

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes May 16, 2022

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Eleonor Hess, Sean Payeur and Amanda Jamison.

Present on Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak and Anne-Marie Adamson

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

Motion by Steve: To accept May 9, 2022 minutes as amended place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman reported work being done on Truck #2, four new tires and inspecting brake issue. One Junior Firefighter graduated, and an application received for another Junior Firefighter. Jim reported the fire department has already exceeded fuel oil budget. Jim proposes to install a monitor heater that uses propane to heat the kitchen/office area. This would eliminate the need to heat the entire building when kitchen/office area in use. Cost for propane heater is \$1,600. Select Board advised this purchase should come out of the fire department's capital reserve account.

Public Works: Travis Price said the work on Smithton Road was finished last week. Total cost of putting material on Smithton Road, \$27,451, which is \$3,976 over budget, since price of material increased since creating budget. Grading and rolling of dirt roads were finished last week. Travis said on May 17th at 7am paving will start on Rollins Road and then they'll move to Beaver Ridge Road. Discussion about Town Garage computer. Instead of purchasing a new computer, Town Garage can have the computer that runs speed sign.

Motion by Steve: Town Garage will still get a wireless printer, wireless mouse and monitor and not purchase a new computer. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Ron Price reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,793.59 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$13,118.41. The ending checkbook balance is \$287,775.82.

Motion by Elaine: To pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$4,793.59 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$13,118.41. Steve 2nd, Unanimous.

Select Board read Dyann Anderson's report that this is her official resignation and last Treasurer's Report.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott spoke about fundraiser for the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department to purchase 60 fallen heroes' flags and metal grave markers. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20 with \$1,000 cash for first ticket drawn and numerous other prizes. Cindy said Mt. View Middle School will come on May 25th to clear the trail behind Mitchell Field.

Motion by Ron: To sign warrants for RSU#3 Budget Meeting to vote on June 14th. Unanimous.

Citizen's Issues: none

Correspondence:

1. Select Board received an email from owner of 15 Belfast Road who has well on their property that is tied into Town Garage. Select Board suggested having a meeting with property owners to discuss this matter. Ron will talk with them and propose Thursday, May 26th to meet.
2. Select Board received a letter from a lawyer on behalf of owner of 29 Belfast Road who takes issue with a line in survey recently completed by the Town for the Skidgel Lot. Ron will call surveyor about this.
3. Steve is working on compiling information for TAN note to give to Camden National Bank.

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Town Official Reports:

School Board Representative: Eleonor Hess reported there will be a hearing on May 25th at 5:30pm at Mt. View High School to discuss the proposal to build a new Operations Center and at 6:30pm a hearing to discuss school budget. Ellie said the school district is not asking towns for any additional funding for this project. The total project budget is 1.8 million. The district has \$1 million in reserve and \$800,000 from grants. Discussion about how the RSU#3 budget has stayed constant over the past few years, decreased enrollment in the RSU#3 district, and percent increase that each Town in the district will be asked to raise through property taxes for school budget.

Code Enforcement Officer: Jacki is going to go look at work done at Peace Ridge property. Select Board said they are available to meet with Peace Ridge June 2nd or 9th.

Solid Waste: Spring Clean Up started today. The truck was filled, and Joe Freeman went to the landfill today.

Animal Control Officer: Cindy said she has a small list of individuals who have not licensed their dog. She'll give Peter Nerber the list.

Town Boards and Committees:

Appeals Board: Appeal hearing on Friday, June 3rd at 7pm.

Budget Committee: Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 15th at 6pm.

Old Business:

1. Steve has talked with a CPA about payroll deductions not being done correctly after Town received notice from IRS and the Maine State Revenue Service.

New Business:

1. Ron said the trimmer is broken. He took it to Beaugard's for service. It will cost \$100. Discussion about getting a battery-operated trimmer. Select Board tabled discussion for now.
2. Steve said a State Road Commission has been formed that will look at everything that concerns discontinued and abandoned roads.
3. Elaine brought up about the bugs getting into the Town Office. Ron will look into patching holes.
4. Select Board asked Cindy to assume some of the Treasurer's duties in the meantime, until they can find someone. Cindy agreed to that.

Motion by Ron: To go into Executive Session at 8:41pm for Personnel Matter 1 MRSA 405(6)A. At 9:00pm Select Board came out of Executive Session with no decision made.

Motion to adjourn at 9:01pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison