

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, February 3, 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 were Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, Justin Brooks, Bill Elliott, Matt Tyler, and a citizen (unknown).

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

Fall reviewed a conversation he had with Pyramid Engineering regarding duplicate testing requirements in the construction phase of the Ossipee Lake Road Bridge project that would be the responsibility of the Town and the contractor, Northeast Earth Mechanics. The contract in triplicate was distributed for signatures now that Northeast Earth has signed their portion and provided the applicable insurance and bond information. The Board agreed to hold off on signing the contract until a company is selected for the construction administration.

Fall stated that once the qualifications are reviewed, they will be ranked and forwarded to NH DOT for approval. Day questioned if this phase is eligible for cost share. Fall responded that it is not.

**Public Comment:**

None presented.

**Department Head Reporting:**

Police Department – Sgt. Matt Tyler reported response to several scam calls, assistance given with a combative suspect, alarm activation, motor vehicle accident at the Route 25 bridge, and assistance given related to a stabbing incident in Ossipee.

Fire Department - Chief Rob Cunio reported three motor vehicle accidents, chimney fire and one additional that turned into a structure fire. The derby was canceled due to ice conditions but raffle tickets for the ice house are available for sale until the winner is drawn at the Public Safety Building on 2/25/2020 at 6:00 PM. Tickets are also available for sale at Leavitt's Bakery in Conway. The ladder testing was conducted last Wednesday and all passed. NH Forest and Lands confirmed receipt of the request for grant reimbursement and it is in process with estimated payment date within 3-weeks. Action Ambulance was voted in as an associate member to the Mutual Aid Association. Action employees will be starting 2-weeks prior to the new contract commencing to educate and familiarize all with the area. Cunio presented the Board with information on Senate Bill 458 regarding the regulation of short-term rentals and recommended contacting State Reps in opposition as it will prohibit towns from any regulations related to short-term rentals.

Highway Department – Scott Brooks reported they have not been busy with winter weather but have been completing trimming of high limbs along Ossipee Lake Road and extensions. The 2016 1-ton received a brake job and the rear springs were also done.

Town Office – Ellen White stated the office has been busy preparing the Town Report and pulling together the Town Warrant and budget.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks had nothing new to report.

**Agenda Items:**

Review of Qualifications Received for Bridge Construction Administration Service – Babb questioned if anyone has had a chance to review the five received. Fall responded that he had briefly but would like more time. Brooks offered his recommendation based on qualifications and experience. Babb questioned how soon the selection should take place. White responded that it should be as soon as possible in order to get NH DOT approval and to not delay the contractor from commencing work when weather permits. The Board agreed to meet on Wednesday at 9:00 AM.

An unknown citizen questioned what the status of the Bridge is. Babb responded that they are hiring a clerk of the works to oversee the construction and make sure it is being done right. The citizen questioned if that was part of the original contract. Fall responded that the original contract was for the design and bid process and the Board was unhappy with the engineer that completed that portion so they have sought others to oversee the construction. There will be no delay just a change in the firm completing the oversite. Babb stated that although the engineer erred, the contractor has been patient and with much thanks from the help of Selectman Fall and NH DOT they were able to keep the project moving forward. The citizen questioned the start date of the construction. Fall responded that it is dependent on water levels and the wetland permit. Babb added that there has been a lot of progress since the last bridge meeting.

Open Bids Received for (2) Dumpsters – Babb opened the only bid received from Ricker’s Auto Salvage, LLC in the amount of \$2,001.50 for both. Day made a motion to accept the bid received from Ricker’s Auto Salvage, LLC in the amount of \$2001.50. Fall seconded. All were in favor, the motion passed.

Review of Operating Budget & Warrant Articles: The following articles were reviewed and recommended unanimously with any notations in italics:

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$94,788 (ninety-four thousand seven hundred eighty-eight dollars) for the annual appropriation for the Library.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 (three thousand five hundred dollars) to be added to the Freedom Public Library Expendable Trust Fund previously established.  
*Day noted the current balance to be \$11,182.22.*

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to increase the number of Library Trustees from 3 to 5.

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$99,000 (ninety-nine thousand dollars) to repave Town roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,000 (fifty-two thousand dollars) to sealcoat Town roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$17,000 (seventeen thousand dollars) for road crack sealing on Town roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$41,250 (forty-one thousand two hundred fifty dollars) for the crushing of gravel for use on Town roads.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,000 (thirteen thousand dollars) to reclaim and pave 4,000 feet of Swett Hill Road.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) to build a foundation for a future winter sand storage building to be constructed at the Highway Garage.

*Brooks asked if consideration had been given to a high arch gambrel style building like he presented last week which would only require buttress option fastened to the ground. No cost estimates have been received yet. Babb responded that due to the Public Safety Building bond being paid off next year, they would like to hold off until 2021 and at least reserve a portion of the money this year. Babb recommended the wording be corrected to read "for engineering and preliminary construction costs for a future winter sand storage building to be constructed at the Highway Garage."*

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 (fifty-five thousand dollars) for the purpose of contracting construction administration services for the Ossipee Lake Road Bridge project.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (twenty thousand dollars) for the purpose of completing a Statistical Update in 2020.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to enter into a multi-year agreement (which may include and intergovernmental agreement under RSA Chapter 53-A), with one or more ambulance service providers and/or other regional municipalities such as, but not necessarily including or limited to, the

Town of Eaton, Effingham, Ossipee, Madison, and Tamworth, to provide emergency medical/ambulance services.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$73,259 (seventy-three thousand two hundred fifty-nine dollars) for contracted ambulance service.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to cease funding on the Ambulance Service Agreement with CarePlus Ambulance Service on March 31, 2020, the date of the agreement's expiration.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$52,000 (fifty-two thousand dollars) to purchase and equip a new cruiser for the Police Department. The sum of \$20,000 to be withdrawn from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose, and the balance of \$32,000 to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,700 (twenty-one thousand seven hundred dollars) to purchase and equip the Police Department cruisers with MDT's (Mobile Data Terminals).

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 (fifteen thousand dollars) to replace the furnace at the Town Hall. The sum of \$7,500 to be withdrawn from the Town Hall and Office Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$7,500 to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,500 (sixteen thousand five hundred dollars) to replace the Town street lights with LED fixtures.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to be added to the previously established Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to be added to the previously established Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to be added to the previously established Municipal Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,508 (forty-six thousand five hundred eight dollars) for milfoil treatment in Danforth Ponds. The sum of \$18,603 to come from Exotic Aquatic Weed Control Project Grant Funds, and the balance of \$27,905 to be raised by taxation.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 (three thousand five hundred dollars) to fund the NH Lake Host Program.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,150 (eleven thousand one hundred fifty dollars) for the purpose of assisting seniors in finding appropriate services, knowledge, and resources they need to remain in their homes and in Freedom as they age. This amount will cover wages for a Senior Resource Coordinator position up to 12-hours per week, mileage reimbursement, and other funds necessary to assist the seniors in Freedom.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

*Cunio questioned no addition of funds to the Fire Department Capital Reserve noting Rescue will need to be replaced in two years. Day noted the balance to be \$58,000. Discussion took place on equipment and longevity. Babb stated that the proposed increase is \$175,000 and with the new assessments, it should balance out but they don't want to have a huge increase. Fall added that the tax rate has remained flat for several years and they are expecting a level of increase but are trying to keep it minimal.*

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars) to conduct a feasibility study for the restoration of the existing Town Office and/or research a location for a new Town Office to be constructed, and to create a Town Office Advisory Committee to consider ways to optimize the Town Office space, accessibility and mobility needs. The sum of \$10,000 to come from the previously established Municipal Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund. No amount to be raised from taxation. *Day noted the balance in the account to be \$127,974. Babb recommended increasing the amount to \$40,000 and to change the wording to read as follows: "to conduct a feasibility study for the restoration and/or additions to the existing Town Office and/or for a new Town Office to be constructed at 50 Eaton Road (aka Map x, Lot x) and further to create a Town Office Advisory Committee to consider ways to optimize the Town Office space, accessibility and mobility needs."*

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (three thousand dollars) for a licensed forester to oversee the administration of forestry activities in the Town Forest for the ensuing

year with said funds to be withdrawn from the Town Forest Maintenance Fund. Conservation Commission Recommendation 6-0-0

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 (three thousand dollars) for maintenance activities in the Town Forest for the ensuing year with said funds to be withdrawn from the Town Forest Maintenance Fund. Conservation Commission Recommendation 6-0-0.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

**Article x: (By Petition)**

The Freedom Historical Society respectfully requests the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,000 to help defray the cost of preservation and storage of museum records by scanning and/or photographing these historical records and making them accessible to the public. These items consist of original documents, photographs, maps, artwork, narratives, books, magazines and newspaper articles and a wide variety of artifacts. The Society researches, preserves and stores records that tell the story of Freedom’s people, events (including Old Home Week) and buildings.

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen 3-0

White presented the proposed revenues and noted the estimated and actual revenues from 2019 to reference.

The Budget Public Hearing has been scheduled and advertised for Monday, 2/10/2020 at 7:00 PM upstairs at Town Hall. The School Public Hearing is also Monday at 6:00 PM.

S. Brooks, Cunio and J. Brooks took part in discussion regarding parking and snow removal at 17 Old Portland Road impacting access to the dry hydrant and fire station. Discussion ensued and the deed was reviewed. White was asked to send a letter to the property owners requesting the owners or tenant move their vehicles as far to the east as possible prior to any snow or icing events.

**Non-Public Session:**

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:21 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a personnel matter. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken:

Babb	Yes
Fall	Yes
Day	Yes

Fall made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:50 PM. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

Item Description:

Status:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 1/27/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session #1 1/27/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session #2 1/27/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest week ending 1/29/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest week ending 1/29/2020	Approved
Application for All Veteran’s Tax Credit	Approved

Timber Tax Warrant (Map 14, Lot 15 & Map 7, Lot 6-4) Approved  
Letter to NH DRA requesting change in recertification year Approved

**Correspondence Received:**

Facilities Update Reviewed  
Tax Payment Agreement – Notification of Payment Reviewed  
NH DOT Bid Award & Partial Payment Notification (Bridge Project #15987) Reviewed  
Letter - Steve Lafavore – Expressed interest in a tax-deeded property Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White  
Town Administrator

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie R. Babb

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan G. Fall