

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 5, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Bill Elliott, Rob Cunio, Justin Brooks and 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.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on Monday, September 28, 2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session held on Monday, September 28, 2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Babb made a motion to withdraw \$7,914.13 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund for the reimbursement of unexpected repairs completed on Forestry 1. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Chief Cunio stated that the invoice came in at less than originally anticipated but is very satisfied with the repairs.

Discussion on area property tax rates and the anticipated tax rate in relation to the new assessment values. The MS-1, Summary of Inventory Valuations shows an overall increase in value of 32%.

A Drug and Alcohol Policy drafted by Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella was presented for review. Additional recommendations were given for updates to the Town's Personnel Policy estimating to take 4-6 hours.

Public Input:

None presented.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 7 medical aid, 3 fire alarms, 1 downed tree/wire, and no new positive Covid-19 cases. All fire ponds were checked and all are in poor shape although the dam is okay. State fire permitting is still down due to dry conditions. The department is currently demoing a new MSA for consideration of replacing the 17-year old system that originally cost \$12-14,000. The updated MSA with new technology is estimated to be \$6,800.

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported this past weekend was as busy as Memorial Day and Labor Day and he is thankful to still have George available to help out although the need for additional staff was unplanned and not budgeted for. Trash continues to be left at the gate and a patron volunteered to sort through it to find where it originated from but was unable to identify anything. There were 15 cars lined up at the gate waiting to dump on Saturday morning and it was steady throughout the day. Four dumpsters plus an open top container were filled. Brooks is concerned with the budget being out of whack but this year has been very abnormal.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford reported that it continues to be busy with many complaints on theft of political signs. Several trucks were stopped over the weekend at the Danforth Bay Bridge and notified of the closure to all trucks. Now that signs have been posted there are no further warnings and fines will be issued. Sgt. Tyler is at Grand Jury this week. Shackford proposed the idea of bringing the third full-time officer position back and is working on calculating the cost to do so. He reviewed the need as well as how area towns are presently staffed for comparison. Shackford stated that he would need to pursue experience as the option to train is not available.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White reviewed concerns raised by Danforth Bay Campground in regard to the bridge closure and the Route 16 detours that will result from the Bearcamp River Bridge slide scheduled for October 16-19. The campground is fully booked for that weekend and it will also be the time when most campers and boats are pulled out for the season. The Selectmen stated that they should be deferred to follow the detours in place.

The revaluation has been completed resulting in an increase of value of \$156,836,385 or 32% overall. White has requested an upgrade to the internet service at the Public Safety building which is in an old plan no longer offered and no longer sufficient for e-mail transmittal or software function. The upgrade is due to take place this week. Reminder of holiday next Monday and manifests will have to be signed over the weekend. A Public Officials meeting has been scheduled for Monday, 10/26/2020 at 5:30 at the Town Hall.

Appointments:

None scheduled.

Old/New Business:

Danforth Bay Bridge – Fall provided an update stating that the load bearing capacity calculations completed by GZA on behalf of CMA Engineers confirms that the soil cannot support the bridge as designed. Fall has been in contact with CMA and they are working to schedule a joint conference call as soon as possible with all involved including NH DOT and HEB to determine the next plan of action. Many concerns have been raised about whether the footing on the north side of the bridge has been compromised. The contractor plans to cut the bridge deck to monitor and measure any settlement that may be taking place. Representatives from CMA and Northeast Earth are planning to be monitoring the site throughout the week. Discussion took place on contacting Conway Daily Sun Reported Daymond Steer to have a story put in on the status of the bridge. White stated that Ossipee Lake Alliance added an article to their website this past week. Fall wants it known that this is not an issue that originated at the town, contractor, or construction engineer level and that he is very thankful it was detected before the new bridge construction began. He assured that everyone is working on an appropriate solution and it may require a bridge closure for a length of time unknown at this point. Discussion on handling emergency service calls if an extended closure is required. Questions remain on the length of time a closure will be needed and if maintaining one lane of travel is worthwhile when construction can be expedited without it.

Day spoke in favor of updating the Personnel Policy with the recommendations suggested by Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella and made a motion to authorize the estimated 4-6 hours of legal fees to do so. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Public Rights-of-Ways Regulations – Nothing new, awaiting review/comment by Road Agent Scott Brooks regarding restoration following excavation within the public right-of-way.

Discussion:

Shackford reported on an incident at Freedom Storage where all windows were shot out over the weekend.

Non-Public Session:

Not applicable.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 9/28/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session – 9/28/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 9/30/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 9/30/2020	Approved
Form MS-1, Summary Inventory of Valuation	Approved
Form MS-535, Financial Report of the Budget (revised 9/30/2020)	Approved
Intent to Cut – Map 16, Lots 4 & 36-1, Youngs Hill Road	Approved
Letter – Trustees of Trust Funds, Request for Withdrawal of Capital Reserve Funds	Approved
Form A-5, Land Use Change Tax, Map 6, Lot 7-11, West Danforth Road	Approved
Form A-5W, Land Use Change Tax Collector’s Warrant, Map 6, Lot 7-11	Approved
Release Deed, Town of Freedom to Bruce Guckert, Map 31, Lot 2-01, Alvino Rd.	Approved
Sales Agreement, Town of Freedom to Bruce Guckert, Map 31, Lot 2-01	Approved

Correspondence:

Tax Payment Agreement – Receipt of payment as agreed	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax payment on 2017 lien	Reviewed
Report – Action Ambulance for the period ending 9/30/2020	Reviewed
Application for Employment, Highway	Reviewed
Letter – LifeFlight Foundation, 2021 Request for Funding	Reviewed
Budget Status Report – YTD thru 9/30/2020	Reviewed
Meeting Notice – Public Officials Meeting 10/26/2020	Reviewed
Letter – DTC Lawyers, Worthen v. Town of Freedom, certified record filing	Reviewed
Letter – GZA, Danforth Bay Bridge Geotechnical Design Review	Reviewed
Drug & Alcohol Policy Draft	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall