

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836  
Monday, June 30, 2014**

Present: Leslie Babb, Neal Boyle, Ernest Day, Jr., Selectmen; Karen Hatch Town Adm.

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm, manifests were signed and mail was reviewed.

Hatch explained an error that was made in the paperwork for 205 West Bay Road. There was an incorrect number used for back taxes, interest and penalties. The board agreed that this would not change the Terms of Sale. All paperwork will be corrected and resent.

Hatch had also received an inquiry about a possible family member of the past owner of this property having access to the house to pick up a few items. Selectman said that was fine and this would require a civil standby by the Police Department. This will be arranged once they had made contact with the office.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:26pm to reconvene at Town Hall for the remainder of the meeting. Meeting reconvened at Town Hall at 6:36pm.

Additional present at Town Hall were members of the Conservation Commission, Michael Gaudette, Alice Custard, Greg Bossard, Paul Elie, Bill Elliott and John Roman; members of the Forest Advisory Committee, Robert Hatch, Ron Newbury, Janet Johnson, David Charrette and Chuck Depew; Linda Farinella, Adm. Assistant; Justin Brooks, Fire Chief; Paul Olzerowicz Trustee of Trust Funds; several town citizens. Later in the meeting Road Agent Scott Brooks and Police Chief Josh Shackford joined the meeting.

The board had requested a meeting with the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development Division of Forests and Lands, Susan Francher and Bill Carpenter were present representing the state.

Selectman Babb gave the history on the Jackman Ridge Road upgrade issue. There had been a bidding process for the contractor that had not been agreed to by the Selectman; Selectmen then took their own vote and that vote had been contested. Babb stated that he felt no one had done it right to this point. Babb also gave background of the check and balance created when the land was acquired.

Reference was also made to a document drawn up in 2006 by town attorneys outlining the authority of each entity.

There was a lengthy discussion; FCC Chairman Gaudette and FAC Chairman Hatch both spoke regarding the background of this project and the understanding of the approval of projects. There were also comments from members from both FCC and FAC on this as well.

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

Babb stated that he looks at this bidding process as a separate process from the approval process. There was discussion regarding the purchasing policy which has never been finalized.

Susan Francher spoke and indicated that it was not their job to decide the decision making process but they are there to support the management of the property.

The discussion then became more about the bidding process and Babb said that there needed to be more clarity and the Selectmen will finish the purchasing policy.

Francher said they would encourage clarity and transparency. There should also be a set threshold in the policy for when items go out to bid. She also stated that there needed to be in the policy a process that would give the ability to respond in case of a weather emergency without using the bidding process.

Babb's opinion for the future process would be FAC's decision forwarded to Selectmen and if not approved by them it would be forward to FCC. FCC would vote to affirm FAC's decision or send back to FAC.

Babb stated again that the board would write and adopt the policy. He asked R. Hatch to contact the winning low bidder to see if they will still do the work.

There was then a brief discussion on the 10 year update to the Stewardship Plan that is scheduled for next year.

Both Francher and Carpenter spoke of the impressive work being done by the FAC; there are no issues with the management and our forest is as well managed as any in the state.

Next the board was to meet with the Trustees of Trust Funds, however, only Paul Olzerowicz was present. The Trustees had returned to the Selectmen the check which they had asked be put back in the Highway Capital Reserve Fund as these monies were unused.

Olzerowicz stated that the role of the trustees have been satisfied based on Article 9 of the 2013 warrant asking that \$60,000 be withdrawn. There was discussion that the Department of Revenue, whom the town reports to, would allow the funds be returned as a mistake had been made in requesting the monies, it should have been only for the amount that was needed.

After a lengthy debate there became an impasse; Olzerowicz then did offer to call and talk with Michelle Clark of DRA again, this will be done from K. Hatch's office.

Babb asked for public comment and Bill Elliott asked if the Town Seal couldn't be put on the Tahoe now being used by the Highway Department. Brooks reported that they just have to be picked up at the graphic company.

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J. Brooks reported that the second compact was broken and he would have a price tomorrow for the repair.

Motion was made by Babb to enter non public session at 8:24pm under RSA 91-A:3 II(c).

Returned to open session at 9:04pm and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Karen Hatch  
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Neal E. Boyle

Ernest F. Day, Jr.