

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 9, 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 at the Town Hall immediately following the Regional Ambulance Meeting. Also in attendance were Josh Shackford, Justin Brooks, Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, and Paul Elie.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Public Comment/Department Head Reporting:

Police Department - Chief Josh Shackford reported the call volume for the week consisting of (2) disturbances, a request from a resident on how to pay her taxes, welfare check, domestic disturbance, theft at a residence, alarm activation, arrest originating from Green Mountain Addiction Center, calls regarding Census Bureau data collectors, mail theft from private mailboxes along Route 153 and Durgin Hill, subject was seen driving a blue Toyota Camry style vehicle with temporary plates, a County-wide bulletin has been issued. Babb questioned any reports of dog thefts as some have been received in Fryeburg. Shackford has not received any.

Transfer Station - Justin Brooks reported the new tires have been put on the backhoe. It is a slow time of the year at the Transfer Station and he noted closures on both Christmas Day and New Years Day as they fall on Wednesdays this year.

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported a service call, medical aid call, and fire alarm activation that were responded to. He is awaiting a maintenance invoice and stated Rescue and the two F-550's are left to have the fluid film applied. Discussion took place on the cost and effectiveness. Babb offered funding from the Capital Reserve Fund if necessary. Cunio estimates that all can be completed within the budget. Cunio received an estimate from Gemini Sign in the amount of \$400.00 for lettering the Tahoe, and the cost to strip the current equipment and re-install in the Tahoe will be approximately \$2,500 if the Board chooses to replace the Tahoe cruiser this year and transfer it to the Fire Department.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks stated all is going well in the department.

Agenda Items:

Budget Review – Highway Department: Brooks presented his proposed budget requests stating Summer Highway and Winter Highway will stay the same at \$265,882 and \$354,204 respectively. Increases in the General Highway Expense Budget include Uniforms for \$200.00, Safety Supplies for \$500.00, Diesel for \$500.00, and Grader Maintenance for \$2,000.00 for a total increase of \$6,200 over last year's budget of \$215,865.

Brooks presented two options for a fabric-type building with dimensions of 140'x70'x40' for use as a salt shed. Two estimates received from Clear Span (\$258,100) for a 15-year building and Iron Horse (\$250,000-\$300,000) for a 30-year building were reviewed. Brooks estimates the cost of a concrete foundation will be an additional \$75,000-\$100,000 with a quote incoming tomorrow. Brooks reviewed block wall and monolithic foundation options. The pricing on the building is good until the first of

the year and Brooks estimates a total cost of approximately \$325,000 would need to be appropriated for the whole project.

Brooks reviewed a plan to reclaim the portion of Swett Hill Road from the newly replaced box culvert to the foot of the hill at an estimated cost of \$12,000 plus binder of \$75,000 for a total of \$92,000. He would like to encumber the \$8,000 remaining in this year's budget, for a total to be raised in the amount of \$83,000. He would plan to top the road in 2021. Brooks reviewed repairs needed at the Camp Huckins entrance that would be earmarked for funding in the near future but the Swett Hill project requires higher priority in order to preserve the work that has been completed on the box culvert.

Brooks reviewed the status of the crushed gravel at the Watson pit. 1-1/2'-1-3/4" gravel pricing per yard is based on a minimum of 5,000 yards, presently they have 6,000 yards. Future tree removal will be needed to expand excavation as the winter sand availability may be limited to only 2,500 yards.

The Board requested Brooks provide the information on the fabric building to Ellen so they can determine which direction to go and what funding options are available.

Day suggested a notice be posted to the town's website alerting that it is illegal to plow snow across a roadway.

Budget Review – Conservation Commission: Chairman Paul Elie presented the budget request proposed at \$5,100 including \$3,000 in water quality testing – level funded from 2019.

Budget Review – Forest Advisory Committee: Elie also presented this request in the amount of \$3,500 of which \$500.00 is for maintenance and \$3,000 for the forester. Elie stated that the planned pine barren burn has been delayed until 2021 and will be funded through the Nature Conservancy Grant. Babb confirmed the \$3,500 was appropriated by a Warrant Article this year that was funded through the Forest Maintenance Fund.

Elie discussed the milfoil, cyanobacteria, and PFAs detection in water. The towns of Effingham and Tamworth have reported PFAs detected in water and although the community water is tested quarterly, it does not address private wells. Elie attended a seminar held at Runnels Hall on PFAs and more information will be coming out. PFAs can be found anywhere and once present in the ground, are there forever. They originate from firefighter equipment, Teflon, etc.

Budget Review – Heritage Commission: A memo was presented by Peg Scully requesting level-funding in the amount of \$850.00.

Other Business:

Elie reported the total of conservation easement land is up to 24% in Freedom consisting of a total of 36 parcels. The average percentage of conservation land in towns in the State of NH is 25%.

Non-Public Session:

Day made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for a legal matter at 8:09 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – Yes; Fall – Yes; Day – Yes. Day made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:13 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

Consent Agenda:

Item Description:

Status:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 12/2/2019	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 12/4/2019	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 12/4/2019	Approved
All Veteran’s Tax Credit	Approved
Veteran’s Tax Credit	Denied
Land Use Change Tax:	
Robert & Patricia Goos - Map 13, Lot 24-04, 2.450 acres removed	Approved
Steven Nason Rev Trust – Map 3, Lot 79-23, 5.280 acres removed	Approved
Christopher Vittum – Map 8, Lot 57, 5.00 acres removed	Approved
Robert & Theresa Zowasky – Map 13, Lot 39 1.510 acres removed	Approved
Warrant for Land Use Change Tax:	
Robert & Patricia Goos - Map 13, Lot 24-04 (\$2,000.00)	Approved
Steven Nason Revocable Trust – Map 3, Lot 79-23 (\$4,000)	Approved
Christopher Vittum – Map 8, Lot 57 (\$3,500)	Approved
Robert & Theresa Zowasky – Map 13, Lot 39(\$116.00)	Approved

Correspondence Received:

Senior Resource Coordinator’s Monthly Report	Reviewed
Legal counsel invoice	Reviewed
Response to taxpayer regarding payment of property taxes	Reviewed
Tax payment agreement – receipt of payment	Reviewed

White discussed and reviewed the cost of the town’s health insurance plan and other employee benefits.

Babb requested White contact Rod Wood to see if he can complete a statistical update prior to the first half 2020 property tax billing, based upon the trial ratio study results.

Being no further input, Fall made a motion to adjourn. Day seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall