

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, January 6, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall immediately following the Regional Ambulance Meeting. Also in attendance were Matt Tyler, Rob Cunio, Bill Elliott, Wendy Howell, and Daymond Steer.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:51 PM.

**Public Comment:**

None presented.

**Department Head Reporting:**

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported five medical calls, and a furnace issue resulting in the temporary closure of the Thompson House due to electrical issues. Rescue is back at the Station however brakes and rotors needed to be replaced unexpectedly as well as a repair to an exhaust leak that was found. Cunio reported that the Mule is on trailer and will be in-service tomorrow. The Fishing Derby is pending sufficient ice; if there is not at least 10", the derby may be delayed until 2/1/2020.

Police Department – Sgt. Matt Tyler reported an assault call that he responded to as well as a few responses to medical calls and dog calls. A request for a locked in price has been requested from MacMulkin Chevrolet for the new police cruiser.

**Agenda Items:**

Geoff Bickford – Plowing & Drainage Concerns: No one was present to discuss.

Wendy Howell – Proposed Warrant Article: Wendy Howell presented a proposal to the Board for a community playground to be built for non-school age children noting there is no place to play during school hours. The location she is proposing for a play structure would be at the old tennis court. Howell is researching the company used to acquire the two new playground structures in Ossipee and grant funding that may be available through that company. The quote she will be obtaining will include the demolition of the existing pad, removal of chain link fencing, light excavation and addition of wood chips. Day questioned if Howell is residing in Freedom. Howell responded that she will be as of 3/1/2020. Babb reviewed the petitioned warrant article process. Fall recommended Howell obtain firm figures including grant funding, and to make the article contingent upon grant approval. Babb also suggested calculating how many will use it.

Howell also suggested using the roller rink as an ice-skating rink in the winter months and suggested opening both to other communities in an effort to draw people to Freedom. Fall responded that it is a lot of work to have an open-air skating rink. Further discussion took place on the lack of use of the roller rink. Howell was referred to White to obtain the deadline for petitioned warrant articles.

Budget Review: The following budgets were reviewed: Ambulance (\$19,765) appropriations through March to fulfill the current contract, the new contract commencing 4/1/2020 will be ratified in a warrant article; Assessing (\$30,900) level-funded, a contract for a Statistical Update was also presented in the amount of \$25,000. Discussion ensued. Selectmen agreed on a separate warrant article.

Elections (\$15,000) accounting for four elections to be held in 2020; Insurance (\$50,771), discussion on returns of premium received and incoming; Legal (\$20,000) level-funded, discussion on creating a separate line item for the building inspector/zoning officer use; Ossipee Lake Dam Operations (\$6,207.38); Patriotic Purposes (\$1,400) level-funded; Personnel Administration (\$69,515), discussion on reduction due to recalculation based on actual payroll expenses; Regional Associations (\$2,426); Town Officer's Salaries (\$65,190) discussion on requested increase in Town Clerk's salary; Town Officer's Expense (\$262,285) discussion on computer support and equipment replacement; Welfare (\$11,000) level-funded; Health Agencies requests are still incoming. Babb requested a folder containing all health agency requests for Town Meeting.

Babb requested a budget status report to include year-to-date expenditures, all budget requests received to date, and warrant articles, and to schedule a budget workshop on next week's agenda.

Fall stated that Road Agent Scott Brooks received a competitive quote on a steel building option and is finalizing the figures to present at a later date.

Town Meeting Schedule – Day stated that he has received several requests inquiring on the day Town Meeting is to be held. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to proceed with the second Tuesday in March (3/10/2020).

**Other Business:**

Day questioned the status of changing over the town phone service provider. White responded that she has been working with Spectrum to transfer the coverage for over three weeks and still does not have a price.

Fall reported that the town records safe has been moved from the Highway Garage to the Public Safety building. A few tiles were cracked during the move and that was after placing a pad and plywood but the company was well prepared and very professional.

Discussion took place on short-term rental properties. Concern was raised with properties that are advertising 2-bedroom homes as sleeping for up to 12 people, and not having sufficient septic. Babb stated that discussion has taken place at the Planning Board level as a Zoning Ordinance amendment but also discussed the option of requiring licensing. Cunio stated concern with life safety and code requirements based on increased occupancy which may open up to alarm and sprinkler system requirements. Concerns were reviewed related to septage disposal and water quality. Fall noted several properties are being falsely advertised and reviewed the septic standards. Tyler questioned how other towns are handling short-term rentals. Babb responded that Conway has a petitioned warrant article to create an ordinance to regulate them but that is subject to court rulings, licensing is allowable. Howell questioned who is responsible for enforcement. Further discussion ensued and future discussion will commence.

**Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel at 8:15 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – Yes; Fall – Yes; Day – Yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:30 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Babb made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for reputation at 8:30 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – Yes; Fall – Yes; Day – Yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:48 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Consent Agenda:**

Item Description:

Status:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 12/23/2019	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session 12/23/2019	Approved
Minutes – Regional Ambulance Meeting 12/16/2019	Approved
Minutes – Planning Board Meeting 12/19/2019	Reviewed
Minutes – JLMSC Quarterly Meeting 12/10/2019	Reviewed
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 12/25/2019	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 12/25/2019	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 1/1/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 1/1/2020	Approved
Letter of Appreciation – Stacy Bolduc	Approved
Letter of Appreciation – Camp Huckins Donation	Approved

**Correspondence Received:**

Tax payment agreement – receipt of payment	Reviewed
Resource Coordinator’s Report – December	Reviewed
Statistical Update Contract	Reviewed
Building Inspector Report of Permits Issued	Reviewed
State of NH DHHS – Modification #344 Agreement (election workers)	Reviewed
CarePlus Ambulance Roster, Certifications and Insurance Verification	Reviewed

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White  
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb

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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Alan G. Fall