

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, April 17, 2017

Present: Neal Boyle, Ernest Day, Jr. Selectmen; Les Babb was absent; Karen Hatch, Town Adm.; Road Agent Scott Brooks.

Meeting called to order at 6:15pm manifests were signed and mail was reviewed.

No bids had been received for the portable toilets. Day will contact Garland in North Conway for a bid.

Brooks next gave his department update ó still continuing with spring cleanup and raking roads as they can.

The road ban west of Route 153, Freedom Shores, Kidder Drive and Loon Lake Road will all be lifted Wednesday morning; Watson Hill, Burnham Road; Swett Hill District and Scarboro Road will be on until May 1st.

Dean Robertson joined the meeting and inquired about why the stop sign had been replaced with a yield sign at the end of Loon Lake Road. Day explained that this had been reviewed by the Road Agent, Police Chief and Selectmen and felt one was not needed. Robertson was opposed and felt this would make a bad situation worse. Day explained that if that proved to be true, then a reverse decision would be made if necessary.

Hatch presented the lease/purchase agreement for the pumper truck. In order to hold the interest rate this needed to be done prior to May 1st. Day made a motion to sign the lease agreement as written; seconded by Boyle.

The Freedom Fishing Derby treasurer was in requesting a donation out of the parks & recreation gift account of \$100.00. The past parks & rec committee over the years had always given a donation. Board agreed to the donation.

Day made a motion to enter non public session under RSA 91-a:3 II(e) at 6:30pm
Returned to open session at 6:36pm. Meeting was adjourned to continue at Town Hall will Representative Mark Hounsell.

Meeting was reconvened at 7pm at Town Hall with Carroll County Representatives Mark Hounsell, Amanda Bevard, Dave Babson; Delegation Chairman Mark McConkey; Selectmen Boyle and Day. Also Police Chief Shackford, Road Agent Brooks, Town Adm. Karen Hatch along with approximately 14 residents.

Representative Babson spoke first and has been a representative for 4.5 years. He reported that all audits are now up to date, spoke briefly about the farm, budget and that there should be no tax increase this year.

First term Representative Mark Hounsell stated that his number one priority is to listen; he ran simply to help. He stated that there will not be a tax increase. Spending is going down. He also stated that he was very impressed with the county employees that we have.

First term and Chairman Amanda Bevard spoke of making sure that there were transparent open meetings. She is very much in tune with the people and our money and educating people about our county facilities. She also stated that all representatives are more accessible as they now have county cell phones. Babson also stated that all budget numbers, phone numbers etc. are on the county website.

The floor was opened up for questions from the audience. Various topics were covered including the house of corrections, road conditions but the most time was spent on the future of the farm. There was much passion on both sides of the issue. A study will be done and the committee for this is still being formed.

Mark McConkey asked to speak and address the question of if there was to be no farm what happens to the 900 acres of land. He stated that there is no movement by the delegation to sell the land that it would stay in conservation. He also said that he is optimistic and hopeful that the county will develop a strategic plan for the future.

Chairman Bevard thanked the Selectmen for being invited to the meeting; Selectman Day extended the board's thanks for the representatives coming and speaking.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Hatch
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Ernest F. Day, Jr.