

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 1, 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. Also, in attendance was Bill Elliott, Anne Cunningham, Josh Shackford, Justin Brooks, Rob Cunio, and Paul Elie, Carol DeMore, Janice Zecher, Terance, Jean Marshall and an unknown caller via Zoom.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. Due to connectivity issues, the meeting did not start until the Zoom Meeting connected.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Fall made a motion to reaffirm the Town's commitment to Lakes Region Planning Commission to participate in the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall made a motion to eliminate the temporary permit for out of town contractors hauling construction and yard waste debris as in no longer applies with updates made to the Transfer Station regulations. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to authorize Babb to sign the annual phone system maintenance agreement with Signet. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

White clarified that the \$37,444 available in grant funds for reimbursement of covid-19 related expenses is separate from the first responder's stipend.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting May 18, 2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Public Comment:

None presented.

Department Head Reports:

Fire Department - Rob Cunio, Fire Chief, reported 7 medical aid calls, 1 motorcycle accident, 4 mutual aid calls; structure fire, 3 fire alarms, police standby, 2 golf cart rollovers, and a dumpster fire over the past two weeks. Freedom currently has 2+ positive covid-19 cases.

The newer Tahoe is now in service and will be dropped off at Andrew's Autobody to repair some minor damage and prepare for lettering. The 2009 Tahoe has been stripped and is ready to be put out to bid. White confirmed there will be no starting bid. Cunio added that the tires on the 2009 are approximately 1-year old.

Cunio reported he will be meeting with the supervisor of Action Ambulance to possibly setup and host an EMS first responder class in September. It's a 60-hour class and a great way to get additional

certified staff on the roster. Cost will be in materials only.

A request for a quarterly ambulance meeting was requested by an Effingham Selectman. Cunio reported the transition between ambulance companies has been smooth and the only known issue with a tire on one of the ambulances was reported and addressed immediately. Call volume has been low but the response has been positive.

Police Department - Police Chief Josh Shackford reported response the same calls reported by Cunio; the motorcycle accident resulted in a DWI arrest. The Memorial Day weekend was quiet. Totem Pole had requested a police detail that was completed, but unnecessary.

Transfer Station - Justin Brooks reported that it continues to be busy; 5 empty dumpsters were dropped off before Memorial Day weekend and 5 full dumpsters went out at the first of the week. Demolition material and mattress volumes are on the high.

Brooks reported that Ossipee withdrew from the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and they were the host site for this area. He will be holding off on paying the invoice until he has confirmation that it will still be held. Brooks will call to find out the planned site for collection.

Town Office – Ellen White reported that a property tax exemption and credit review is in progress for all properties receiving them as part of the statistical update. She and Assessor Rod Wood joined in on a conference call with the Department of Revenue last Thursday to review the timeline; field review will take place through August and the new values will be updated by October.

Cunio followed up on the first responder stipend and received confirmation that all paperwork has been received and the Town should be receiving payment in the next week.

Agenda Items:

Carol Demore – Eaton Rd. speeding – Demore reported statistics related to an increase in traffic deaths in the past 5 months and stated that the speed abuse on Eaton Rd. continues to be dangerous. DeMore discussed plans in Eaton to install rumble strips, a 4-way stop, additional signage, and speed bumps to reduce speed. She requested the speed monitor sign be moved to the opposite travel lane, increase the signage, reduce the speed limit to 30 vs. 35 mph, and install a permanent mounted speed radar sign. Babb responded that Eaton Rd. is a State road with different restrictions, a detour for Route 16's road construction and a GPS reroute for traffic flow. The State sets the speed limit and is responsible for any signage on the route. Fall discussed similar issues that were brought to the State's attention in Freedom Village and they have yet to see any assistance on the matters. Day suggested DeMore contact the State Representatives for assistance. Shackford reported several patrols that have been conducted resulting in the highest speed detected at 41 mph. Traffic is slowing when approaching the speed monitor sign. DeMore stated that it is primarily the heavy trucks that are an issue. Fall also referred DeMore to speak with the State of NH DOT District 3 office in Gilford as the contact for the area. DeMore continued to discuss the impact the speed has on the quality of life in lower falls village and requested the Selectmen's support in her efforts. All were in favor. Shackford added that the State will be looking at traffic data to determine the needs assessment. He is only aware of one motor vehicle accident along the stretch of road. Additional discussion ensued.

DeMore commented that the Town's homepage states that there is no public comment allowed at the Selectmen's Meeting. White responded that the notice was posted in March during the initial Town Office closure when the Selectmen were acting on essential business only during their meetings. In

the past few weeks, the Selectmen have reopened the meetings to public comment.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for a legal matter. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor, the motion carried. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:01 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:02 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a legal matter. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor, the motion carried. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:15 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion:

The meeting attendance of 9 persons was discussed. Babb suggested moving the meeting back to the Town Office, allowing in-person attendance of department heads only, and all public attendance to be through Zoom. All were in favor.

Fall briefly discussed challenges he is experiencing as the acting Zoning Officer. Anne Cunningham has offered her assistance in researching files. Fall is concerned with having to turn away work and having it impact his business.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 5/18/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session 5/18/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 5/20/2020 & 5/27/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 5/20/2020 & 5/27/2020	Approved
Intent to Cut – Jonathan Chace, Burnham Rd. (Map 13, Lots 7-3 & 7-4)	Approved
Intent to Cut – Susan Hoople, Bennett Rd. (Map 7, Lots 20-1 & 20-2)	Approved
Telephony Service Agreement, Signet Systems	Approved
Letter addressed to Don Harris acknowledging acceptance of resignation	Approved

Correspondence:

Email correspondence – Regional ambulance quarterly meeting request	Reviewed
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Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall