

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes September 7, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dyann Anderson, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Tyler Hadyniak, Ben Feeney, Trevor Ripley, Eleonor MacMakin, Tim Biggs and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 5:56pm.

Motion by Steve: To accept minutes from August 30 as presented and place them on file. Unanimous.

FVFD: Jim Waterman announced an event, the Eastern Maine Preparedness Expo at the Bangor Cross Insurance Center on Saturday, September 11th. Jim discussed his calculations in regard to the Fire Department's Reserve Account and has calculated that a total of \$20,513.00 missed cumulative entries from 2011. The Select Board agreed that this will be looked into. A CPR class will be held at the firehouse on September 13 at 6pm.

Public Works: Travis Price had nothing to report.

Citizen's Issues: Eleonor MacMakin wanted to inform the Select Board that she is working with the Freedom Historical Society on writing a grant for an Art Program. If the grant is received, they would couple the new program with the annual Freedom Follies event. She asked about public transportation. Ron let her know about Waldo CAP.

Tyler Hadyniak spoke about Beaver Hill Road. He said he wants to clarify to the landowners what rights the landowners have on the road and clarify to the public the status of the road. Tyler said it would be nice to get finality on this issue. Elaine asked if he thought at some time in the future, he would want to open road for development. He could only speak for himself and his parents that no, he did not foresee development on the abandoned portion of road. Tyler mentioned he is waiting to hear from Select Board what they hear from the Town Attorney on Tyler's research and findings.

Tyler Hadyniak writes Freedom Town Column for the Republican Journal. He said that if someone more relevant to the town ever wanted to do a guest column, he is happy to share that column space.

Ben Feeney and Trevor Ripley spoke about the Rollins Road. Ben wanted an update on what the Select Board found out about the road after consulting MMA. Ron said the Select Board will find the email and get him the information. Trevor asked to see the questions asked of MMA and the answers. Ben and Trevor questioned whether the new statute pertains to the Rollins Road because road was discontinued years ago. Steve said that yes it does. Steve added, to try to discontinue public use, they need to go through the new procedures because of the new statute. Steve asked for court ruling that says person could not cross their properties. Ben said he could get that paperwork.

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Treasurer's Report: Dyann Anderson reported the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$6,072.90. There is no A/P Warrant this week and no ending checkbook balance due to the ongoing issues with Trio.

Motion by Elaine: To approve and pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$6,072.90. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Dyann has contacted Trio and heard from them that the program will be fixed by tomorrow at the latest.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy Abbott said there is a rabies clinic on October 16th at the Brooks Fire Station from 9am – 11am, free to Waldo County residents. Peter Nerber contacted everyone on the outstanding dog license list. They have thirty days to respond before late fees are attached. Cindy received the excise agreement for the Town of Waldo. Select Board signed it. Ron will talk with Jackie about going through and updating book with homestead exemptions. Select Board asked Cindy to make sure the town sale of the Blake Property on Greeley Road is all taken care of. Cindy reached out to Trio for address issues with billing. Trio chose the wrong address to send some tax bills to. Cindy said the town received \$20,000 from Waldo County American Rescue Act Funds. Steve said it needs to go into General Fund under miscellaneous. If the Town approves spending at Special Town Meeting, then move money into new line in Chart of Accounts.

Correspondence:

Curravale Farm: Letter letting town know how town funds helped local people and information about wanting to continue program next year.

Waldo County: Letter about the \$20,000 from County and how town is required to keep track of the money and how it is used.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): In order to receive the \$76,000 worth of funds, over two years, the town needs to show what they will spend it on.

ME DOT: Letter about money coming from the infrastructure bill.

MMA: Letter about upcoming meeting on 9/29 and 9/30. Ron will go as a voting delegate; Elaine will go as the alternate.

Old Business:

Budget Committee meeting will be on 9/15 at 7pm.

Ron met with Frank Bagley. Frank Bagley will sell land in Freedom adjacent to Skidgell Lot and across stream from Skidgell Lot to town for \$4,500. Select Board agrees to recommend purchase of land for this price at Special Town Meeting. Steve suggested there be a map to handout at the meeting to inform townspeople of what land it is they are recommending to purchase.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison