

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, June 9, 2014

Present: Leslie Babb, Neal Boyle, Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Karen Hatch, Town Administrator; Road Agent, Scott Brooks; Linda Farinella, Administrative Assistant; along with many town citizens.

At 7:00 pm Babb opened the public hearing for Discretionary Preservation Easements for two parcels. The first parcel, Map #51 Lot #7 at 36 Elm Street, owned by Marcia Trook, known as the Sears house was presented. Babb asked for comments, there were none. Motion by Babb, seconded by Day to grant the 10-year easement. The motion passed unanimously.

The second parcel, Map #8 Lot #55 at 199 Moulton Road, owned by Nancy and Timothy Ferry was presented. Babb asked for any comments, there were none. Motion by Day, seconded by Babb to grant the 10-year easement. The motion passed unanimously.

Babb explained that these easements allow the owners a 75% tax break which in turn can be used to maintain the barn as per the easement.

Emergency Management Director (EMD) Kevin Wells submitted for signatures from the Board two documents. First was a Contract between the Town of Freedom, NH and Hubbard Consulting LLC for the Update of the Freedom Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014 and the second document was an Application, Certification and Agreement Form for Federal Surplus Property. Signatures were received. Wells discussed the 911 Emergency Broadcast option offered by the State. This system allows the opportunity to send out messages about shelter options in an emergency and for missing children or elderly. There is no cost to the Town and eventually citizens will be able to register their cell phones.

EMD Wells inquired as to how to pay employees for their time put into the Emergency Operations Plan, noting there is no budget for EMD. Babb explained that payroll expenses would come from each department's budget.

Babb asked for public comment. Laura Robinson, Library Trustee, asked the Board if the library would need to put a proposed project for the library out to bid. Babb suggested that Robinson connect with Karen Hatch to decide if it would be done by bid or a request for proposal.

Boyle read aloud a handwritten thank you note that was received from Ted Acton. Acton expressed his gratitude to the Selectmen for recognition of his 100th birthday.

Babb informed the public that the Selectmen had a meeting with their attorney earlier today regarding the class action suit of Kondrat v. Town of Freedom. This suit is

regarding believed taking of land for the Ossipee Lake Road bike path. The Town has won all but one, because of a late attorney submission, of the court appeals.

The Board had to make a choice today on how to proceed because the plaintiff has decided to file in Supreme Court. The Board has decided to make this appeal public record. The Town has the right to seek damages but the Board has decided it will stop if the plaintiff agrees to not proceed to Supreme Court; with the seeking of damages would come payment to the Town from the eighteen plaintiffs who are all Freedom tax payers. The amount each plaintiff could be responsible for ranges from \$2,000 - \$3,000.

Karen Hatch, Town Administrator, informed the Board that a check sent to the Trustees of Trust Funds for the amount of \$47,528 has shown on the 90-day list of outstanding checks. These funds were supposed to be deposited and put back into the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. Hatch is bothered that the funds are not making any money for the tax payers. Paul Olzerowicz, Trustee, stated that there are still some questions regarding how to handle the funds and he hopes to have answers in the next two weeks. Hatch was directed to contact the Department of Revenue for clarification. The Trustees will attend the June 30th meeting to discuss.

Babb referenced a non-public meeting on 06/02/14 regarding the safety of operators on the Town's backhoe. During service of the backhoe a problem was found with the roll over protection system (ROPS). It was decided that only Scott Brooks and Justin Brooks would operate the machine. Scott Brooks, Road Agent, received information from Case that they do not approve of any welding or fabrication to the cap and the machine is so old that that section cannot be replaced. No other employees can use it now as it is a liability.

Babb directed Brooks to obtain a broad spectrum of information from different companies, new versus used and report back to the Board sooner than later. Babb stated that after getting the information he'd like to contact the Department of Revenue Administration, hold a public hearing and purchase the machine from fund balance.

Chief Shackford introduced Jonathan Evans, a new part-time officer, to the Board and public.

The Board discussed the Terms of Sale for 205 West Bay Road. Motion by Babb, seconded by Day to request a \$5,000 deposit and seek a minimum bid of \$25,000. The motion passed with Boyle against. Boyle wanted a \$50,000 minimum bid.

Hatch expressed concern of the legal description of the 205 West Bay Road property to be noticed. Babb directed Hatch to seek the advice of Town Council.

The location of the Historical Register Plaque designated for the Town Office was decided. The plaque will be placed on the outside of the building between the two windows over the ramp.

Babb made a motion to enter non public at 8:09 pm under RSA91-A:3 II(c) returned to open session at 8:40 pm and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Farinella
Administrative Assistant

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Neal E. Boyle

Ernest F. Day, Jr

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