

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes December 6, 2021

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Dyann Anderson, Jim Waterman, Travis Price, Joe Freeman and Amanda Jamison.

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

Follow up from last week's minutes: Select Board sent a letter to a homeowner on the Davis Road about their mailbox being too close to the road and to move it back three feet.

Motion by Steve: To approve minutes as amended from November 29th Select Board meeting and place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman will attend next Budget Committee meeting on 12/15 to discuss FVFD budget. Jim is picking up 12 food baskets on 12/18 and will deliver them to townspeople. Jim said he is setting up the Intrastate Fire Company to come and inspect all the Town's fire extinguishers.

Public Works: Travis Price said he and Ryan are fixing some items not working right now, lights on his Public Works truck and the block heater. Steve brought a legal description for Transportation, Local Highway Law because he said that at past meetings concern about enforcement has been brought up. Regarding trailer parked alongside of road on High Street, Elaine asked for a week to call the owner of that trailer to see if she can get the owner to move it. Select Board agreed to that.

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the first Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$7,643.73 and the second Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$121.11 for a total of \$7,764.84 for Payroll Warrants and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$23,611.88. The ending checkbook balance is \$481,788.37. Dyann paid most of the charitable donations for 2021. Those are included in the A/P Warrant this week. Steve talked about discussion at last Budget Committee meeting to move the Freedom Community Historical Society to an article in the Charitable Organization category.

Motion by Steve: Take the remaining amount of \$2,800 that is still in general fund that is the Freedom Community Historical Society's approved 2021 money, plus whatever is left in their line and put all in one check and give it to the Freedom Community Historical Society at the next Budget Committee meeting next week. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion by Elaine: To approve Treasurer's report and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$7,764.84 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$23,611.88. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott had Waterville Humane Society contract for 2022. The cost increased to \$1,344.53 for the year. Cindy received Quitclaim deed from Bill Kelly for a property the town sold. Steve will call Bill Kelly to get the right date on Quitclaim Deed, so Select Board can sign it on Thursday morning. Steve will also request documents from Bill for Bagley property and Blake and Hazard property.

Motion by Ron: To have a workshop on Thursday at 8am. Unanimous.

Cindy said there are two Town Charter committee members with their nomination papers turned in.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes December 6, 2021

Cindy said the property tax abatement application filed by Brenda Payne to be assessed with the homestead exemption will not apply to 2021 property taxes. Homestead application was turned in after the deadline for 2021. The Select Board will send a denial letter. Cindy will send out a mailing this week with Town Charter information and information about March 11, 2022 Election of Officers and March 12, 2022 Town Meeting.

Citizen's Issues: none

Correspondence:

Email from citizen looking for someone to plow their driveway. Select Board came up with a few names and will email citizen back.

Elaine sent a letter on behalf of the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition regarding money appropriated at Special Town Meeting in September for coalition to do a feasibility study. Elaine said the coalition will be picking a company to do the feasibility study at their next meeting. Discussion about whether this goes in next year's budget. The money came from American Rescue Plan Act money through the County funds in 2021 and was approved to spend up to \$20,000 for SWCBC to do a feasibility study in September of 2021. Discussion consensus was that this did not need to go in next year's budget.

Town Official Reports:

Budget Committee: Steve reported the committee will look at Solid Waste, Fire Department and Sandy Pond dam at their next meeting on December 15. Discussion continued about the possibility of including an electronic sign out front of the Town Office in the budget as well as "Welcome to Freedom" signs posted at three places on different roads as you enter the town. There was talk of the need to place signs on a steel post in a concrete footing, so they do not get taken. Select Board is looking for additional wording on signs beyond, "Welcome to Freedom". They asked Amanda to post something on the website to get ideas.

Solid Waste: Steve said that Phil Bloomstein is looking for an alternate to serve on the Solid Waste Committee. Amanda will post that on the website.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Motion by Ron: To go into Executive Session at 7:50pm for Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6)E for discussion of GA.

At 7:55pm the Select Board came out of Executive Session and resumed meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison