

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes October 4, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Dyann Anderson, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Tyler Hadyniak, Anne-Marie Adamson and Amanda Jamison

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

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes as amended from September 27, 2021 and place them on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said that he is writing a grant to the Maine Forest Service for lightweight clothing also called woodland clothing for firefighters. The grant is due November 5th. Jim talked about possible expenditures using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He read the funds can be used for capital investments for physical plant and public safety buildings. He suggested automatic generators for municipal building and fire station. Elaine Higgins said the monies received so far could be used for public water, sewer and broadband expenditures. Cindy Abbott said she sent email to Select Board about the ARPA funds.

Public Works: Travis Price on vacation. Ron Price presented for Travis. Winter sand has been put up in sand and salt shed. The total cost \$13,346.00 includes salt, sand, and rental for bulldozer. The price does not include labor. Ron said Travis bought two toolboxes that were approved at a previous Select Board meeting. The septic system installation is complete at Town Garage. Ron heard back from Irving Oil. The fuel tanks need to be purchased, no longer lease to own option. Ron said there are two places to purchase tanks, one company will build tanks but not transport or install them for \$5,321.00. Adams & Fog will build tanks, transport, and install them for \$4,359.29 per tank.

Motion by Steve: To buy two tanks from Adams & Fog for the Town Garage lot for on-road and off-road diesel no more than \$9,000 and to take this money from winter and summer roads budget this year. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Elaine Higgins reported that she has called Seacoast Security about installing a system at the Public Works Garage.

Citizen's Issues: none

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$7,624.56 and A/P Warrant in the amount of \$105,518.28. The ending checkbook balance is \$568,032.95. Dyann noted the Tax Anticipatory Note (TAN) was paid off this week in A/P Warrant. Checks received were Town of Knox for fire protection; State of Maine; refund from Maine Municipal Association for workers compensation; USPS rent for \$884.17. Steve Bennett said he is pleased to see first check from USPS for higher amount for monthly rent. He said with this increase, the Town is anticipating receiving \$53,000 in rent over 5 years versus the first 5 years of rent that paid \$39,000. Dyann asked whether the Select Board would like to close or keep open TAN line? Select Board instructed Dyann to close it now. Select Board removed one check from A/P Warrant. The new A/P Warrant amount is \$105,613.28 and new ending checkbook balance is \$568,127.95.

Motion by Elaine: To accept Treasurer's Report for Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$7,624.56 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$105,613.28. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes October 4, 2021

Town Clerk: Cindy Abbott showed Select Board new lighthouse license plate from Maine Department of Motor Vehicles. Cindy said some people have paid to license their dog and some dogs are removed from list, since they are no longer with owners. Cindy said \$881 in late fees accumulated. Cindy said ACO records mileage and time spent with people that he meets with. Pete Nerber does not live in Freedom, therefore, gets mileage to travel to Town. Ron would like Pete Nerber to come to next Select Board meeting. Cindy said Absentee Ballots available now for November 2nd Referendum Election. She said, Thursday, October 28th from 3:30 – 4:30pm will view envelopes to process absentee ballots. Absentee Ballots will be processed at 4:30pm and anyone can watch process from outside railing. Cindy will send mailing to townspeople this week. It will include Neighbor 4 Neighbor application, Trunk or Treat event announcement, dog licensing information, absentee ballot application. Steve would like to add something about Town Charter committee.

Correspondence:

Women Infants & Children: Elaine hung poster up in Town Office from this correspondence to inform people about this available assistance.

Waldo County Budget Committee: Elaine Higgins elected to Budget Committee.

Seacoast Security: Sent current contract for services.

Code Enforcement Officer: Ron reported that he and Jackie Robbins met with Haig Brochu to discuss his lot. They let him know it is probably not enough land to put in a septic system. They also discussed with him about his building.

Old Business:

- Ron met with Trevor Ripley and Ben Feeney and their families. They reported to Ron they are no longer having trouble with neighbor who are now accessing their own land from Palermo not through Rollins Road in Freedom. Trevor Ripley blames Select Board for status of road not changing because Select Board changed wording on article for Town Meeting in Spring of 2021. Ron told them to have their lawyer read Road Statute and draw up an article for next Town Meeting. Then the Town lawyer, Bill Kelly, will review it and make recommendation whether Select Board should include in next Town Meeting for townspeople to vote on it. Ron showed them Bill Kelly's email that recommends not to share MMA's opinion.
- Steve has not heard anything from Bill Kelly about the Town Charter process.
- Skidgell Lot Survey – Ron will call tomorrow morning and get map of Frank Bagley's land to surveyor.
- Trailer sitting alongside High Street – Steve said the trailer needs to be moved before winter snow plowing begins. Cindy said that owner said they needed to get tires blown up before it can be moved. Elaine will write letter that they have two weeks to move the trailer. Elaine will bring letter to Cindy tomorrow.
- Ron and Elaine found a letter in files about a State Statute that said a property owner can have no more than 50 tires on property. Elaine said Select Board needs to make sure statute hasn't changed since then.

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
October 4, 2021**

New Business:

- Ron expressed concern about progress we're making on finances. Jim Waterman has had a request in for a month concerning fire department capital reserve account. Ron knows Amy Dunn is coming October 21st to help with balancing checkbook. Ron suggested to bring an auditor from RHR Smith and ask all the questions to figure this out.
Motion by Ron: To call RHR Smith to hire auditor and spend whatever time it takes to find out if money was not carried over and then if so, to find out how much money. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.
- Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition – Elaine reported the Request for Proposals (RFP) for companies to bid on doing the Feasibility Study.

Upcoming Meetings:

Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) – Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 6pm. They will meet the first Wednesday of the month.

Select Board will meet Tuesday, October 12th due to Indigenous Peoples Holiday.

Budget Committee – will meet Wednesday, November 17th at 6pm

Motion to adjourn at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison