

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, December 16, 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, Rob Cunio, Bill Elliott, Paul Elie, Ned Kucera, Elizabeth Rhymer, Chuck Brooks, and Justin Brooks.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM.

**Public Comment/Department Head Reporting:**

Bill Elliott commented that the Christmas tree in the town center is small but looks nice.

Police Department - Chief Josh Shackford presented quotes received from MHQ for a fully outfitted 2020 Ford Police Interceptor for a total of \$50,322.30 excluding a radio. The State Bid amount for a Chevrolet Tahoe is \$34,100 but would need to be outfitted for an additional cost. Babb suggested checking to see if McMulken has any cruisers in stock.

Additionally, Shackford presented a quote from MHQ to add mobile data transfer units to all cruisers in the amount of \$16,194. Shackford stated that he has requested a quote from Patrol PC and they are waiting for additional specifications to provide a quote. Shackford anticipates the cost for three cruiser setups to be \$15,000-16,000.

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported one medical, and one motor vehicle accident – a relatively quiet week. Currently he is awaiting state paperwork and for the feds to open the AFG grant for submission. The pagers were picked up on Friday. A fire today resulted in coverage at the Tamworth Station while Moultonborough covered Freedom.

**Agenda Items:**

Budget Review – FAISC: Ned Kucera presented a report for submission in the Town Report. He then reviewed the milfoil treatment completed in 2019 and funding of the Lake Host Program. An overview of the Lake Host Program was reviewed. Kucera noted that 3-weeks of diver assisted harvesting of milfoil was earmarked in 2019 as well as herbicide treatment, which was not able to be completed. Bids received for treatment in 2020 are from AB Aquatics at the rate of \$1,220 per day, and Aqualogic for \$920 per day. Solitude is noted to be the only herbicide vendor in the State for a total treatment cost of \$34,508 with the bulk of treatment to take place in the Danforth Pond area. Kucera's proposed request is in the amount of \$37,106 while donations received in the amount of \$4,854.47 and the non-capital reserve fund balance of \$6,363.50 can be used to offset. Babb questioned the other towns contribution to treatment and it was noted that it is also per grant funding allowance. Kucera acknowledged the request for an increase totaling \$15,000 due to the very large treatment area proposed but anticipates less in coming years. A provisional request including only one week of diver assisted harvesting was proposed for a total of \$27,656. Concern was raised about the upcoming bridge construction which may increase the chopping of the weeds from increased boating activity in the area. Fall stated that with such a large increase perhaps it should be put on as a Special Warrant Article to allow the voters to decide. Babb questioned the treatment area. Kucera responded that it is for 49 acres total. Babb stated the proposed treatment area affects two property owners in a non-public boating area. Kucera stated that Howlett has contributed \$10,000 toward

treatment and has attempted to form an association for fundraising but has been unsuccessful. Fall stated that Danforth Bay should contribute. Babb stated that Freedom was the first town to initiate hand pulling before the State stepped in, then funding assistance was offered to other towns but Freedom was excluded. Elliott expressed his frustration with the cost of treatment stating that the State owns the land under the water and should be responsible for remedial efforts, not passing it down to the towns.

Budget Review – Library: Elizabeth Rhymer presented a review of patron visits and programs held in 2019 noting the Library is busy and appreciated. Chuck Brooks presented the proposed budget request in the amount of \$94,788, up from \$93,568 for an increase of 1.5%. He reviewed a donation received from the Friends of Freedom Public Library received in the amount of \$4,500 to be used toward the \$10,000 line item for the purchase of books.

Brooks also reviewed two proposed Warrant Articles; the first to increase from a 3-member to 5-member Board of Trustees in an effort to recruit more potential candidates, and the second is to add \$3,500 to the Library Trust Fund for an HVAC repair in the future. This year \$1,000 was expended from the Trust Fund to remove a problematic sugar maple from the Library property.

Budget Review – Cemeteries: No change, level fund at \$7,725. It was noted that no money from the \$4,000 raised was expended for the Lakeview Cemetery in 2019. Fall stated that if Fred needs more money he should present it to the Board.

#### **Other Business:**

Town Records Storage – Discussion took place on the permanent location for the storage vault. Fall stated that it will go in the foyer at the fire barn because there was question raised about a remodel of the Town Office. White requested an update on the relocation of it from the Highway Garage where it is currently subject to deterioration from salt. Fall provided two contacts for the relocation for White to follow up on. It was noted that the bulletin board in the foyer will need to be relocated.

Boston Post Cane – Current recipient Bill Stoops has moved to Maine, White questioned if an award should be made. Discussion took place on obtaining a replica from the Town of Peterborough as the original is preserved at the Town Office.

Town Report – White requested assistance with the Town Report Dedication and Cover Photo.

Cunio reported that all vehicles were able to have fluid film applied using the \$2,000 line item. The Rescue truck is the next and final truck to receive treatment.

Paul Elie noted an error from his report given last week, the average percentage of conservation land is under 23% statewide. Elie also reported that one of the participants at the PFAs seminar he attended was Sandwich Climate Crisis Coalition and they will be working on an ordinance on recycling. Several meetings will be scheduled starting in January and members from the Conservation Commission will be in attendance.

Elie questioned who is responsible for writing the Warrant Article language for the Forest Advisory Committee. Babb responded that the request to include what is wanted and for how much is forwarded to Ellen, then it is forwarded to Town Counsel for inclusion on the Town Warrant.

**Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel at 8:02 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – Yes; Fall – Yes; Day – Yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:20 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

**Consent Agenda:**

Item Description:

Status:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 12/9/2019	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session 12/9/2019	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 12/11/2019	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 12/11/2019	Approved

**Correspondence Received:**

Tax payment agreement – receipt of payment	Reviewed
2019P02 property tax collections received to date	Reviewed
Inquiry to Freedom Elementary re: transportation question	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White  
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Alan G. Fall