

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 8, 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 and was also available on the Zoom platform. Also, in attendance was Rob Cunio and Josh Shackford, and Carol DeMore, and Terance (?) 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.

The Legislative Bulletin published by the NH Municipal Association acknowledged \$68.8 million in room and meals tax distribution will continue in 2020-2021. The Highway Block Grant will likely be reduced by 7.5%.

The Board acknowledged a letter of appreciation written to Fire Chief Rob Cunio for his assistance with a medical aid call. A copy will be inserted into his personnel file.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 6/1/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Sessions held on 6/1/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb questioned a Tax Warrant in the amount of \$0. White responded that the process is required to close out two timber operations that did not have any wood cut.

Department Head Reports:

Fire Department - Rob Cunio, Fire Chief, reported 2 medical aid calls, 2 fire alarm, and there are still 2 positive covid-19 cases reported in Freedom. The Tahoe has been buffed and is now at Andrew's Autobody for touch up and lettering. Cunio has been unable to meet with Action Ambulance to setup an EMR class in town due to both being away on calls at different times. The Mule will be out of service for a few weeks while it is having recall service work completed. Issues with the folder switch and control board were noticed during the hose testing conducted last week and have since been repaired. The first responder stipend check was issued mid-week and should be received at any time. Cunio questioned the status of the Danforth Bridge construction. White responded that the engineers and precast manufacturer are working through a technical design issue and until the materials go into production, work will not commence. It will be at least mid-July as of now. Discussion took place on the 48-hour bridge closure during the construction. Fall noted that a 2-week notice will be given prior to the bridge closure. Cunio presented the idea of a donation to the West Ossipee Fire Association in the amount of \$500 for mutual aid coverage during the closure. Cunio stated the West Ossipee station will have signups for station coverage during the closure and the coverage will be over and above mutual aid. The Board was in favor of this.

Cunio reported notification of an occupied property for sale with an inoperable septic and concern of

septage smell inside and outside. The realtor has acknowledged the property will need a new septic. Babb referred Cunio to contact Health Officer Frank Evitts.

Police Department - Police Chief Josh Shackford reported that Totem Pole denied access to census bureau workers today. White added that she received several calls this morning of people reporting census presence over the weekend and questioned if it was legit. Shackford stated that the manager received several complaints and the campground president ultimately denied access. It was noted that there are no residents in the campground and it is a private community so they were well within their right to do so. Shackford is anticipating a follow up call from the US Census Bureau. White noted that the response to the 2020 census in Freedom is low so field reps may be following up on non-response.

Town Office – Ellen White is working on pulling together the information needed for the financial audit scheduled for next week. The bulk of the audit will be remote with phone interviews with various departments scheduled throughout the week. The exemption and credit review portion of the statistical update is still ongoing and next will be a review of all properties in current use assessment.

White presented the 2020 Tax Map Update Contract with HEB Engineers. White has budgeted \$5,000 for tax map updates and recommends no change for this year. Fall stated he would like to investigate other options for mapping in the future but agreed to stay with HEB for this year. Fall made a motion to sign the contract. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb requested a posting on the bridge when the closure date is set. White will be placing notice in the newspaper, on the website, and also notifying the campgrounds, and Ossipee Lake Alliance for inclusion in their distribution list.

White has started moving the archive records over to the storage vault. Tax inventories from 1831-1962 have been moved and one shelf is now full. Vitals will be moved next to determine what remains for space.

Fall questioned the issue with the bridge design and if there is any recourse due the town by the designer. White will consult with CMA Engineers for their opinion on the matter.

Agenda Items:

Zoning Officer – Fall stated that he has to step away from the position. Babb questioned what to do as Camp Robinhood will be opening on 7/11 and he will be unable to step in. Discussion took place on rescinding the hiring freeze and the length of time needed to advertise and hire for the position. White suggested reaching out to area towns to see if someone is willing to fill in. A list of duties was reviewed as well as the job's description and process. Babb stated there is a checklist in the back of the application packet with a list of items required to be reviewed by the Zoning Officer. Day stated that driveway permits are required before permits are issued and that has not been happening. Day also stated that Anne Cunningham has offered to help with file research and suggested she be presented with the interim position. All were in favor. White will reach out to her to see if she would be interested in filling the position until August. White questioned what will happen with the outstanding applications that have been waiting for decision.

Non-Public Sessions:

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:21 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a personnel matter. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-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.

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:37 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for a legal matter. Babb seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor, the motion carried. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:50 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Discussion:

White stated that Moselle from Green Mountain Conservation Group has requested to be on the agenda next week for a presentation on water quality. Babb requested the presentation be in person rather than online and can be broadcast via Zoom.

White questioned if she should be making any provisions to reopen the Town Office. The Board was not in favor at this time.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting 6/1/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Sessions #1 & #2 6/12/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 6/3/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 6/3/2020	Approved
Timber Tax Warrant – William Foord, (Map 12, Lot 5) & Jonathan Chace (Map 13, lots 7-3 & 7-4)	Approved

Correspondence:

Public Notice – Statistical Update in Progress	Reviewed
Invitation to Bid – 2009 Chevrolet Tahoe	Reviewed
Budget Status Report – January-May 2020	Reviewed
Action Ambulance Service – Response Report	Reviewed
Zoning Officer Outline of Procedures	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White
Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall