

**Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
March 28, 2022**

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

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Minutes: Discussion about Sale of Surplus Property. Elaine said the Town is legally not required to advertise the sale of surplus property in newspapers. Ron said it should be advertised to townspeople through the usual avenues. Jim Waterman suggested that the sale could also go in weekly Freedom column in the Republican Journal. In draft policy Elaine wrote anything over \$1,000 will be advertised. Ron suggested anything over \$3,000 would need to be advertised. Select Board agreed on \$3,000.

Motion by Steve: To accept March 21, 2022 minutes as amended place on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman presented a change for the Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance. The value of using Truck #3, Brush Truck increased from \$120/hour to \$180/hour.

Motion by Steve: To amend the Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance to read that the per hour cost of using Brush truck, Truck #3 will now be \$180/hour. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve said he spoke with MMA, and the new fire truck is insured with the agreed value of \$200,000.

Public Works: Travis Price said he has the information needed for Jackie Robbins about a driveway permit and culvert applications. Travis said he will need approximately 500 board feet of pine to finish the Town Garage interior. Travis requested an Executive Session.

Motion by Elaine: To go into Executive Session at 6:25pm for Personnel Matter, 1 MRSA 405(6)A. Board came out of Executive Session at 6:45pm with no decision made.

Ron said a building permit application came in that was printed from the website. But the application did not have the other permit applications needed with it. Ron does not think it a good idea to include it on the website.

Motion by Elaine: To take the building permit off the website. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Citizen's Issues: none

Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$ 11,883.66 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$11,446.77. The ending checkbook balance is \$345,445.76. Dyann said she worked on the Town audit today with someone from RHR Smith. She reported that Trio did reduce amount owed when person from Trio came to help Dyann. In addition, the outstanding issues that have not been resolved will be increased in priority for Trio to address. Steve asked if the auditor has found out why health insurance amount paid is higher than quote from health insurance company. Dyann said that has not been figured out, but it looks like Town has over paid State and Federal tax amounts. Dyann is forwarding the overpayment to Trio to look at. Discussion about employees' W2, who contribute to the Simple IRA and health insurance, are wrong. The Town is not taking FICA out from total earnings, therefore the amount of FICA tax taken out is wrong for those employees.

Amanda asked why this can't be fixed in Trio because the withholding is wrong and affects our Social Security and Medicare contributions and those employees have incorrect W2 Forms.

Motion by Ron: To sign Payroll Warrant and pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$11,883.66 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$11,446.77. Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

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Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott showed Select Board historical post cards of Freedom and asked for approval to donate to the Freedom Community Historical Society.

Motion by Ron: To donate those items to the Freedom Community Historical Society. Unanimous. Cindy is working on the Pre 30 Day Notices. Cindy explained the Pre Notice is a way to take care of any address changes or other changes, so that the 30 day notice goes in the right direction. Cindy is working on creating list of unlicensed dogs for Animal Control Officer (ACO), Peter Nerber. Last week, the Town Office had a stray dog in the office for the day and had the ACO come for dog. Cindy said the Town Office will be open on these Fridays in April, April 1, 8, 15 & 22. The office will be closed the last week of April. Cindy said she will be working with Dan Corvette tomorrow at 10am.

Correspondence:

1. Maine Municipal Association (MMA): New firetruck, which is a leased vehicle is properly insured.
2. Community Hall Meeting in Fairfield about PFAS.
3. M.A. Haskell said furnaces were last service 3/8/21. Ron will call to schedule a service.
4. Maine Municipal Association (MMA): Information for Towns on how to tax solar energy farms.
5. National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property: \$39.00 membership to get access to notices about federal surplus equipment.

Motion by Steve: To pay \$39.00 fee to join National Association of State Agencies for Surplus Property. Unanimous.

Town Official Reports:

Code Enforcement Officer: Steve called Bill Kelly, Town Attorney, to follow up on Jackie Robbins' report about property on Belfast Road. Steve suggested that when it comes time to notify property owner, he feels the letter should come from Bill Kelly. Steve will email Elaine Jackie's report and pictures. Ron said there needs to be a driveway permit for a property on the Smithton Road. That needs to be done first before the building permit is approved. Ron said a property on Greeley Road has been issued a building and septic permit, but the driveway permit has not been done. Ron is going to ask Jackie to cancel building permit until driveway is moved and a driveway permit issued.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman said Owen will be out of town for the dates of the Spring Clean Up, need to ask the other person to work those Spring Clean Up dates.

Town Boards and Committees:

Town Charter Committee: Tim Biggs said committee met for the first time tonight. Tyler Hadyniak was elected Chair. Meredith Coffin and Rene Ouellet share the role of Secretary. The committee will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 6pm – 8pm in the Election Hall/Annex. But their next meeting will be on April 19th. Ron said Tyler will need a key for the election hall. The committee's homework is to look at other Town Charters. Tim said the committee wondered if there are any requirements that need to be in the Town Charter to appeal to the federal government to be eligible for grants and low interest loans? Steve said to keep the Town Charter very general. Steve said Bill Kelly describes it as a Town Constitution. Tyler will let people know about the meetings in his weekly column and on the Town Office door. The meetings will also be on the Town website.

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Recreation Committee: Cindy Abbott requested approval to use credit card to purchase candy and child's bicycle for Easter event in April.

Motion by Ron: To give Cindy authority to use credit card at Walmart to purchase items. Unanimous.

Cindy said she met with Amanda at The Mill School and looked at the play structure. Steve said the Town would not want the play structure unless MMA says it will be covered by the insurance. Steve gave Cindy a name of someone to contact about it.

Appeals Board: Pam Gallik is no longer on the Appeals Board.

Budget Committee:

Motion by Ron: To nominate Steve Bennett to be Chair. Elaine 2nd. 2 in favor, 1 abstention. The next Budget Committee meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 6pm at the Town Office.

Old Business:

1. Elaine saw truck by trailer on High Street and wondered if there is an update. Ron said the State is on it but haven't heard specifically.
2. Steve said the Property and Casualty insurance is done. Steve said he and Cindy will go over Cyber Security tomorrow. They will answer MMA questions about the Town's cyber security, then MMA will recommend a policy. Discussion about working from home and maintaining cyber security. Elaine said it is important that people be able to work from home. Steve said it may require additional security.

New Business:

1. Steve said the Board voted to send a letter to abutters on three specific roads in town. Steve will work to draft each letter specific to the road. Steve would like Bill Kelly to look at each letter. Select Board agreed to have Town Attorney do that. Steve suggested that the signs must be taken down in seven days or the Town will have them taken down. Discussion about if it gets to that point, who will take signs down? Ron said he is not sure he wants to get Public Works involved with that. No decision made. Joe Freeman said the signs on Davis Road are on the trees of landowner. Steve said that road is a three rod road, so the signs are in the Town's right of way. Tim Biggs thought this situation must come up all the time in the State and wondered if MMA already has a letter written to address this? Elaine said she felt like this could have been handled differently. Ron doesn't think Town should get involved with deciding where road goes passed Piggery Corner but agrees, that to for landowners to say this is a Private Road, it is not. Steve said there is a rock wall on Rollins Road, which is a monument. A monument can be a stone wall. If a stone wall has been there over 20 years, it can be considered the boundary of the road. Steve said that a discontinued road with public rights retained, while being privately maintained, the people beyond have the right to use the discontinued portion.

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison