

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, January 13, 2014

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

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

Jean Marshall Freedom's representative to the Lakes Region Planning Commission met with the board to update them on various items which include a State Master Plan; Wind Farms and Rail Transit.

She is now Chairman of the Executive Board and the board has found a new director for LRPC; Jeffrey Hayes from Jackson. She stated that all meetings are open to the public and encourages the board to attend

There was also a brief discussion on the unnumbered state roads that run through the village stating that they were not on the 10 year plan.

Boyle asked for public comment of Cell tower abutters Bill and Willow Briggs of 86 Moulton Road spoke about the runoff swale on their property. He had hopes of talking the Brett Buggeln of Tarpan Towers regarding Audra Klumb's report dated November 18th. He did ask the board to review this again and asked that they retain enough of the letter of credit to address this issue on their property.

Day reported that he had heard from AT&T and they have given permission for the public safety radio equipment in their building and will speak with Tarpon towers about antenna space on the tower.

Bill Elliott inquired about the recourse for trash that was thrown on both sides of the fence at the Transfer Station due to being closed Saturday because of inclement weather. Brooks stated that he tries to get a name from the trash and then turns it over the Police Department that pursues it.

Day wanted to take the opportunity to thank the Road Agent and crew for a job well done taking care of the roads due to the storm over the weekend. Thanks also to the work done by the Fire and Rescue Department.

Ernie Steeves a resident on Route 153 questioned why the town is not using the Blue Loon Transit service. Former Selectman Scott Cunningham explained the history and that they were unable to get enough signatures on a petition for its submittal to the board.

Next discussed was the topic of taxing twice a year. Day spoke on this and is in favor of property tax bills going out twice a year. There was other positive discussion. Shackford a Selectman in Madison did point out a few down side items such as money being very tight at year's end.

Babb reviewed the RSA that governs this and after a brief discussion made a motion to start taxing twice a year starting this year as allowed by RSA; seconded by Day, so voted.

Hatch brought up the current salary of the Tax Collector and asked if they would consider increasing as she would be many more hours of work due to taxing twice. Motion was made by day to increase the salary to \$6,000; seconded by Boyle, so voted.

Hatch next presented the proposal for financial professional services. This had been brought before the board a few months ago, however, the board had wanted to see if we could get the audit and these services for the same current budget amount. The total of these do come in under the current \$12,000 budget. Babb made a motion to hire Carol Coppola & Associates per her proposal; seconded by Day; so voted.

The moderator wanted to remind the Selectmen that he would need two on the 21st to sign off on the ballots at the primary.

Road Agent Scott Brooks was asked about the issue he had with the bio diesel. He reported that CN Brown did not bring in anything to cut what was in the tank that had congealed in the cold weather. They have since delivered a winter blend diesel.

He has had CAT service the grader three times due to another issue which is some contamination causing sludge to form in the tank. Babb asked if the diesel was filtered, Brooks stated it was not but would call Gaftec to see if they offered a filter on the pump.

The discussion next was the condition of Moulton Road which is a state road that the town maintains in the winter. The road has gotten quite bad and asked that the Selectmen to take a ride over it. Brooks explained the precautions that they currently take so as not to ruin any town equipment. Elliott brought up starting a letter writing campaign to DOT.

Brooks next reported that he has used 537 tons of salt since November; the same amount that he used all of last winter. 2400 yards of sand have been used and there is another 10 weeks to go.

Next discussed were highway warrant articles. According to the Highway Capital Improvement spreadsheet the 2006 one ton truck and the loader are up for replacing this year. Brooks provided information and pricing. After a bit of discussion it was determined that only one piece of equipment would be replaced. Brooks indicated his preference of replacing the loader as there was more of a potential for a major component failure and the truck was running fine. Brooks was asked to provide three prices on a loader.

Boyle made a motion to enter non public session at 9:16pm under RSA 91-A:3 II(a). Returned to open session at 10:05pm and meeting was adjourned.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.