

## **Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes December 13, 2021**

**Present:** Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Helen Tirone and Amanda Jamison.  
Present via Zoom: Tyler Hadyniak and Eleonor MacMakin

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

Steve Bennett talked about Pine Tree Power citizen's petition available to sign around the State to get referendum question on the ballot to enable rate payers of CMP and Versant Power to purchase through a bond, both companies. They would be owned by a non-profit. The nonprofit would be called Pine Tree Power and would run the transmission of electricity. Any registered voter in Freedom can sign the petition.

**Motion** by Steve: To accept minutes from December 6<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting and place on file. Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**FVFD:** Jim Waterman will deliver 14 food baskets this Saturday to Freedom residents. Jim has submitted \$21,062.50 worth of expenses to Central Maine Cost Recovery for 2021. He has received \$4,882.50. He said it can take several years before costs are returned due to these accidents being tied up with insurance companies. Jim would like to increase hourly charge for trucks by 20% for cost recovery. Jim should be hearing about truck he has inquired about in New York State and find out price in the next week. Jim wanted to confirm amount of money that will be transferred to the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department reserve account. Dyann and Ron have a list of the years when money wasn't transferred. Ron said he can have those figures ready for Wednesday night's Budget Committee meeting.

**Public Works:** Travis Price said he had fuel tanks filled. Select Board said to keep Wex cards for now. He has another day's maintenance to do on trucks. Wednesday he'll start sheathing bathroom in Public Works garage addition. Travis let Jim know that he needs another fire extinguisher.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,290.24 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$19,448.21. The ending checkbook balance is \$507,213.76. Dyann is looking into reconciling MEMIC health insurance bills with health insurance payments made in Trio. Dyann said Montville has paid for trash collection through September 2021. Ron said they should be billed for October until the last day Joe went to pick up their trash and billed for the recycling trailer they rented.

**Motion** by Elaine: To approve Treasurer's report and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,290.24 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$19,448.21. Ron 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:** Cindy Abbott said she and Dyann will be doing end of year on December 30<sup>th</sup>, since the office is closed on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Bring payroll to Dyann by 4:30pm Thursday 12/30. Cindy asked if Waterville Humane Society contract was approved at Budget Committee? Steve said yes.

**Motion** by Ron: That we sign the contract with Waterville Humane Society for 2022.  
**Amended** by Steve: That the Chairman sign the contract. Unanimous.

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Cindy reviewed upcoming mailing with Select Board. Cindy distributed timeline to the Select Board of upcoming deadlines and dates. One date was the January 14<sup>th</sup> audit. Cindy wondered if the short report would be back in time to put in the Town Report. Ron asked if Dyann could reach out to auditor to schedule a preaudit sooner so audit can be included in Town Report.

**Citizen's Issues:** Helen Tirone expressed appreciation about the conversation she had with Ron a few days ago about her mailbox placement. She wondered if the intention was to widen the road all the way down, and if so, then we need to agree where the road should be. Helen thought there was plenty of room for the plow. Helen moved mailbox out 16" after a conversation she said she had with Steve over a year ago. Steve did not remember a conversation and said he would not have suggested moving mailbox out into the road. Select Board received notice from mail carrier last winter that mailbox was moved out. Select Board sent a letter to Tirones in April 2021 asking them to move mailbox back. Steve said mailbox needs to be moved back based on Select Board measurements of mailboxes along that road. Ron said the width needs to be maintained the entire length of road. Helen would like the plow to stay off lawn. She said so much gravel gets pushed onto lawn and sheets of lawn are getting plowed up. Elaine said State law says that Public Works can have room needed to plow the road. Elaine offered that Public Works could move mailbox for the Tirones. Helen said Public Works can move the mailbox back but she or her husband, Brad, want to be present when that happens. Helen and Brad want the turnaround, that they granted to the Town on their property, to be taken out next Spring. Helen said she expects the Town to still plow without the turnaround. Helen and Travis decided to meet at 8am on Wednesday to move the mailbox.

Tyler let Select Board know there is another person interested in serving on the Town Charter commission. Tyler said that one person running for the commission would step aside if there were someone else willing to run.

### **Correspondence:**

Municipal Review Committee – will hold a virtual meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Town Official Reports:**

**Recreation Committee:** Cindy said they are finishing up selling raffle tickets. They will raffle Walmart gift card off next week.

**Old Business:** Steve brought up about three roads in town that are either blocked or signage is up that makes it look like these discontinued roads are closed to the public.

**Motion** by Steve: To instruct attorney to draft a letter about public access to all abutters on discontinued portion of Rollins Road, Davis Road and Timberwood Lane. Unanimous. Elaine brought up Beaver Hill Road. Steve said that where the signs are on that road is at the abandoned portion of the road. Ron thought that for a road to be abandoned, the Town needed to take action. Steve cited 1996 and 1997 minutes where Select Board approved that the road was abandoned. Steve said that the Select Board did take action but probably not the right action. Steve said he would like to do it right this time and create a document that gives everyone who is a landowner along the abandoned portion of Beaver Hill Road access.

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**Motion** by Ron: To sign deed for town sale of property on Greeley Road and keep a copy on file. Elaine 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unanimous.

It was noted this needs to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds by Dyann Anderson, Treasurer.

Select Board reviewed paperwork to purchase Bagley property. The paperwork was the Purchase and Sale agreement, Closing Statement, Transfer Tax, Warranty Deed.

**New Business:** none

**Motion** to adjourn at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison