE TOILETS |
| 1765 | | 1,122.00 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00054 FIRE TECH & SAFETY |
| 1766 | | 129.00 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00069 PITNEY BOWES |
| 1767 | | 235.99 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00138 MAC'S HARDWARE |
| 1768 | | 36.40 | 09/21/15 | | | 81 | 00605 Robert Hermon |

- **Ending Checkbook balance.....\$594,801.66**
- We received a check from Revenue Sharing for September \$2971.91 and 2015 Homestead first payment \$15,876.00
- MMA Convention- R U Going ?
- I will not be here at next selectmen's meeting April 28th . I am looking for someone to do minutes or at least tape-I can do minutes from that. (Sallyann)
- Rec'd Thank You for County Taxes

- Cindy & I will be in Bangor at State Election Training Wed & Thurs this week

Ron/Steve moved to accept and sign the payroll; motion passed.
Ron/Steve moved to sign the A/P warrant; motion passed.

TOWN CLERK:

Cindy reported:

- Today was last day of 2%

FIRE DEPT:

ACO:

- Scott: We still have unregistered dogs, health issue and dogs being sold
- Selectmen met with ACO & Health Officer last Monday. They would like to get CEO involved with this matter
- Barb: As far as I know she is now waiting for housing to open in Unity. There is only one puppy left. She still has 3 adult dogs but is planning on keeping just 1
- Frances: Maybe we should wait and give her a little more time
- Ken: Sounds like there has been an improvement
- discussion
- Selectmen agreed to give more time in hopes that this issue will rectify itself

PLANNING BOARD:

- Steve: They would like Jackie to meet with them once a month
- Jackie: Look at schedule and will try to work it in
- Steve: Could we move the filing cabinets back here so they can use.
- Cindy: They just need a key to get into the other building to use their filing cabinets

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **Ken/Steve** motion to go into executive session @ 7:20 pm with the cemetery committee
- Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6) E
- Returned at 7:30 pm no decisions made

ASSESSOR'S:

- Abatement Requests
 - Gould-
 - They still need to have lawyer fix the deed
 - Give them one more year to correct giving them an abatement for \$131.92 to Priscilla and give supplement to Doug for \$131.92
 - **Ron/Ken** motion to accept (All in favor)
 - Travis Ripley: Map/Lot#34-6 \$265.41
 - Travis Ripley: Map/Lot#34 \$1031.23
 - Supplemental to Leeman Living trust will be for \$265.41 & 1031.23= \$1296.64
 - **Ron/Ken** motion to abate Travis Ripley and send supplemental to Leeman (All in favor)
 - Robert & Rita Shepard- says Bog shouldn't be charged shore frontage
 - Jackie will bring back next week, looking into the bog and shoreline properties along this boundary.

CEO/LPI:

- Jackie: Kirk Thomas made a complaint. I checked into it not a woods operation- under the commercial ordinance

- There was a notice of violations sent to Skidgell's
- She will be giving us a constant update on cleaning up. I gave her a month.
- Town has choices:
 - You can fine her daily if she doesn't comply
 - town can clean up property and send her the bill
 - My job- If she doesn't comply then I will take her to court on town's behalf
- There is a state junkyard ordinance & dangerous building ordinance
- Ken: Is she allowed to bury if she chooses?
- Jackie: Yes, There are parts you can bury but there are a lot of parts you can't.
- Steve: Is Brownfield worth contacting
- Jackie: I will contact them
 - Paul Smith is in violation of ordinance by building the bridge stationary. It would have to be able to remove it each year.
 - **Ron/Ken** made a motion for CEO to have him remove it. (All in favor)
- Steve: What is the outcome with Drew Fales
- Jackie: He agreed to get new permits and is in compliance
- Steve: I still have an issue with Walter Gurschick property
- Jackie: He is in Farm & Open Space. This is legal subdivision and when he sells they will go back 5 years and tax him then
- Ken: Can we get permits for the storage sheds?
- Jackie: Yes, I will take care of them just have Cindy get them

PUBLIC WORKS:

- 2 bids not opened and samples. Both samples are very good.
- Ron- I would be happy using either after conducting the test
 - Bid#1 Todd Garnett/ Cranouski: \$4.25 yd plus trucking \$1.73 for 2000 yards \$5.98 yd= \$11,960
 - Bid#2 Derek Larrabee: 6.25 yd for 2000 yds total was \$12,500
- Steve: How much sand last year?
- Ron: 2400 at the beginning of winter and rec'd 700 in March
- **Ron/ Ken** made motion to contract with Todd Garnett/ John Cranouski (All in favor)
- Ron: we are in need of new grease gun the one we have has been rebuilt twice.
- Ken/Steve made motion to purchase a new one (All in favor)
- Discussion on pay for the plow drivers/ pay October 1st to March 31st might be option
- Ken/Steve made motion to have Bob Herman come in to talk about a 6 month salary option

HISTORICAL:

- Myrick: There is a meeting Wednesday
- Cindy will contact Seacoast for a code
- Myrick: There is a cleanup day October 3rd noon to 4:30 at Keene Hall
- Last year we had Main Street closed. Can we do that again this year?
- Ron: Yes, we will have signs put up

RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE:

- Halloween Party is October 25th @ 6-8

SOLID WASTE DIRECTOR:

- Letter from MRC still fighting with PERC. MRC has signed contract with FIBERIGHT
- Jackie: Josh Wellman is also a hauler. I can get you his information

Cemetery Committee:

- Mr. Stevens is here to discuss his work that was done on cemeteries
- Steve: Mr Stevens called me last week and he is here tonight to see about an agreement being made
- Ron: We voted at last meeting as a board that we no longer wanted his services and expressed his concerns.
- Mr. Stevens: I would like to correct all the mistakes that have been made
- Ron: What would cemetery committee like to see done
- Cindy: Cleaning portion was wonderful. I felt like an amatuer did the repairs. They was terrible and what they did to Hannahs stone was disgraceful. If there was a problem or questions they should of contacted us. Never should the bases and stones been thrown over the wall or removed without knowing what we wanted. We hired you because you came highly recommended and we take great pride in our cemeteries.
- Kim: Why did they throw away good stones?
- Mr Stevens: They wasn't usable-they was to small. They should of left them there after cleaning them.
- Erna: They are in the cemeteries for a reason. Even if they a small they are used as a marker for family and/or cemetery to use for guidance or a reference. You should never remove them just clean them and place them behind the stone. We could of put them where they belonged.
- Mr. Stevens: Their reasons right or wrong shouldn't have been done.
- Cindy: When you replaced the base what was done?
- Mr. Stevens: Concrete about 6". That is how we have always done them. Normally I am on the job but have been out with a back injury. I had been to two of the cemeteries with the men.
- Erna: Penney & Gould- Those we have no problem with. Cleaning was great and they stood up the stones that were lying against the trees. They did leave a trowel on the top of one monument stuck to it.
- Kim: When you were hired we put our trust in you, after seeing all the damage we lost that trust.
- Mr. Stevens: We have had problems in the past @ Fryeburg & Gardner. They removed marble stones and put out by the road. The problems were corrected. All I am asking is that you let me rectify the situation. I have some footstones that were made and would like to work and finish the resetting of stones & fill the cracks.
- Steve- I have learned footstones are markers at the end of the graves
- Ken: Footstones are not only used for what you say. I have worked in our cemeteries for years. In several of these old cemeteries they are to distinguish where the person is buried. Their names are listed on a monument and the stones are placed to show with initials to indicate who is buried where.
- Steve Holmes: As a committee we could have put the foot stones back together and done the epoxy. There are rows that haven't been done.
- Kim: Hopefully a stiff wind or an animal doesn't knock them over before they can get fixed.
- Cindy: We are highly disgusted. We worked very hard to raise this money and it is a slap in our face the way the cemeteries was left. Erna and I were very upset when we found out at a selectmen meeting.
- Ron: I guess it is now up to the cemetery committee and the board to decide where to go from here.
- Mr. Stevens: I would like to have the opportunity to correct these issues. I have 3 footstones that need to be replaced and finish what needs to be done. Then I will walk away. Whether you decide to pay me or not. I have been in business for 40 years. When I sell a monument or restore cemeteries I stand behind my work.
- Steve Bennett: I think everyone is in agreement that that cleaning was done to our expectations.
- Scott Holmes: Can we ask the selectmen to go into executive session to discuss this matter

- **Ken/Steve** motion to go into executive session @ 7:20 pm with the cemetery committee
- Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6) E
- Returned at 7:30 pm no decisions made
- **Steve/Ken** made a motion to pay **Mr. Stevens \$3020.00** (\$2520 for cleaning on all cemeteries, plus \$500 repair on Gould Cemetery.) We also would like to go on with our cemetery committee to do any repairs that still need to be done.
- **Mr. Stevens:** I understand your decision and would like to drop off the foot stones here at office that I had made.
- Ron: That would be acceptable
- **Cindy- October 3rd @ 1:00 pm** we have a group of college students that will be helping out with the Gould Cemetery.
- We are also looking for volunteers to help on this day plus we need rakes and a trailer.
- Ron- I have a trailer that the cemetery committee can use. It will be at the town garage
- Cindy: We will be contacting the landowner to see if we can donate the wood there to Mary Spinelli
- Steve Holmes: We can get this before October 3rd so that it won't be in the way.
- Erna: We still have a ton of brush that needs to be chipped
- Steve: There is also wood on the dam- we can contact Clayton about that.

Ken/Steve motion to adjourn meeting 9:05 pm

Next Regular meeting will be September 28th 2015 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary

Ernestine Keller