

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 14, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb (arrived at 6:55 PM), Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Police Chief Josh Shackford, Ned Kucera, and Justin Brooks. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Selectman Day 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.

Fall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, August 31, 2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall made a motion to approve the minute of the Public Hearing held on Monday, August 31, 2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall discussed an issue that arose Friday on the Danforth Bridge project where a boil was detected while removing the existing bridge footing. CMA Engineers and Northeast Earth have been in communication all weekend and further updates were provided at this morning's meeting. Fall made a motion to authorize Northeast Earth to proceed with completing borehole drilling to obtain necessary soil samples. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion on the Public Rights-of-Way Regulations. White is in receipt of the Town of Chesterfield's regulation recently adopted with the help of Attorney Ratigan. Further review and discussion will continue into future meetings.

Department Head Updates:

Police Department – Chief Shackford reviewed the recent police log which has been very active with a multitude of items including domestic violence, untimely deaths and motor vehicle accidents. They are actively pursuing getting the new MDTs hooked into the Sheriff's Office and anticipate additional costs of \$4,800 to be expended from the department's equipment budget line. Day questioned if there is any update on lettering the new cruiser. Shackford responded that Sgt. Tyler is still working on finding a company to have it done. Many services have been impacted by the pandemic.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported that although slower than Memorial Day, activity is still busy with cleanouts and brush removal. Brooks reported completing one brush burn since several loads were hauled out but it is still too dry to depend on future burns. More trash is being found outside the gates on the days the Transfer Station is closed. The transition to winter hours will go into effect on Wednesday, September 30, 2020. The transition in winter to summer hours has been moved up one month on either side to accommodate seasonal intake. Brooks requested a non-public session.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White announced receipt of an appeal filed by Northern New England Telephone/Fairpoint, an ongoing assessment appeal filed in Superior Court. Attorney Ratigan has accepted service on behalf of the Town and will be filing an appearance. Ratigan will also

be entering a small claim filing for the necessary road repairs completed at 100 Burnham Road and noted the legal fees incurred on the matter will not be able to be attached to the small claims filing. A Public Officials Meeting will be scheduled in October prior to the setting of the 2021 budget review schedule. The GOFERR CARES grant submittal is in progress and will be filed by the deadline tomorrow. Admin. Asst. Janice Zecher will be attending a State Statutes training out of the office next week.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio was unable to attend but asked that the Board be informed that the Forestry truck will return from service repairs tomorrow and the extrication tools have been ordered.

Public Comment:

FAISC Chairman Ned Kucera reported that the Lake Host Program wrapped up Labor Day weekend and the numbers were way up with the amount of boating traffic. The program was able to hire four people to complete monitoring at the boat launches and sufficient money remains in the budget for future monitoring. Kucera also provided an update on the milfoil removal efforts completed in Danforth Pond this year which included 49-acreas of treatment area. FAISC Bruce Howlett provided an updated map of areas with small regrowth that will be monitored for future treatment. The diving and herbicide treatment conducted was less than anticipated and the last of the diving efforts will finish up in the first week of October.

New/Old Business:

Babb announced receipt of the Summons received from Northern New England Telephone/Consolidated Communications served upon Attorney Ratigan for the ongoing class action suit.

Day reviewed two quotes received to remove the pine tree behind the bleachers at the ballfield. The first quote in the amount of \$3,000 is to remove the tree only. The second received from TLL Tree Service is in the amount of \$2,900 and includes the tree removal, stump grinding and removal of a problem limb at the cemetery on Cushing Corner Road. Day made a motion to accept the quote in the amount of \$2,900 provided by TLL Tree Service. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall provided an update on the Danforth Bridge progress. Until test boring is completed and the soil samples can be reviewed, Northeast Earth will be moving to the eastern side of the bridge abutment to begin removal. Results are anticipated by the end of the week and there is question of whether the additional testing will be State Bridge Aid eligible but contact is being made with NH DOT to review the issue and plans for remedy.

Fall has made a request to CMA Engineers for them to be identified as Engineer of Record with indemnification on the project to eliminate the need for any potential changes to have to go through HEB. He further stated that the boil is believed to be caused by a spring.

Non-Public Sessions:

Day made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:31 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) for a personnel matter. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Fall-yes, Day-yes, Babb-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion reconvene public session at 7:36 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:36 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (a) for

a personnel matter and (b) for hiring. Babb seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion reconvene public session at 7:47 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion:

White reviewed a request received from Tony Doucette regarding fees assessed to his tax account from a payment that would not process through the tax kiosk. Discussion ensued. Fall made a motion to waive the fees. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The Board requested a letter of thanks be written to the Freedom Elementary School for accommodating the needs of the town by hosting the election.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 8/31/2020	Approved
Minutes – Public Hearing – 8/31/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 9/2/2020 & 9/9/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 9/2/2020 & 9/9/2020	Approved
Fireworks Ordinance (updated 8/31/2020)	Signed
Uniform Fine Schedule (updated 8/31/2020)	Signed
Department Head Time Off Request	Approved

Correspondence:

Tax Payment Agreement – Receipt of payment	Reviewed
Minutes – FAISC Meeting – 9/10/2020	Reviewed
Summons in a Civil Action – Consolidated Communications of NNE Co., Inc.	Reviewed
Budget Status Report – 1/1/2020- 8/31/2020	Reviewed
Health Agency Request for Funding – Central NH VNA & Hospice	Reviewed
Health Agency Request for Funding – CASA	Reviewed
E-mail Correspondence – Street light status update	Reviewed
NH Retirement System – Employer Contribution Rates eff. 7/1/2021-6/30/2023	Reviewed
Meeting Notice- Town Office Advisory Committee Org. Meeting – 9/29/2020	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall