

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 25, 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 immediately following the Regional Ambulance Meeting. Also in attendance were Josh Shackford, Justin Brooks, Sarah Tabor, Paul Eli, Rob Cunio, and Bill Elliott.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM.

Public Comment/Department Head Reporting:

Police Department - Chief Josh Shackford reported that his phones and internet at the Police Department were down for most of the day but service has been restored. Fire Chief Rob Cunio responded that ballasts being replaced in the station may have been the cause.

Transfer Station - Justin Brooks stated he requested that his budget review appointment be pushed back one week since he was off last week. The Planet Aid clothing recycling bins have been removed at the Transfer Station due to poor market conditions. Fall questioned if the gravel has been taken care of at the Transfer Station. Brooks responded that Scott Brooks took care of it. Brooks also reported that the second C&D container is scheduled for removal for the winter.

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported the department responded to 7 medical calls, 1 transport, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 fire alarm activation, 1 mutual aid call to Ossipee for structure fire, and 1 residential fire with minimal damage. Cunio is in the process of replacing the batteries in each ATV and they scheduled to pick up the new mule on Saturday. NED is presently replacing ballasts in the station and will return tomorrow to finish up.

Ellen White stated she is starting to pull together information on the budget and will provide a report for next week's meeting.

Agenda Items:

Sarah Tabor, Plowing in Town Center - Sarah Tabor of 3 Elm Street expressed concern with snow removal in the town center stating that snow is being pushed into the fencing she has installed to protect her flower gardens and shrubbery, and two granite posts are continually being damaged which cost approximately \$400 to replace. This is an ongoing issue every year. Tabor suggested that the snow be plowed parallel to the fencing rather than against it. Babb responded that the State plows one route (Elm to Old Portland) and the Town plows the other (Moulton Road) along her property frontage. Brooks stated the snow was once scooped out between the granite posts but the fencing that has been installed does not allow that. Tabor stated that two of the damaged posts were glued; one held but one did not. She also stated that saplings used to be planted annually and that no longer occurs. Babb advised that it was the State and not the Town that provided the saplings. The Board agreed to relay her concerns to the Town crew but she would also need to contact NH DOT District 3 in Gilford.

Budget Review: Fire Department - Cunio presented the request for the Fire Department noting an increase totaling \$5,100 over last year's budget of \$173,000 to account for the replacement of 3 sets of turn-out gear, increase in the gas/oil/diesel line, mechanical issues with the tank truck, repairs to

the Tahoe, increase in the annual inspection line and operating line, and creating maintenance lines for the ATV and new mule. Fall noted the increase to be approximately 3% overall.

Cunio discussed the replacement several radios that he will be seeking grant funding for. If there is no grant funding available, he will likely create a line item to replace a few each year. Additionally, he is working on obtaining pricing for updated refurbished cardiac monitors. No questions were presented.

Budget Review: Emergency Management – No one was present, the current budget was reviewed. \$500.00 was raised, no money has been expended to date. Level-funding.

Budget Review – Forest Fire – The current budget was reviewed. \$3,000 was raised, \$560.00 has been expended to date. Level-funding.

A request received from Bonnie Burroughs to open the Town Offices on the Saturday of Old Home Week Parade for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the school was presented for discussion. Fall volunteered to open the building and spoke in support of highlighting the older buildings in town. All were in favor with a town official present to open the building. Fall requested notification be sent to him and Ms. Burroughs confirming the date and time.

Day requested an update on the telephone service. White provided an update stating she has compiled all phone numbers and account numbers and is in contact with Spectrum to get government pricing to bundle the phone and internet service at all town locations. More information will follow.

Non-Public Session:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for a legal matter at 8:10 PM. Fall seconded. The motion carried. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – yes, Fall – yes, Day – yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:14 PM. Fall seconded. The motion carried.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel matters. Day seconded. The motion carried. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – yes, Fall – yes, Day – yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:22 PM. Fall seconded. The motion carried.

A letter drafted to the Town of Eaton Zoning Board of Adjustment providing comment on an application for Special Exception for a home business at 14 Cold Brook Road was presented for signatures. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to sign and send the letter.

Letters drafted to representatives at Spectrum/Charter Communication, Inc., and Consolidated Communications, Inc. requesting broadband coverage information to identify unserved locations in Freedom were presented for review and signatures. The Board agreed to sign and send the requests.

Several requests for funding were received from outside agencies. Babb reviewed the process stating that new agencies are requested to petition the town at Town Meeting each year for three consecutive years while others that have been previously granted funding provide financial information annually for the Board's review.

White updated the Board on the 70 Moulton Road property. Notices of Opportunity to Repurchase have been distributed to all siblings. Discussion took place on the contents of the property. White reviewed the challenging configuration of the Town Office and is working on solutions to better accommodate the needs of the public and work flow of the employees.

Consent Agenda:

Item Description:

Status:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 11/18/2019	Approved
Minutes – Regional Ambulance Meeting 11/18/2019	Reviewed
Minutes – FAISC Meeting 11/14/2019	Reviewed
Minutes – 2019 Safety Officer’s Report 11/4/2019	Reviewed
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 11/20/2019	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 11/20/2019	Approved
Employee Time-Off Requests (2)	Approved

Correspondence Received:

Tax payment agreement - receipt of payment	Reviewed
Letter acknowledging rescission of building permit (28 Houle Drive)	Reviewed
Thank you letters to unsuccessful bidders of ambulance contract	Reviewed

Being no further input, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall