

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 20, 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 Hall and was also available on the Zoom platform. Also, in attendance was Bill Elliott, as well as Paul Elie, Melissa Florio, Rob Cunio, Josh Shackford, and Libby Priebe via Zoom.

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

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on April 13, 2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Reports:

White reported that three applications have been received for the Senior Resource Coordinator position which is advertised until 5/7/2020. She questioned the appointment of a Selectmen's Representative to the Committee on the Aging for the purpose of completing interviews. Following a brief discussion, the Board agreed unanimously that the members on the Committee are capable of coming forward with their recommendation of a candidate for hiring. The Committee will be determining how to conduct interviews and may utilize the Zoom platform.

White informed the Board that Janice Zecher has been working with the Tax Collector in the capacity of recording/posting clerk only; the Tax Collector did not formalize an appointment as Deputy Tax Collector.

White reported that reminder letters were issued to nine property owners with open intents to cut reminding them of the May 15 deadline for filing their reports of cut.

White has filed an email request to the NH Municipal Association inquiring if the Town has any authority in regulating the opening of campgrounds. No response has been received yet.

Rob Cunio, Fire Chief, reported 5 medical aid calls with 3 being COVID-19 precautions – no positive results; 3 fire calls; mutual aid; CO alarm; outside fire at the Transfer Station in a pine needle pile resulting in multiple calls. Call volume is up by 22 compared to this time in 2019. Cunio stated that a Sit Rep (Situation Report) posted by NH HSEM reported a positive COVID-19 case in Freedom. He is not aware of any known positives and there have been no other reports on the Sit Rep since so it is assumed to be incorrect data.

Cunio has completed another survey to request additional PPE equipment. He was able to obtain masks, face shields, surgical masks and 5-gallon jugs of hand sanitizer which has been distributed to all personnel, police and town office staff. The Town is also in the process of being approved as essential through Amazon to open up the option of the purchasing of hard to get items.

Cunio reported that he responded to Chief Solomon's email asking to be included in future emails regarding the opening of campgrounds.

Cunio reported 4-5 fires in surrounding towns resulting from people not being cautious. The fire danger is high due to dry surface materials. All equipment is in service and ready. The Tahoe was due for a sticker in April but it has been taken out of service due to the cost of repair necessary for it to pass inspection. All equipment and lettering is being removed from it in preparation for its disposal.

The spring fishing derby will be canceled and not postponed due because there will be no fish available from the hatchery to host at a later date.

Police Chief Josh Shackford reported that the MDT's (Mobile Data Terminals) were installed in the cruisers last Friday. They will be starting the process of activating the air cards and installing on the laptops tomorrow.

Shackford stated the department has been busy but traffic has been down. The new police cruiser is tentatively scheduled for the end of April but they are awaiting the shipment confirmation.

Public Input:

Bill Elliott commented that he has missed everyone.

Cunio questioned if gas motors are allowed on Round Pond? He has researched online and for signage and has been unable to find the answer. Discussion ensued. Paul Elie stated that the Conservation Commission researched and found the pond to be 17-acres which would put it under the State's purview. Cunio will follow up with the State Marine Patrol for further information.

Melissa Florio, Freedom Beach Club President, discussed the opening of the beach over the next month and wants to make sure it is in line with the Town. White added that Mark McKinley was also questioning the opening of the Town water accesses and ballfield. Fall stated there to be no reason for closure as long as everyone uses common sense, maintaining social distance standards. Babb agrees and stated that they will address any issues if they arise. The property belongs to the people and they should be allowed to recreate so long as they use it properly.

Fall questioned if a construction schedule has been received on the Danforth Bay Bridge. White responded that it has not yet but she will distribute it as soon as it is received.

Non-Public Session:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:17 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. All in favor, the motion carried. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:37 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting 4/13/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 4/15/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 4/15/2020	Approved

Correspondence:

Letter from DTC Lawyers – 2019 Tax Abatement Applications	Reviewed
Email Correspondence – DTC Lawyers – Worthen v. Freedom Staying Case	Reviewed

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

_____	_____	_____
Leslie R. Babb	Ernest F. Day, Jr.	Alan G. Fall