

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2019**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held in the Town Hall.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

Babb introduced Ellen White as the new Town Administrator and referred Department Heads to see her for copies of their department budgets.

Department Head Reporting:

Mark McKinley reported the furnace cleaning at the Town Hall is scheduled for tomorrow, 11/5/2019, the septic pumping will take place on 11/18/2019, and further information on the street lighting is incoming. The cost is estimated to be \$15,000 with \$5,000 coming back in rebates. The boiler replacement cost is estimated at \$15,000. McKinley discussed replacing the bleachers at the ballfield but it is not a necessary expense at this time.

Josh Shackford reported the Police Department budget is on track, the staff levels are good and the department has been very busy.

Rob Cunio reviewed mechanical expenses and the status of an application for grant funding to obtain new extrication tools. A trade-in figure for the 4-wheeler has come in at \$3,000 to be used toward the purchase of the new UTV. Weekly statistics were reported and several members of the department participated in giving out candy at Halloween. Cunio also reported that a USDA grant is in progress for the replacement of Engine 2, noted at 30 years old.

Justin Brooks reported things are winding down at the Transfer Station. Scrap metal is to be hauled out soon and he will need to replace tires on the backhoe. He anticipates the budget increasing by at least \$30,000 for the increase in trucking fees. Discussion may take place on the future of the recycling program.

Anne Cunningham reported that the Master Plan update is almost complete. To date, there are no proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Dave Senecal reported the issuance of 75 building permits including 8 new homes, 70 electrical permits, and 40 plumbing permits. He is currently completing 2-5 inspections per week and added a half day to his work schedule over the summer to keep up. Construction is still busy in the camps and all over town. Last year, 100 total permits were issued including 18 new homes, although this year's figures are slightly less, new septic designs are still incoming.

Don Harris mirrored Senecal's report and also commented on the great potential the new building permit software has especially in staying on top of approvals granted to specific properties.

Paul Eli stated a Nature Conservancy grant is in progress for the burning at the Town Forest. A Warrant Article will be required for approval to expend the grant funds totaling \$5,000.

Ned Kucera reported that budgeted amounts and gifted funds have been expended for milfoil treatment. Danforth has a large growth area that will require significant treatment in 2020 at an anticipated cost of \$24,000. There is approximately \$6,000 in the reserve fund and 20% matching grant funds will be returned from treatment in 2019. Bob Patterson from AB Aquatics has been invited to the November FAISC meeting to report on the lake status. 11/15/2019 is the deadline for contractors to submit bids for diver assisted harvesting and treatment in 2020.

Scott Brooks stated the budget is in good shape, salt has been stockpiled and most equipment is now storm-ready. There has been a lot of cleanup from the recent rain/wind storm. The 1-ton is scheduled for replacement in 2021. Brooks requested a private session at the end of the meeting.

The Board requested copies of the capital reserve account balances for review.

Bid Opening:

Babb announced the opening of the bids received for the replacement of the Danforth Bay Bridge as follows:

Northeast Earth Mechanics, Inc.	\$1,189,260.00
Integrity Earthworks	\$ 968,520.25

Babb made a motion to turn the bids over the HEB for their recommendation to be presented at the next meeting on 11/18/2019. All were in favor.

Public Comment:

Cunio requested permission to use money in the forestry account and \$420 out radio maintenance line to expend the total required for the purchase of new pagers and then grant reimbursement of approximately \$1,100 will be coming back to the Town.

Shackford presented the option of filming the meetings weekly but it would require the purchase of a camera to do so.

Non-Public Session:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:15 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for legal. Fall seconded. The motion carried. Roll call vote was taken. Babb answered yes, Day answered yes, and Fall answered yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 6:23 PM. Seconded by Day. Motion carried.

Scott Brooks reported the new hire will begin on 11/19/2019. He reviewed the terms of employment with the Board. He then reported on the new gas pumps that were installed. Brooks was dismissed at 6:28 PM.

White reviewed several procedural questions and expectations with the Board. Department budget reviews will be scheduled to begin on 11/25/2019.

Being no further input, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall