

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 28, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Paul Elie, Sandy Boyle, Josh Shackford, Rob Cunio, Justin Brooks, and Linda Habif. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

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 Monday, September 21, 2020. Fall seconded. Babb abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Fall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Sessions held on Monday, September 21, 2020. Day seconded. Babb abstained (absent). Majority vote carried.

Babb questioned if the help wanted ad is posted on the Town website as well as the notice for transition to winter hours at the Transfer Station. White checked and responded that she will have Janice get them posted tomorrow.

Public Input:

Paul Elie, Conservation Commission Chairman, informed the Selectmen of an award received acknowledging the largest tulip tree in the County which is located in Thurston Cemetery. The tree is 128" in circumference at about 4' high. Fall stated it is located in a private cemetery owned by the heirs of those interred, of which he is an heir. Elie presented a plaque received with the award and questioned how it should be placed. Fall requested it be fastened via forest service fashion leaving a galvanized post out 1-1/2" or so to allow for tree growth.

Elie reported that State inspections were recently completed at the Town Forest. A missing milfoil poster from Trout Pond but has since been replaced.

Elie questioned if there are any updates on the HazMat spill at the Drake Building. The Board was unaware. Elie stated a small oil tank leak in the basement prompted a cleanup company to come in an mitigate. This led into discussion on water testing of Loon Lake and Round Pond. Elie is awaiting response from NH DES as to whether they can monitor these bodies of water and if not, he will pursue a program offered through UNH to have a baseline survey completed. The Board agreed that the testing is a good idea and can probably be supported in the Conservation Commission's existing budget.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 2 medical aids, 1 motor vehicle accident involving 2 motorcycles, 2 fire alarm activations, 1 mutual aid call for a fire, and a service call. Today was the first day of the state-wide fire ban and an outside fire was reported on Village Road resulting in a \$127 fine issued by the State Fire Warden. Forestry 1 worked great during the call and all vehicles have now been serviced and inspected. There are no new positive Covid-19 cases and the lettering has been

completed on the Tahoe. The online fire permit system has been deactivated due the extremely dry conditions and Danforth Bay Campground has pulled their permit and is restricting all campfires until their wells can restore. A joint training with Action Ambulance has been scheduled for October on crush injuries. It has been a great partnership with the new ambulance service provider so far. Cunio has received two quotes for the dredging of the fire pond and is awaiting a third for comparison. Station coverage for vacation absence has been taken care of except for the two Fridays. Cunio presented a special event permit application from the Town of Durham for consideration. The Board was in favor of reformatting it for Freedom. Cunio stated that he will be utilizing the same fee schedule used by the Police Department for special detail coverage.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford reported normal activity with many speed complaints and one sexual assault case. All cruisers are due for inspections this month. Dave Wells came out to work on the internet speed issues and was able to make a repair but the internet speed is still very slow. White is working with Spectrum to upgrade the service.

Appointments:

Committee on Aging – Rick Davidson joined by telephone to review the committee’s request to hire the Senior Resource Coordinator position. The need for this type of resource was reconfirmed by support at Town Meeting this year. Babb questioned how the position will work in regard to Covid-19. Davidson responded that it could still operate with restrictions in place and absent personal connection. Fall suggested picking up where it left off in April, review the applications received, and see if there is still any interest in the position then readvertise if necessary. The Board was in favor. White will contact the applicants and will keep in contact with the committee.

Department Head Updates Continued:

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks stated his budget will be askew due to how busy it has been this summer, George is still filling in, and the cost for hauling in August was \$21,000, more than he’s ever seen. He also reported transition to winter hours commences this Wednesday.

Old/New Business:

Public Rights-of-Ways Regulations – No new discussion.

Babb questioned the status of the revaluation. White responded that the MS-1 extension filed is for October 1 and she will check with Assessor Rod Wood when he is in tomorrow. Discussion on the current real estate market. Several homes with active listings are for more than double their assessment value.

Fall updated on the status of the Danforth Bay Bridge stating he received a call on Friday from the President of CMA Engineers requesting a conference call that he and White attended this morning. Fall and White recapped on the conversation reporting that the soil cannot support the bearing capacity and an evaluation of the settlement criteria is in process by GZA who was brought in as a subconsultant. They are anticipating a memorandum of findings to be presented on Wednesday. Two options for remedy are on the table for consideration: Option A is to excavate and install one larger footing instead of 4 to spread the load, Option B is to install (8) pilings to help support the footings. CMA is evaluating the cost and implications of both options and also trying to determine any road closure needs and delay claims by the contractor. Several variables have been presented to help support these options as they are being considered. CMA has been in contact with Ron Kleiner at NH DOT to keep him apprised of new developments as they occur. Given the disturbance of the soils in excavation that has already taken place, there is question as to whether the remaining bridge

has been compromised. CMA has advised enforcement of the 12-ton limitation already in place as precaution. Discussion ensued. Shackford suggested sign placement at both ends of Ossipee Lake Road and Bennett Road advising no thru trucking. Babb stated that many trucks are not traveling through so it would not apply. Per order of the Selectmen, signage stating “Bridge Closed Ahead, 12-Ton Limit” will be ordered and be placed at both ends of Ossipee Lake Road, Bennett Road and both ends of the Danforth Bay Bridge. Additional discussion on the Bearcamp River Bridge slide in scheduled in the near future. White will attend the meeting tomorrow for additional details. Shackford stated that he would like to see the postings for the bridge closure and advertisement in the paper as well.

Brief discussion took place on beaver removal.

Road Agent Scott Brooks called in at 7:45 to question whether seal coating should be held off to save money as he is approaching the scheduling deadline. Fall updated Brooks on the status of the Danforth Bay Bridge Project including concerns unknown at this time. Brooks was asked to obtain the agreed upon signage. Shackford proposed looking into a few lit message boards as an option.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:53 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II (l) for a legal matter. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Fall-yes, Day-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion reconvene public session at 8:04 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion:

Brief discussion on the Senior Resource Coordinator position and what services the position can provide outside of what is already resourced through the Service Link network.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 9/21/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session – 9/21/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 9/23/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 9/23/2020	Approved
Employee Vacation Request	Approved

Correspondence:

Letter – Advisory Committee on Aging, Request for hiring Sr. Resource Coordinator	Reviewed
Letter – HealthTrust, Hearing on Proposed Bylaws Amendment	Reviewed
Letter – Anthony Doucette, abatement of fees assessed	Reviewed
E-Mail – Bearcamp River Bridge Slide Public Outreach Meeting Invitation	Reviewed
Webinar Notes – Reopening Municipal Offices	Reviewed
Letter - Freedom Food Pantry, 2021 Request for Funding	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall