

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020**

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 Office. Also, in attendance was Josh Shackford (arrived at 9:00 AM).

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Agenda Items:

Budget Workshop -

White presented the updated budget request for the FAISC. The grant funding came in at 40% match so the figures for treatment were adjusted accordingly.

Discussion took place on whether the winter sand storage building and reclamation of Swett Hill Road are both possible to complete this year. Babb noted the proposed increase is \$436,000 without adding any money to Capital Reserve funds. The unreserved fund balance was reviewed as well as the balance in the Trust Fund accounts. Babb stated that the revenues are due to increase by approximately \$200,000-250,000 to account for new construction. Fall questioned whether half the money for the storage building can be put into a Capital Reserve and then raise the balance and complete the construction in 2021. Babb agreed with holding off until 2021 and added that the Public Safety Building bond will be paid off in 2021. Day stated that the building is a necessity due to environmental concerns but it should be able to be done for less than what has been quoted. Day also spoke in favor of keeping the account balances at a safe level. Further discussion took place on a healthy increase but not spending to exceed the growth of the town. All were in agreement that it would not be unrealistic to anticipate \$150,000 be withdrawn from fund balance. Babb reviewed last years appropriations in comparison to revenues.

Day and Fall both expressed concern with not doing the reclamation on Swett Hill Road. Babb responded that they should not have to. Babb then proposed adding \$30,000 to the Capital Reserve accounts for the Police Department, Highway Equipment, and Municipal Land and Building, funding the new cruiser from Capital Reserves and half the cost of the Town Hall furnace from Capital Reserves, and installing just the foundation for the storage building for an overall increase of \$69,418. Babb stated that \$219,000 was pulled from fund balance last year to keep the rate from increasing and he is uncertain about how the statistical update will turn out. Day stated that if they are able to dispose of the tax-deeded properties that will help add to the fund balance.

Other Business:

Day reviewed the balance of the bridge account (\$24,015) and questioned where the change orders and added engineering expenses will come from. Babb responded that the infrastructure account can be used on any infrastructure project.

The Notice of Bid Award was received from NH DOT which approves the bid received from Northeast Earth Materials, Inc. Fall made a motion to have Babb sign the notice. Day seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed. Fall briefly discussed the award and construction management costs.

Shackford announced Patrol PC will be demonstrating the MDT's at the Police Department on Tuesday, 2/18/2020 at 3:00 PM.

Non-Public Session:

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Day seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed. Roll call vote was taken:

Babb	Yes
Day	Yes
Fall	Yes

Fall made a motion to reconvene the public session at 9:50 PM. Day seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion:

Babb reviewed a discussion he had with Attorney Ratigan regarding a request for rehearing on an appeal filed with the ZBA. Ratigan advised that the ZBA has no authority to hire its own attorney and that is based on a Supreme Court decision. The Board of Selectmen determine the attorney that should be used for municipal matters. Scott Lees, ZBA Chairman, will be requested to attend the Selectmen's Meeting to discuss this further.

Brief discussion took place on an incident between a resident and Highway Department employee reported to Selectman Fall.

Consent Agenda:

Item Description:

Status:

Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 1/15/2020
Payroll Manifest week ending 1/15/2020
Letter of Appreciation – Camp Calumet Donation

Approved
Approved
Approved

Being no further input, Day made a motion to adjourn. Babb seconded. All were in favor, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall