

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, October 16, 2017

Present: Leslie R. Babb, Neal E. Boyle Selectmen; (Ernest Day Jr. was absent) Road Agent Scott Brooks; FCC Chairman Paul Elie; Police Chief Josh Shackford; Fire Chief Justin Brooks; Karen Hatch, Town Adm.; and Bill Elliott.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35pm manifests were signed and mail was reviewed.

Babb inquired of Elie if he felt the speed trailer near his house on Old Portland Road was making a difference and Elie reported that it was making a huge difference.

Alan Fall of the Heritage Commission with Building Inspector Dave Senecal present met with the board to start a conversation regarding notification to Heritage Commission when a demolition permit is issued. The Commission would like to be given an opportunity to take pictures and document the building being razed. This would be primarily for houses and barns. Fall also asked if access be granted to go onsite to do this documentation. Babb explained that access would not be something that the town could ask for; the inspections done by the building inspector are allowed by state law. Senecal felt this could be done easy enough; a change could be on the permit application.

A timeframe was discussed and 7 days seemed reasonable. After a brief discussion Babb made a motion; as part of the demo permit, require a 7 day waiting period prior to the start of demo; provided it does not exceed 30 days from the submittal of the application, for the notification to the Heritage Commission for photos and documentation. Boyle seconded. Fall thanked the board.

Senecal next reported that to date 73 building permits have been issued; 13 are new houses; 42 electrical permits; 20 plumbing permits and 25 gas permits. He expects to continue to be busy as people want to get things started before winter.

The board next reviewed the Ossipee Lake Road Bridge amendment submitted by H.E. Bergeron Engineers for the project. This had been reviewed by both the Road Agent and Town Council; the board agreed to proceed and the engineers will be notified.

Next discussed was the access to the fire pond on land of Jerry Brooks. The Fire Chief would like to have year round access to this pond as this is the only water source for this area of town. He is asking that the access off Durgin Hill be upgraded so that it can be plowed in the winter. It was agreed, along with the Road Agent, that the highway department would do the upgrade and the monies would come from the encumbered dry hydrant account. The Chief also stated that he is looking to buy a floating pump.

The board next reviewed the proposed policy change for zoning application submittal deadline. The proposed change would read "Zoning Permit Applications subject to denial by the Zoning Officer for Zoning Board of Adjustment submittal must be received no later than noon on the Thursday prior to the ZBA deadline or will be reviewed the following Thursday. Note: All applications are subject to a 30 day review period."

Babb gave an explanation as to why the proposal is being made which stems from some applicants taking advantage and not adhering to the submittal date with the proper signed paperwork. Babb made a motion to approve the change as submitted to be posted on the Zoning Permit Application, Boyle seconded.

Babb asked for public comment and Elliott asked about his letter regarding the Welcome To Freedom sign he had passed along with the pricing. There was discussion on the location which would be within the Ossipee Lake Road right of way. Elliott would like approval if possible to move forward. There was a tie vote so a vote will be needed from Selectman Day.

Elie inquired if the Supervisors of the Checklist had met to allow Frank Lalumiere to be added to the checklist so that he could be sworn in as an alternate to the Conservation Commission. No one was certain and Hatch will contact the Supervisor's chairman.

Chief Shackford reported that the new radar sign was in, however, the state does not allow message boards so he would like to see this sign put on a town road and get a new conforming sign for the state road. He suggested that they may want to budget for one. Shackford did not have his weekly breakdown but he did report that there has been a rash of scam phone calls and emails and would like to get the word out to warn residents not to respond to these. Although the state bid is not out yet he is looking to replace one of the police vehicles and would like to look at getting the Ford pickup package.

Road Agent Scott Brooks reported that he had tried to get state approval for the culvert renewal prior to putting paving out to bid. Due to the lateness of the season he would like to encumber those monies and with next years paving budget reclaim and resurface Moulton Road starting approximately at Tim Brooks driveway and going up Swett Hill Road. Brooks had gotten a price for the crane to move the box culvert if we were to store it for the winter. It would work out about the same with the hiring of trailers etc to assist with the moving of the culvert. After a brief discussion the board felt it would be housed in town so that it was available when he needed it next year. Brooks is to coordinate this. He is hoping that the line striping of Ossipee Lake and Bennett road gets done this week along with the crack sealing.

The Fire Chief gave his update and reported that the fire engines will be pump tested by the end of the month. There is also a control burn scheduled for tomorrow off of Babcock Road on the Nature Conservancy property. The new air packs should be here next week.

The Transfer Station is still slowing up as those wintering south have started to leave. They are also prepping for the winter season.

Hatch reported that there maybe a preliminary tax rate by weeks end, however, that was not guaranteed.

Babb made a motion to enter non public session under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) at 8:08pm with the Road Agent. Returned to open session at 8:17pm and meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Hatch, Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Neal E. Boyle