

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes  
January 4, 2021

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, April Turner, Alyssa Brugger, Dylan Turner, Anne-Marie Adamson and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Ron wished everyone a Happy New Year and hope for a better year.

FVFD: Jim Waterman reported that the State has not yet cleared the trees that fell by the road at 872 N. Palermo Rd. Jim wanted to know if the trees interfered with snow plowing? Ron said that he had not heard from Travis that it interfered with the plowing. Jim reported that there will be a meeting this evening with the volunteer fire department to check out the trucks.

Public Works: Travis ordered all of the lubricants for next year. Travis has maintenance work lined up for this week. Travis will work on the walkway to the window at the Town Office later this week or next week. Elaine asked if Travis would start stripping the ground at the public works garage to prep the site for the addition? Travis said he feels the walkway will take priority. Travis didn't think he'd have cost estimate for electrical work for the Public Works Garage addition from Marks Electric for Wednesday's budget meeting.

Elaine made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported there are two Payroll Warrants this week. The first in the amount of \$3,663.92 and the second in the amount of \$1,924.48. The checking balance is \$342,867.05. Alyssa said that hopefully tomorrow, all accounts will be finished up, and then she will send it to Steve.

Ron wanted to make sure everyone saw the request from Spectrum Generations. The Town paid \$587.65 in 2020.

Elaine made a motion to accept the first Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,663.92 and the second Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$1,924.48 Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

Citizen's Issues: Ron made a motion to make Elaine the representative to the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition (SWCBC), Steve 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

Elaine reported that the SWCBC will meet next Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. SWCBC received a \$5,000 grant from Connect Maine. Elaine is in the process letting the town of Knox know about the coalition. The SWCBC communications subcommittee is putting together a mailing to towns to let them know what the coalition is about. In the mailing the group will ask people to take a test of their broadband service and collect that data. If a household does not have internet, that will be documented as well. Elaine said the long term goal is to get fiber optic and infrastructure to every household. Elaine said this is expensive, so the coalition is looking into other grant funding sources. Steve suggested looking into the USDA Rural Development grants.

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CEO/Assessor: Ron reported that she is not back working fulltime. Jacki has broken her shoulder. She is doing some work for the town.

Planning Board: Ron said that Prentice Grassi sent the Select Board the list of fees for commercial development. Prentice wants to contact MMA first and get their take on a few things and then edit it and send it.

Recreation Committee: Alyssa reported they are going to decide a winner on the winter light display. The committee is thinking about creating something for Valentine's Day.

Budget Committee: Wednesday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm next meeting

Ron reported that the maple trees at the cemetery along Rt. 137 have been removed. He said there is wood there, and Ron has been told anyone can take the wood, first come, first serve.

Old Business: Ron asked if we ever got a card to send to Pete Mattson? Ron will check with Cindy about the card.

Post Office – Steve will talk with someone from the post office tomorrow to address the concerns they have raised.

Anderson House - Ron reported that he sent the owner of the Anderson House a list of what needs to be done in order to get rid of the building. Ron said because of new DEP regulations, this will result in an expensive project to remove an old building.

Select Board initiated agreement with the town of Montville for them to use the recycling trailer for a rental fee of \$25/week and paid quarterly along with their solid waste payment. The Town of Montville is responsible for all maintenance costs, including tire replacement. Ron said that Alyssa needs to generate a bill for Montville's 2020 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment.

Steve reported he has not been able to connect with the Town's Attorney Bill Kelly. He will try again tomorrow.

Ron made a motion to adjourn at 6:32pm, Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>.