

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday April 29, 2013

Present: Neal Boyle, Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Justin Brooks, Fire Chief; Road Agent Scott Brooks; Karen Hatch, Town Administrator; and several citizens.

Meeting opened at 6:30pm. Manifests were signed and general mail was reviewed.

Boyle asked for public comment and Tom Luke gave a brief update on getting drug take back containers. He also reported that during roadside cleanup the Ossipee Lake Road had the most drivers that were speeding. Possibly the police could monitor and some tickets be issued. Boyle to contact the Police Chief of the complaint as there are concerns with the increase of summer campers and bikers.

Bill Elliott reported that the cleanup day was a huge success with 13 volunteers and 34 bags of trash collected. They did not get the young people that they were hoping for.

John Roberts agent for the Watts gravel pit in Effingham asked to speak to the board. The town and Watts family have had a 12-14 year relationship with the town for the use of the pit. Roberts reported that the Road Agent Scott Brooks has always kept accurate records of materials taken from the pit.

This year he did have an agreement with Wendell Brooks to stockpile materials in the pit due to the road ban preventing him to truck material to his own site on Route 153. Once the ban was lifted the materials were being trucked out of the pit at which time a complaint was made to the police department from Robert Battles that he had photos and videos of materials being taken. The Police had contacted Roberts about the complaint; Roberts met with police and was upset to learn that the county attorney had been called and there was talk of reporting this to the attorney general.

He has been the agent for the Watts family since 1991 and he knew that they wanted to be a good neighbor and assist the town in this capacity. He wanted the board to know that there was nothing wrong going on and he did not want to be dragged into the middle of any feud.

The only Selectman aware of the complaint was Babb who knew Tuesday and he felt that there was no urgency and that it could be dealt with tonight.

Roberts also indicated that he was not skirting getting on the agenda but his meeting with the police ended after the deadline; he had wanted an emergency meeting.

It was agreed that members of the board along with the road agent would meet on site at some point. Scott Brooks explained that this is not a town private pit and it is very clear in the pit whose material is whose. Roberts gave permission to the board to visit the pit at anytime.

S. Brooks indicated that these complaints were from more than one family and the complaints were half truths and lies and this had been going on since February.

Boyle next asked for Department Head updates and J. Brooks reported that the transfer station was busier but good. New permits will go on sale Saturday.

The Fire/Rescue is 35-40 calls up from last year at this time. They had responded to a brush fire in Madison. Currently these are class 3 days and when they reach class 4 or higher burning will be banned. There is no brush pile burning until further notice.

Boyle asked about the fire danger sign and Brooks reported that they are approximately \$700 each and he was not sure about funding, if the budget allows towards the end of the year he could order them. Babb will check with FEMA's Heidi Lawton about grant availability.

S. Brooks reported that they are working on the shoulders and ditches on Ossipee Lake Road; the dirt roads are taken care of. He also said that he has an individual who will donate stain to paint the wooden bleachers at the ballfield if the town pays to have it applied. After a brief discussion the board agreed to have Lance Bolduc apply it using the highway's airless sprayer. It was asked that he touch base with Mark McKinley on this.

Hatch asked when the meeting regarding the cistern would be and it was decided that it would be tomorrow at 7am. Hatch also inquired about the monitoring of the cell tower site now that there were back onsite working. Babb indicated that Mark Lucy of WMS&E would be but the bill would be paid by the town.

There was a note from the Mason Temple next door about the septic tank needing gravel around the handle. S. Brooks to take care of this along with trying to reset a few stones on the wall out front.

Next discussed was a bidding policy. Various topics were covered including the gas and oil bid; state bids; equipment rental; contract for services.

Shipman asked who writes the policies and Babb said he will be drafting the various policies over the coming months for the board to review prior to legal review and adoption.

Boyle made a motion to enter non public session under RSA91-A:3 II(a) at 8:10pm. Returned to open session at 9:00pm and meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.