

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, May 12, 2014

Present: Leslie Babb, Neal Boyle; Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Scott Brooks, Road Agent; Karen Hatch, Town Administrator;

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

Pam Clemons-Keith Town Treasurer met with the board to give them the update with the Tax Anticipation Note. Bank of New Hampshire has in house council so there will be no legal fees. Because of prior authorization from the Board in bank choice, Keith had signed the paperwork on Friday. She hopes to transition to the new bank June 1st.

The board next reviewed the submittal of the contract from the Forest Advisory Committee for the Jackman Ridge Road work. The attached email had indicated the FAC's vote to award the bid to Ambrose Bros. Inc.

Conservation Commission Chairman Mike Gaudette questioned why the FCC did not see the bids he thought they were to go through that board. Babb explained the process and how it evolved and said it was a better system and a better forest.

It was asked what the bids were and there were two; Ambrose Bros. Inc. \$9,420.00 and G.W. Brooks & Son, Inc. \$9,713.00.

Day made the statement that because there was only a \$293.00 difference he felt that the money should stay in town.

Bill Elliott spoke and explained that he was present at the FAC meeting and that the low bidder had spent time prior to the project and that this discussion wasn't setting right with him. He felt the FAC was right in voting for the lowest bidder.

Babb did make the statement that at times in the past they have used the local advantage when awarding bids. Day made a motion to award the contract to G.W. Brooks & Son, Inc.; seconded by Boyle; voted yes unanimously; contract was signed. Boyle will contact FAC Chairman Rob Hatch of their vote.

The board next reviewed and signed the Inter-Municipal Welfare Technology Agreement with Madison. This will aid the Welfare Officer in her job with both towns.

Being no public comment department head updates were next. Road Agent Brooks reported that roads west of 153 were being prepped for dust control that would be coming Wednesday and Friday.

Boyle had two emails that he wanted to read into the minutes from Sarah Tabor the first dated April 27, 2014.

õI thought I should let you know that I don't want you to use my property for the fishing derby this year either at 3 Elm St. or 13 Old Portland Rd. This includes driveway, lawn, banks of the mill pond, etc.ö

The next one was dated May 8, 2014;

õI got word today (no check yet) that the town was going to pay for the rest of the water line fix in the Smithy driveway last summer. As a result of this, I am very happy to let the children of the town use my property as they have in the past for the derby this Saturday.ö

Boyle voiced his displeasure that someone would use children as a reason for their personal gain.

Boyle reported that the Memorial Day program would be Friday the 23rd 10am starting at Town Hall then on to the Town Office and Library. Should it rain the ceremony would be in the school.

Boyle also contacted the School regarding having a Selectmen's meeting there as in past years. May 19 and June 2 were two dates suggested; Board agreed on the 19th and Boyle to confirm the date with the School.

Chief Shackford wanted to remind people that the King Pine Triathlon is June 1st at 8am and that there would be lots of extra activity on the roadways that morning.

He also reported that on June 1st at 1pm there will be a Guns and Hoses Baseball game at Burke Field in Madison. This is a benefit game supporting a local Relay for Life team. Both he and Fire Chief Brooks had teams for this game.

Bill Elliott asked to comment on the Jackman Ridge vote. He explained that there had been a lot of discussion at the FAC meeting prior to voting and he doesn't agree with the Selectmen acting against the recommendation of the FAC.

G. W. Brooks made a statement that he has been awarded bids on other jobs and he was not the low bidder.

Babb made a motion to enter non-public session at 7:30pm under RSA 91-A:3 II(a); returned to open session at 8:05pm and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Hatch, Town Adm.

Check future meeting minutes for any amendments or changes to these minutes.