

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 2, 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 Sergeant Matt Tyler, and Bill Elliott. 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 street lights. White stated that a new fixture has been ordered for the intersection of Elm & Old Portland Road as complaints have been received from a neighbor that the light is too bright. Several street lights requiring rewiring by Eversource were taken care of prior to trick-of-treat with thanks to Mark McKinley's follow through. Only a few remain to be re-wired then all should be fully operational under the new retrofit lighting project.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Officials Meeting held on 10/26/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 10/26/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Session held on 10/26/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported a somewhat normal week with 2 medical aid calls and one motor vehicle accident. The department handed out candy to about 15-20 trick-or-treaters and there are no new Covid-19 cases in town. The brush permitting has been reactivated as of Thursday morning as dry conditions are no longer a concern. The new extrication tools arrived last week and were put to test in a training session where some cars were cut up. Station coverage will be provided for the next two weeks with the exception of Fridays. There have been no calls requiring mutual aid on the west side of Danforth Bay Bridge at this time.

Police Department – Sgt. Tyler also reported normal call volume for this time. There have been several complaints received regarding concern of animal safety on Village Road. Tyler is working with the state veterinarian to ensure the animals have adequate food and shelter available. Response to a motor vehicle accident and several bridge closure complaints such as lack of signage and notification. Tyler is working on the proofs for the new cruiser graphics and will follow up with Gemini this week. Additionally, police coverage will be provided at tomorrow's election as needed.

Town Office – White reported that she has contacted NH DRA regarding the tax rate and now that the revised documents have been received from the school, Freedom should expect a tax rate within the next few days. White shared a request received for consideration from Jane Davidson for two dumpsters to be placed on the west side of the bridge for the inconvenience of the bridge closure.

Last week's decision made to not pursue this option was affirmed due to the inability to monitor unauthorized dumping. Davidson's request also included access to the Selectmen's meeting via Zoom until the bridge is reopened. The Board discussed this request and noted that Elliott is the only member of the public that attends the meeting so the request is unwarranted at this time. The decision is also based on connectivity and sound quality issues that have presented themselves. Any public requests can be sent in via mail, email or phone call to the Town Administrator prior to the meeting for review during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Old/New Business:

Fall provided an update on the Danforth Bay Bridge project stating he and White attending a construction meeting at the bridge site this morning. Northeast Earth has resumed work as of last Wednesday; the bridge deck has been removed and the sheet piles and cofferdam are being installed in preparation for the vibratory compaction. A contract amendment in the amount of \$60,000 and change order from Northeast Earth have been presented in the amount of \$102,922.75. These will be forwarded on to NH DOT for approval under the 80/20 match State Bridge Aid Program. The Board was pleased with these amounts considering figures that were estimated prior to the densification solution that was presented as the best most feasible option. Babb made a motion to authorize Fall to sign the contract amendment with CMA in the amount of \$60,000 and the change order with Northeast Earth in the amount of \$102,922.75. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Brief discussion on timeframe for completion. An updated construction schedule is anticipated by week end; mid to end of December is a realistic timeframe for the bridge to be reopened for travel with final road grading to be held until spring 2021.

Public Input:

Bill Elliott commented on the article that was in the Conway Daily Sun regarding Daniel "Bud" Brooks recognition received from Secretary of State Bill Gardner in a ceremony held last Thursday for Brooks' 56-years serving as a Supervisor of the Checklist. The Board concurred that it was well done as was the presentation ceremony.

Fall commented that he would like to move forward with the award of the Boston Post Cane. White reported that she has made contact with a company in Laconia and will have the replica can engraved over the next week. An award ceremony will be scheduled as soon as it is received back.

Appointments:

Freedom Committee on Aging – non-public session request regarding the hiring of a Senior Resource Coordinator.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:14 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) for hiring. 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 7:25 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:25 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for legal discussion. 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 7:32 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion:

Babb questioned if there has been any follow up received from the Zoning Board of Adjustment

regarding meeting with Selectmen to discuss legal matters. White responded that they have questioned why the Selectmen did not attend their last meeting as requested. Babb suggested inviting the ZBA to attend a future Selectmen's Meeting to pick back up on their conversation from last winter.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting – 10/26/2020	Approved
Minutes – Public Officials Meeting – 10/26/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session – 10/26/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 10/28/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 10/28/2020	Approved

Correspondence:

Notice – NH DES re: incomplete wetlands permit application Map 16, Lots 48 & 36-1	Reviewed
Payment – State of NH – Highway Block Grant Q2	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall