

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 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 and was also available on the Zoom platform. Public attendance on Zoom included Janice Zecher, Nancy, Libby Priebe and Karen Babb.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The Board agreed that it is easier to review the accounts payable having the checks with the applicable invoice.

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Discussion:

Babb questioned if the Assessor's access to the computer has been restored. White responded that she is waiting for Avitar to restore the connection to the assessing database.

Babb requested any update on the Danforth Bay Bridge Project. White responded that Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc. is still moving forward with projects as planned. They sent the order release to Mitchie Corp last week for the precast materials and are awaiting the shop drawings which will then be reviewed and turned around by CMA. The tentative fabrication date for the precast materials is mid-June. The construction schedule is being configured and we should have it by the end of this week. Subcontractors may experience a delay in getting their materials such as guardrails, etc. due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Board received a checklist from Attorney Ratigan for holding emergency meetings. This was distributed to the chairman of each board/committee as well.

Agenda Items:

Babb stated that with the Emergency Orders in place limiting social distancing, and not bringing in additional people into the Town Office, he recommends appointing Janice Zecher as the Assistant/Deputy Tax Collector while the emergency orders are in place. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Zecher questioned if the Board is okay with her helping out with the tax collect season if the orders extend beyond May 4th. The Board agreed. Day stated that it will be a trial run and provisions will be put in place as they go. The Board thanked Zecher for her willingness to step into the position. Babb stated the Town is very fortunate to already have someone in the office that is capable of stepping into the position.

Discussion continued:

Babb stated that the Governor's Order No. 23 allows the Selectmen the ability to waive interest and penalties. Babb stated that the Town relies on the tax revenue to meet its obligations and suggested

the option be exercised on a case-by-case basis and not given as a blanket approval. The Board agreed. White stated that it would give no incentive to pay with no penalty in place.

Babb reported that he received a call from a campground in Town with concern because they are not going to open and campers may find an alternative campground to camp at and they could potentially lose business. White stated that letters were issued on March 31st to Danforth Bay, Camp Calumet, Wabanaki, and Totem Pole acknowledging that if a campground was not open prior to March 28th, it should not open pursuant to Emergency Order #17. Zecher stated that the new order issued today specifies the closure of hotels and Airbnb properties but specifically excludes campgrounds. Babb stated that campgrounds opening will put an additional strain on the community and medical resources. White was asked to contact Governor Sununu's office. Babb will reach out to Executive Councilor Michael Cryans.

Non-Public Session:

Day made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a personnel matter at 7:10 PM. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – yes, Fall- yes, Day – yes. All in favor, the motion carried. The Zoom session was recessed. Day made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:19 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Day questioned how the Zoom meetings are working out for other Boards/Committees? White responded that the ZBA meeting went well and the Planning Board is scheduled for next week. Discussion took place on whether a meeting has to be held electronically or if people can attend. Babb stated that it will be difficult to look at the plans related to a case electronically especially if it is as complex as a campground. White stated that each member should have hard copies of the plans mailed to them in advance of the meeting. Additional discussion ensued.

Discussion took place on various phone conference calls that are available during the week to Health Officers, Town Administrators/Managers, and Emergency Management for questions and answers related to COVID-19. White stated that she spoke with Emergency Management Director Kevin Wells last week to see if there is anything the Board needed to be aware of. He is monitoring the reports daily and commented that the Town was very proactive in making necessary provisions in regard to social distancing and public meeting attendance.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting 3/30/2020 Approved

Correspondence:

Letter sent to all campgrounds regarding non-essential status	Reviewed
2019 Tax Lien Execution	Reviewed
Freedom Food Pantry – Letter of thanks for appropriation	Reviewed
Emergency Meeting Procedures	Reviewed
Fire Department Report (Weeks ending 3/28/2020 & 4/4/2020)	Reviewed
Solitude Lake Management – Herbicide treatment notification (Danforth Ponds)	Reviewed
NH DOT – Report of Red List Bridges Inspections	Reviewed

Being no further input, Day made a motion to adjourn. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall