

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, October 19, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Road Agent Scott Brooks, Bill Elliott, Fire Chief Rob Cunio, Transfer Station Supervisor Justin Brooks, Moderator Don Johnson and Police Chief Josh Shackford. 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.

Brief discussion on the draft revisions made to the personnel manual by the town's attorney. Review will take place for future discussion/adoption.

**Public Input:**

Bill Elliott questioned the status of the street lighting upgrade project. White responded that all have been replaced with energy efficient LED fixtures but 15 out of 48 need to be rewired by Eversource so they are currently out. Elliott commented that the new lights seem much brighter.

**Department Head Updates:**

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported that they have been busy hauling sand. The winter salt has been ordered and the pricing is the same as last year.

**Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:45 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a and b) for a hiring/personnel matter. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Fall-yes, Day-yes. Fall made a motion to reconvene at 7:09 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Appointments:**

General Election Planning - Moderator Don Johnson discussed preparations for the upcoming General Election on 11/3/2020. The school has authorized setup to begin at 3:45 PM on Friday, 10/30/2020. The Selectmen agreed to assist with moving the chairs and tables from the Town Hall to the school. Johnson reviewed the plan for setup and also stated that 250 absentee ballots have been returned. They are anticipating 350 total absentee ballots and there are 1,300 voters on the checklist. New voter registration is also available on election day. White confirmed that mats have been ordered and any necessary signage required will be relayed to her for ordering.

**Discussion:**

Fall reported that the densification testing at the bridge was completed and results were satisfactory with soil compaction of 2'. He and White participated in a conference call at 1:00 to discuss the next steps. The bridge will have to be closed and may be as soon as next week through the end of December. Brooks questioned if the bridge will be paved when complete or at least a temporary asphalt option. Fall stated that change orders are in process. Brooks questioned if he should make arrangements for salt/sand storage on the other side of the bridge. The Board agreed to have him pursue options available. Fall stated that NH DOT has authorized work to proceed in advance of

change orders, all of which are to fall into place shortly. He expressed gratitude to the construction team for discovering the issue and acting on it as quickly as they did.

**Department Head Updates continued:**

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported that it continues to be busy and he is very thankful to still have George on staff to assist. Chief Cunio contacted the Forest Ranger regarding burning brush and it still not advisable until snowfall. Although the state permitting system has been reactivated, it is town dependent and awaiting a change in the Governor’s restrictions that have been put in place. Brooks had two loads of brush hauled out over the weekend and will have an additional load this week at a cost of \$300/load. Many new facility stickers are being issued on a regular basis.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported no new positive COVID-19 cases in town, 5 medical aid, and 1 service call. A joint training with Action Ambulance is scheduled for tomorrow on crush injury scenarios. The EMR classes have been going very well. Cunio presented the MSA on demo for consideration.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford reported that the Sheriff’s Office provided 28-hours of detail coverage over the weekend to assist with the Danforth Bridge closure and traffic detouring as a result of the Route 16 closure. Several vehicles were turned around and some tickets were written. The Board asked that their gratitude for service provided be extended.

S. Brooks stated he will have to hire a loader to move the sand to a new stockpile location. The Board agreed. Cunio questioned how West Ossipee Fire should be compensated now that coverage is for a longer period of time than originally anticipated. He will contact Chief Carl Huddleston to work out the details regarding reimbursing the call pay per person expenses that may be incurred.

White was asked to contact Principal Pat Stone regarding the bridge closure. Day asked if the flag at the school has been replaced? If not, the Town will provide one prior to the election.

S. Brooks stated that an updated traffic control plan should be implemented and suggested a jersey barrier at the top of the hill and at Marina Road so traffic has enough room to get turned around. Brooks also stated that a detour route and applicable signage will be needed as well. White will request these items be incorporated into a change order.

White reported that Tamworth was one of the first towns to receive their tax rate but they also did not have any extension requests or revaluation to contend with.

**Old/New Business:**

Public Rights-of-Ways Regulations – S. Brooks will review the document and provide on restoration after excavation.

**Discussion:**

S. Brooks discussed driveway permitting for multiple access points on larger parcels and whether they should only be permitted one access. Discussion ensued. The Board agreed that it should be situation specific and reasonable. Brief discussion on temporary logging access in comparison to long-term forestry access. Brooks will review any uncertain applications with the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion on the damaged bleachers at the ballfield. Mark McKinley has requested permission to remove them until they are able to be reconstructed. Babb stated that the cost to remove should be

added into the cost to replace for a warrant article to be approved at Town Meeting. All were in agreement.

Cunio questioned if Freedom will be allowing trick-or-treating? Following discussion, it was agreed by all that it should be up to the homeowner; if they choose to participate, they should leave their light on and follow CDC guidelines. All were in agreement.

**Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:05 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for a personnel matter. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Fall-yes, Day-yes. Fall made a motion to reconvene at 8:32 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:32 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) to protect the reputation of a person. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken; Babb-yes, Fall-yes, Day-yes. Day made a motion to reconvene at 8:47 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 10/5/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 10/7/2020 & 10/14/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 10/7/2020 & 10/14/2020	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Map 16, Lots 4 & 36-1, Young’s Hill Road	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Map 16, Lots 1 & 1-1, Hampton Lane	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Facilities Update – 10/19/2020	Reviewed
E-mail Correspondence – Bridge densification results & recommendations	Reviewed
Policy – Personnel Manual draft - Oct. 2020 revision	Reviewed
Policy - Safety Manual draft - 9/24/2019 revision	Reviewed
Notice – NRRRA Annual Meeting	Reviewed
Public Hearing Notice – Town of Ossipee-10/20/20, ROW access-Regional Impact	Reviewed
JLMSC Quarterly Meeting Minutes & Inspection Reports	Reviewed
Letter - Primex Membership Contribution Summary – WC & Unemployment	Reviewed
Letter – HealthTrust – Return of Surplus to Member Groups	Reviewed
Letter – Primex Insurance Renewal – WC, Unemployment & Property-Liability	Reviewed
Minutes – FAISC – 10/8/2020	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White, Town Administrator

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

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Leslie R. Babb

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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Alan G. Fall