

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, December 23, 2019**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Selectman Ernest Day, Jr. was absent. This meeting was held at the Town Office. Also in attendance were Josh Shackford, Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, Don Harris, and Bill Elliott.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The HEB invoice was questioned. Fall stated the contract amount was in the amount of \$15,925 and the billed invoices have exceeded that total. Brooks responded that the contract was for the design and permitting portion then the bidding was to be billed separately.

Budget Review – Town Buildings: Mark McKinley proposed a Warrant Article to replace the street lighting. The total cost will be \$16,500 and a rebate in the amount of \$4,500 is available. It is calculated to be an annual savings of \$8,000 with payback received in as little as 1-1/2 years. The Board agreed to move forward with a Warrant Article.

McKinley stated the boiler at the Town Hall is approximately 30-years old and questioned whether he should proceed with replacing it. He estimates the cost to replace will be \$15,000. The Board requested a tentative Warrant Article but will verify if there are any funds available to encumber first.

Budget Review – Parks & Recreation: McKinley recommends increasing the mowing line item to cover the overage in 2019. Babb requested the miscellaneous line item be removed and questioned the \$200 expenditure in 2019. Discussion took place on the little league line item. This line item is appropriated to cover the balls, bases, etc. and was included in the budget in lieu of sponsorship signs at the field. McKinley stated that he will be painting the trim on the dugouts. Babb questioned the status of the tennis court. McKinley responded that it will need to be recoated as it has not been done since 2012 but can be held off until 2021.

McKinley presented a packet of information on the street lights noting that there are 48 in Freedom; (14) 100-watt lights will be replaced with 18-watt LED, and (13) 200-watt lights will be replaced with 50-watt LED.

Babb questioned if there had been any response to the questions raised at the last regional ambulance meeting. White responded that Eaton Selectman Dick Fortin reached out to CarePlus President Eric Damon and was able to verify the insurance is in place, the infectious disease training is up-to-date with all personnel and he will provide an updated roster. Fortin will be following up with a letter requesting the items to be sent by certified mail and Damon will respond in writing upon receipt.

Fall informed Brooks that the town records safe will be moved from the Highway Garage to the Public Safety Building on Friday, 1/3/2020 and asked that it be made accessible.

**Public Comment/Department Head Reporting:**

Bill Elliott wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Police Department - Chief Josh Shackford reviewed the quote received from Patrol PC for three MDT systems for the police cruisers totaling \$21,000. He called McMulkin Chevrolet and they do not have any 2019 cruisers available. Discussion took place on whether a Ford Explorer will work in other departments down the road. Shackford was asked to move forward with obtaining firm prices on a Tahoe spec'd out as they need it outfitted.

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported one mutual aid fire response for a structure fire. Rescue is out of service until mid-week as it is awaiting parts that were found broken during the application of the fluid film. He is waiting for the NH Fish and Game plate for the Mule. Cunio informed the Board that CarePlus responded to a call last Thursday and one on the truck was a CarePlus employee and the second was wearing a Brewster Ambulance uniform. Cunio questioned the known employee and was told that Brewster was helping out. The Fishing Derby is scheduled for 1/18/2020 pending sufficient ice depths. Registration for the derby is now available online. Raffle tickets are available for purchase for an 8x10 aluminum ice house. It was noted that people have already been seen ice fishing on Danforth Pond and Loon Lake.

Highway Department – Scott Brooks presented a memo reviewing the three proposed Warrant Articles including the total cost of the Clear Spa Building Winter Sand Storage at \$344,322, gravel crushing at Watt Pit totaling \$41,250, and to reclaim and pave 4,000 feet of Swett Hill Road totaling \$13,000. Brooks requested to encumber the \$8,700 remaining from article #12 to be used toward the Swett Hill Road reclamation. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed to proceed with drafting the Warrant Articles. Babb requested Brooks obtain a quote for a steel building option for comparison.

Brooks proposed the replacement of two culverts on Youngs Hill Road and Loon Lake Road using funds remaining in the summer highway maintenance budget. The culverts will be purchased through Mitchie Corp as the only APA approved precast manufacturer in the State for a total of \$38,500. Babb made a motion to authorize the purchase of the culverts for Loon Lake Road and Youngs Hill Road from Mitchie Corp. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

#### **Agenda Items:**

Budget Review – Building Inspector: Don Harris stated no need to increase his budget this year.

Budget Review - Zoning Officer: White stated that there is also no change to the Building Inspector budget; David Senecal has requested a stipend to use his personal cellphone rather than have a separate town-issued cellphone.

#### **Other Business:**

Cunio informed the Board that he will not be in attendance at next week's meeting due to a mutual aid training he will be attending.

White announced a representative from Chris Pappas' office will be at the Town Office Monday, 12/30/2019 from 10:30-11:30 AM to address any constituent concerns.

#### **Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel at 7:43 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken. Roll call vote was taken: Babb – Yes; Fall – Yes. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:15 PM. Fall seconded. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Board agreed to send all employees home for half the day on Christmas Eve.

White informed the Board that a replica Boston Post Cane has been ordered.

Discussion took place on the new computer ordered for the Town Clerk. White will expend the purchase to the Town Officers budget.

Discussion took place on creating a committee to do a feasibility study to address the space concerns and intermodal issues by way remodeling the existing Town Office or pursuing a new location and building.

**Consent Agenda:**

| <u>Item Description:</u>                               | <u>Status:</u> |
|--|----------------|
| Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 12/16/2019               | Approved       |
| Minutes – Non-Public Session #1 12/16/2019             | Approved       |
| Minutes – Non-Public Session #2 12/16/2019             | Approved       |
| Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 12/18/2019       | Approved       |
| Payroll Manifest week ending 12/18/2019                | Approved       |
| Supplemental Payroll Manifest period ending 12/23/2019 | Approved       |

**Correspondence Received:**

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Quote – RJ Crowley Moving & Storage to move town records vault     | Reviewed |
| HEB Engineers Project Status Report #029                           | Reviewed |
| Camp Huckins donation received                                     | Reviewed |
| Request for Premium Holiday Distribution sent to Primex            | Reviewed |
| Wetlands Permit Application (Map 28a, Lot 45-02) for Seasonal Dock | Reviewed |
| 2019P02 Property Tax transactions posted to date                   | Reviewed |

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White  
Town Administrator

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

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|----------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| Leslie R. Babb | ABSENT<br>Ernest F. Day, Jr. | Alan G. Fall |
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