

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2020**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Alan Fall, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Fire Chief Rob Cunio, Transfer Station Supervisor Justin Brooks, Police Chief Josh Shackford, Karl Ogren, and Peg Scully. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

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.

Babb made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 10/19/2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to approve the minutes of the three Non-Public Sessions held on 10/19/2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to accept the CARES Sub-grant through the State of New Hampshire Secretary of State for elections assistance in the amount of \$4,180.23 and also to authorize Chairman Leslie Babb to sign the grant agreement. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion on the revisions made to the Safety Manual. The recommended changes were reviewed and agreed upon. Day made a motion to accept the revised Safety manual. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

White informed the Board that the amount of the grant agreement is based upon the number of absentee ballots sent and cast and is separate of the CARES grant used to cover any COVID-19 related expenses. The first payment on the CARES grant was received late last week and the final submittal to included police and fire payroll for the period of 9/1/2020-10/15/2020 will go out this Friday and will be fully expended.

Several concerns raised by phone, email and on the community bulletin board related to residents on the west side of the Danforth Bay Bridge not being able to easily access the Transfer Station as a result of the bridge closure were reviewed. White mapped out the distance of the detours in place noting 18-20 miles of travel from the west side of the bridge to the Transfer Station. Requests made to have a temporary dumpster placed were reviewed but ultimately decided against since there is no way to control what is being thrown in the dumpster and also by whom. Brooks stated that he spoke with someone in Mount View Association and suggested they put in a temporary dumpster. Totem Pole already has them in place as does Camp Calumet.

Department Head Updates:

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford responded to Day's question on the status of the lettering on the new cruiser stating that Sgt. Tyler has been working with Gemini Sign on the design and is awaiting a date for the actual installation.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio stated that he spoke with West Ossipee Fire Chief Carl Huddleston regarding the call pay for firefighters and it is determined by rank and certifications. The average is \$24 which is what will be used to calculate reimbursements for fire coverage.

Public Input:

Karl Ogren questioned who is responsible for the bridge closure? He stated that he drives to Camp Calumet twice per day and noted how much of an inconvenience the closure it is to everyone that now has to detour to get to their destination. Fall responded that developments have been day-to-day and out of anyone's control. Notice was issued to the Town late last week of the bridge's upcoming closure and followed up on late week that it would remain open Monday and now possibly Tuesday, but inevitably closed after that until late December. Babb questioned if once an updated construction schedule is received, if an incentive can be offered for early completion. Fall responded that the timeframe for closure is realistic and an inconvenience to all. Ogren continued to questioned who is at fault? Fall responded that it was due to lack of appropriate data collection that the issues arose. Day added that updates have been given on the bridge status at the weekly Selectmen's meetings. Fall as the appointed Selectmen's representative along with the Town Administrator have been corresponding via email and attending meetings. Fall stated that the original problem originated when the bridge was originally constructed in 1928. The design engineer's calculations of the load bearing capacity do not match what is actually present. CMA, the town's construction administration engineer involved GZA, a geotechnical firm, also working on the Ossipee Lake Dam project, to assist with testing, calculations and the soil densification solution to be implemented as the best cost/time efficient option. Babb stated that the bridge would ultimately have to be closed even without a solution due to the existing lane settlement resulting from the present soil conditions. Day stated that everyone involved has been diligent in getting progress made. Babb pronounced his satisfaction with the contractor on the project as the ones that detected the issue and reported it immediately. If the construction continued with the issues present, the bridge would have been inferior. Ogren suggested a story be published in the local newspaper to inform the public. Fall reported that verbal approvals have been given by NH DOT to proceed while the change orders are being processed and the sense of urgency is present. The faster the bridge could be closed and torn out, and the soil densification process completed the better as the window of construction is closing.

Peg Scully presented for the Heritage Commission apologizing for missing the Public Officials meeting at 5:30. The Committee has not met since January due to the pandemic but they are still existent and would like to continue on, albeit with one less member since Gail Morris has resigned. Scully requested consideration for level-funding for 2021.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Non-Public Session:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:06 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel matter. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Fall made a motion to reconvene at 7:17 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Old/New Business:

Day discussed a request received from King Pine to use an access road to Danforth Bay Campground that would require opening of a gate in the Town Forest. This inquiry was referred to Paul Elie of the Forest Advisory Committee. Discussion ensued. The Board was in agreement that the request should

be denied.

Discussion:

Treasurer Jayne Britton informed the Board of a planned leave of absence. Deputy Treasurer Janice Zecher will be handling deposits and transfer during the leave. Britton stated that the Tax Collector should appoint a Deputy.

Discussion on a return of unexpended funds from the Library appropriation. White explained that the Library is statutorily obligated to expend the funds appropriated to them at Town Meeting and any surplus should be returned to the Town. Clarification was made that it is only funds that were raised through taxation, not donations received.

White informed the Board that a supplemental payroll manifest will need to be signed for the payroll taxes.

Discussion on an article for publication for the Conway Daily Sun. White will forward the questionnaire and responses from Ossipee Lake Alliance to Reporter Daymond Steer.

Brief discussion on concerns raised at the joint Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting regarding zoning enforcement. Babb stated his ability to spend some time with the Zoning Officer and Building Inspector to review processes.

White passed on a safety concern from Mark McKinley regarding the removal of the damaged bleachers at the ballfield. McKinley has proposed having the bleachers crushed by the loader and he will haul the material to the Transfer Station for disposal. The Board agreed but requested that measurements and photos be taken beforehand so the bleachers can be replaced in-kind if approved at Town Meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 10/19/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Sessions (3)	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 10/21/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 10/21/2020	Approved
Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit	Approved
Town Safety Manual (Rev. Oct. 2020)	Approved

Correspondence:

Minutes – Freedom Town Office Advisory Committee Meeting – 9/29/2020	Reviewed
Minutes – Freedom Town Office Advisory Committee Meeting – 10/20/2020	Reviewed
Minutes – Planning Board Meeting – 10/15/2020	Reviewed
Letter – Bonnie Burroughs re: Artisans Open House event plan	Reviewed
Email – Rob Troon re: Totem Pole Winter Camping Letter to be issued	Reviewed
Correspondence – Vachon Clukay & Co. re: audit control deficiency/response	Reviewed
Correspondence – Salvation Army re: donation box request for site location	Reviewed
Email – David Simpson re: Mailbox placement concern	Reviewed
Email – Kevin McCaleb re: Yard waste option for residents west of bridge	Reviewed
Funding Request – American Red Cross re: 2021 appropriation request	Reviewed
Funding Request – Tri-County Community Action re: 2021 appropriation request	Reviewed
Public Hearing Notice – NH DOS re: Firefighter Medical Exam Reimbursement	Reviewed
Town Personnel Policies Manual (Rev. Oct. 2020)	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall