

**APPROVED MINUTES
FREEDOM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 4, 2016**

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 pm

PRESENT: Selectmen Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Ken Overlock. Also in attendance were Vernice, Jason, Sallyann Hadyniak, Marilyn Perry, Scott Holmes Brian Jones and Bob Garrish

REVIEW MINUTES:

December 28, 2015 -Ken made a motion to accept minutes as written Steve seconded (All in favor)

December 31, 2015- Ken made a motion to accept minutes as written Steve seconded (All in favor)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Erna reported:

Payroll Warrant \$4,831.85
A/P Warrant
Ending checkbook balance.....

- Payroll Warrant this week is \$4,831.85 **Steve motion to accept & sign payroll Ken seconded** (All in favor)
- Vernice from RHR Smith and Company, CPA, was here to discuss the Bond repayment schedule and the town financial audit for 2014 and the pre-audit for 2015. The \$600,000 bond, voted by the town in 2013, was not being repaid in full because the bank was not billing the full amount (bank error)and no one at the town office, nor the auditor (Vernice)was reading the billing statement correctly and therefore no one was picking up on it. As explained by Vernice, she did not look at the KeyBank billing statements (her error) for the years 2014 and 2015, thereby resulting in two incorrect payments of \$86,000 creating a shortfall of \$25,694 in unpaid principal. In an agreement negotiated with the bank this mistake of \$25,694 of unpaid principal will have to be paid by the town before June 1, 2016 in order to avoid any additional interest or penalties. If this mistake had not been caught, the result would have been a subsequent bill from the bank in 2020 of more than \$55,000 of unpaid principal and at least another \$10,000-\$15000 in interest and bank fees accruing to the town. Vernice admitted her error in not looking at the billing statements and that she was not aware of the discrepancy

until this was brought to her attention. She stated that she would write a correction to the 2014 audit that would appear in the 2015 audit. She also stated that the incorrect portrayal of the payments (payments that were for the amount that we should have been paying for both years) were in the "notes" to the audit and not in the audit report itself, and that there was no discrepancy to our fund balance. Vernice did suggest that we obtain a written statement from the bank indicating that the bank would not charge us any extra fees or interest if the town paid the overdue amounts by June 1, 2016. **Ron motioned for Steve to get a more official statement from the bank regarding the bank loan payments. Stating that there will be no more interest occurred on the unpaid interest if it is paid by June 1st 2016. If they get that statement then they can wait til town meeting to get the unpaid amount approved. Ken seconded (All in favor)**

TOWN CLERK:

Cindy reported:

- New contract with the Waterville Humane Society. **Steve motioned to have Ron sign the agreement on behalf of the Town of Freedom. Ken Seconded. (All in favor)**
- All dog licenses are due by January 29th in the office or the 31st online.
- **Ken motioned to transition drug testing to Fleet Screen. Steve seconded. (All in favor)**
- Provided receipts for December and full year records.

SOLID WASTE:

- Ron is going to meet with solid waste director this week.
- Contract with Sullivan's runs out this month
- Still looking for director and deputy positions to be filled.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

- Has reached owner of the dog that has deceased and is working with the state to file charges. Has had several calls at dispatch regarding the same dog.

ROAD COMMISIONER:

- Sand and scraped a few times this past week
- May tackle rear wall in garage if whether permits

HISTORICAL:

- Planning a community day on February 13th

RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE:

- Looking for ice skates to use at the community day with historical society.

BUDGET COMMITTEE:

- Meeting January 7th at 6:30pm

OLD BUSINESS:

- Got two proposals for engineering firm for the salt and sand shed. One more is expected to come in

NEW BUSINESS:

- Thank you letter to be written by Ron for bridge and cemetery work done.
- Getting quote for well work in the garage.

Ron motion to adjourn meeting 8:01 pm Ken seconded. (All in favor)

Respectfully Submitted,

**Secretary
Tiffany Fitzpatrick**