

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes October 12, 2021

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

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

Review of 10/4 minutes: Steve made a motion to strike a sentence in the 10/4 minutes. There was no second.

Motion by Elaine: To change wording in sentence to read, "They are no longer having trouble from neighbor who is now accessing their own land through Palermo not the Rollins Road."

Ron 2nd. 2 votes in favor, 1 vote against. Motion passed.

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes from October 4 Select Board meeting as amended. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman asked if Town has mitigation plan? Select Board did not know for sure if there is one and asked what exactly a mitigation plan is. Jim said he will find out if the town has one and will research exactly what a mitigation plan is. Jim reported there was an automobile accident this past Saturday. Car went into Half Moon Stream. Fire Department needed to use cold water rescue suits. Some gasoline went into the stream. Department of Environmental Protection was called. Next, Jim said he received a complaint from a citizen. Their neighbor was running a generator 24/7. Town citizen wondered if there is a noise ordinance in town. An attorney for the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contacted Jim about accident that took place on July 20, 2019 where a car ran into a home owned by DHHS. The attorney wants a fire report, which Jim will furnish.

Public Works: Travis Price got dimensions of fuel tanks so that he can begin working on pad for tanks. Travis spoke with Jason who would run power to the fuel tanks. Jason needs to talk to the State prior to doing job. Travis will hold off on construction of pad at this time. Public Works put brand new tires on garbage truck. The well line for Public Works garage was covered, seeded, and mulched. Tomorrow, Travis will pave over culverts that have been replaced by needing to cut into pavement. Travis would like to pave in front of two new doors of Public Works garage to where the fuel tanks will be installed to the citizen's sand shed. He expects that would cost \$3,500. Travis said there is \$8,800 left over from paving Goosepecker Ridge Road.

Motion by Elaine: To allow Travis to do research and spend up to \$4,000 to pave in front of buildings. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Discussion about work priority for Public Works with winter coming. Travis will do what he can on Greeley Road now to get water moving where it should be going and patch Deer Hill Road. He will move work on Deer Hill until next year. Travis will get trucks ready for winter at end of October. He will move to working on the Public Works Garage addition in November to get that finished on the interior.

Citizen's Issues: Cindy Abbott let everyone know that Jay Guber passed away on October 10th. There will be a service on Friday at Pleasant Hill Cemetery at 2:30pm.

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Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,942.31 and A/P Warrant in the amount of \$24,919.28. The ending checkbook balance is \$555,647.48. Dyann closed TAN at Camden National Bank. Dyann will work with Amy Dunn again.

Motion by Elaine: To accept Treasurer's Report for Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,942.31 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$24,919.28. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Steve: To go into Executive Session for Personnel Matter 405(6)A at 6:45pm. Elaine 2nd.

Select Board returned at 7:25pm and resumed meeting.

Correspondence: none

Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition: Elaine Higgins said the RFP is out for businesses to submit bids to conduct feasibility study. She expects it will be mid-December before the committee picks someone to do study. Steve wants to wait to turn money over until Select Board knows that all five towns are in and will contribute money.

Animal Control Officer: Cindy Abbott said there is still one family that is outstanding from multiple years of not licensing their dog. She said there are still a few from 2021 that have not licensed their dog. Ron will call Pete Nerber.

Freedom Boosters and Recreational Committee: Cindy said they will purchase candy for Trunk or Treat taking place on October 31st from 2-4pm at the Town Office.

Motion by Ron: To give permission to Cindy to use credit card to purchase candy. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Historical Society: Is having problem with their computer in Election Hall. An IT person will come to look at it.

Budget Committee: Will meet on Wednesday, November 17th at 6pm.

Old Business:

- Elaine would like Amanda to advertise Public Works position on websites that cost money.

Motion by Elaine: To have Amanda post job on Indeed.com and JobsinME.com. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

- Elaine reported that cleaning Select Board office is going well.
- Town Charter – Steve spoke to Bill Kelly. Bill Kelly's opinion was that the Select Board took the right steps to create a Town Charter Commission. Steve had heard from Sue Pilgrim who gave two contradictory opinions on how to establish charter commissions. Cindy spoke about the process for taking out papers for those needing to run to be on

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Town Charter Commission. There are also three positions that can be appointed to Town Charter Commission.

Motion by Steve: To appoint Mary Ann Bennett to be on Town Charter Commission. Unanimous.

Motion by Elaine: To appoint Tyler Hadyniak to be on Town Charter Commission. Unanimous.

Motion by Steve: To appoint Meredith Coffin to be on Town Charter Commission. Unanimous.

- Town Lot (formerly Skidgell Lot) – Ron has Unity’s property cards for Bagley land, which Elaine will deliver to Bill Kelly. Cindy will email Freedom’s property cards to Bill Kelly. Then Bill Kelly can do the title search and create Purchase and Sale agreement for the land Freedom voters approved to buy at Special Town Meeting in September.

Motion by Steve: To set \$500 for earnest money for Bagley Property once the Select Board has Purchase and Sale agreement. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.
Ron will talk with surveyor again.

- Blake and Hazard Property – Steve spoke with Bill Kelly. He is working on this.
- Abandoned Road Statute – Steve spoke about new law signed into law on October 1, 2021. MRSA 3028-A Abandonment of Town Ways
- Community Development Advisory Committee – Steve said the next meeting is Wednesday, November 3rd at 6pm. This will be a public brainstorming session. Anyone can attend the meeting and Steve encouraged those that want to present an idea for the Town Lot (formerly Skidgell Lot) to come to the meeting and share.

Town Clerk: Cindy prepared reports for Select Board, 2020 and 2021 excise tax report to compare, cash receipts and real estate tax payments. Dyann Anderson just did pre 45-day notices for those that have not paid 2019 real estate taxes. Cindy said the supplemental for Basil Barnes needs to be done. Ron will find out his acreage in Freedom, so that the supplemental can be done next week. Cindy said she will be off next Monday through Wednesday, 10/18-10/20.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison