

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, April 2, 2018

Present: Leslie R. Babb, Ernest F. Day, Jr., Alan G. Fall, Selectmen; Assistant Fire Chief Justin Brooks; Fire Chief Rob Cunio; Police Chief Josh Shackford; Karen Hatch, Town Adm.; Scott Brooks, Road Agent; Susan Marks and Bill Elliott.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm manifests were signed and mail was reviewed.

The board reviewed the reappointment of Bruce Howlett and Day made a motion to reappointment Bruce Howlett to the Freedom Aquatic Invasive Species Committee (FAISC) for a 3 year term; Fall seconded, voted yes unanimously.

Jim McElroy chairman of the FAISC met with the board regarding entering a Tri-Town Lake Host program with Ossipee and Effingham. We are awarded grants to have a lake host at Ossipee Lake Marina. FAISC had proposed to N.H. Lakes Association encompassing all three towns to cover all ramps in the area to check for milfoil. Their biggest concern was the unmanned ramp on Route 25.

NH Lakes proposes that Freedom be the primary member and the cost for each town would be \$300.00 which is the corporate membership to the organization. Fall made a motion to participate in the Tri-Town Milfoil program; Day seconded, voted yes unanimously.

There was no public comment and Cunio reviewed the past week's call list along with repairs to the rescue unit.

J. Brooks reported increased activity at the Transfer Station as more people return to their Freedom homes. It was noted that a burn permit is now required regardless of the snow cover.

S. Brooks reported that they were grading the dirt roads of rough spots. When it dries out they will be able to use the grader for that. They have also put some winter equipment away.

Shackford stated that there was the usual activity but indicated that he had received several call on the IRS scam which had amped up calls that day.

S. Brooks reported on his search for the new town truck. 2018 models were no longer available to order. He had been in contact with Rowe Ford and Grapone Ford. Rowe had two trucks in stock that met most of his criteria. He could order a 2019 in a few months get it outfitted and it might be ready for November. This model would be cheaper than the two in stock.

Brooks did state that the last three trucks purchased were unable to be available for service until the fall. He would like to propose that the Capital Reserve Fund be such that a truck could be ordered before Town Meeting.

After more discussion on cost and the warrant article amount Babb made a motion to permit Brooks to pay up to \$52,500 for the truck presented; Day seconded; voted yes unanimously.

Fall had reviewed the personnel policy and found several areas he felt needed to be updated and a minor correction where there was a discrepancy. Day stated that it was not bad the way it is just add in the changes that had been previously voted on.

Babb noted that all department heads were present and that the review would be put on the agenda next week. Babb asked that the policy be forwarded to the board and department heads electronically.

Jayne Britton inquired about the property at 50 Eaton Road and if there are no immediate plans could the back of the property possibly be used for a community garden. Or perhaps a pumpkin patch for the library or some type of food for the food pantry. After discussion the board indicated that they thought something specific be grown rather than a community garden and the challenges that could create. She will look into this more and come back to the board.

The board next reviewed the job title and job description for the Fire Chief position that is being filled by Rob Cunio. It was noted that a full time Fire Chief would be required to have NH Retirement and if this could be reworded it would be a huge cost savings to the town and to Cunio. The position was originally geared more towards a full time EMT and a part time Fire Chief due to the ageing population.

Selectman Day had spoken with Attorney Steve Buckley at NHMA and the job title could change without a public hearing just be discussed at a public meeting.

Babb asked if there was public comment on this and S. Brooks inquired what would he get for retirement, Babb replied that he would get the same as other employees.

With no other comments Babb made a motion to change the position title from full time Fire Chief to Full Time EMT-Part time Fire Chief; Day seconded, voted yes unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Hatch
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall