

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 23, 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, Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, and Josh Shackford.

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.

Discussion on open vacancy for Emergency Management Director. The official resignation letter has not been received but is in process. Babb briefly discussed the requirements of the position.

Brooks announced he has hired for the full-time highway position but the part-time position is still advertised.

Fall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 11/9/2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Sessions held on 11/9/2020. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Day made a motion to reconvene at 6:42 PM. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported they are ready for winter although with less part-time staff. He questioned if additional bridge expenditures will need to come from the highway budget? Any additional funding needed will come from the Town's unreserved fund balance upon DRA approval. White stated the only invoice expensed to the highway budget was for NE Barricade for the bridge closure signs. Brooks stated the 1-ton is on schedule for replacement in 2021 and the big truck in 2023. Discussion on warrant article projects not completed this year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. The Board confirmed they will be encumbered.

Fall updated on the Danforth Bay Bridge project stating that three vibratory drivers have burnt out and there is still 8-hours remaining to complete for densification work. They are in the process of trying to locate another. The sheet piling added on the west-side of the bridge to stabilize the soil is failing and breaking forward. Fall will follow up with Josh Bouchard to get an update on their plan for correction. The precast footings have been delivered to the site and are ready for placement. The crane is also on-site.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported two weeks of activity including 6 calls for medical aid;

one with a COVID-19 precaution, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 fire alarm activation. The gear has all been tested and passed. Category 3 fire permitting has reopened on the State's permitting website and there are two new positive case reports of COVID-19. The State Forestry grant has been approved for next year and will be used to replace forestry bags and hoses. The new extrication tools have been mounted in the truck and are in service. The Fire Association will be replacing the airbag system. Cunio stated he has contacted 4 options to dredge the fire pond but has only received one response and will be following up on the others.

Appointment:

Phil Ogren called in at 7:00 pm with two concerns; the bridge closure and a recent experience at the Transfer Station. Babb will call Mr. Ogren on Tuesday to discuss these items further.

Department Head Updates Continued:

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford reported response to a call on a repeat overdose, dogs on Scarboro Road, and an investigation on horses on Village Road; the State veterinarian visited and the horses are reportedly in good condition and a three-sided shelter is in the process of being erected as required after 11/1.

Public Comment:

None presented.

Old/New Business:

2021 Budget Review –

Fire Department: Cunio presented a request in the amount of \$185,675 for an overall increase of \$3,500 to account for \$500 increase in first responders, \$1,000 in equipment purchases, \$500 in radio/equipment repairs, \$500 in 2011 forestry truck maintenance and \$1,000 in turnout gear to cover replacement of items from 3 complete sets. Cunio discussed eliminating the \$3,000 maintenance line for the old Tahoe and adding these funds into the turn out gear as well for a total line item of \$11,000 which should cover the 3 sets. Day questioned if the stipend pay is still adequate? Cunio responded that it is figured on a price per point and was increased just before he came onboard which is still a good rate. Brief discussion on maintenance items such as fluid film treatment.

Forest Fire Protection – Cunio presented a level-funded request in the amount of \$3,000.

Emergency Management – Last year's budget was in the amount of \$500. White stated that the grant received to update the Town's Hazard Mitigation plan was approved in 2020 but includes a town-match portion of what is believed to be 20%. This amount will need to be added into the budget once the exact figure is determined. Tabled.

The Board discussed the pending resignation of the Emergency Management Director and questioned if Cunio has interest in the deputy position? Cunio declined due to the conflict of having to be stationed in the emergency operation center during an event which would conflict from his duty as Fire Chief. White will obtain additional information on the position requirements from NH HSEM.

Transfer Station – White requested that the budget be tabled for review until Justin Brooks is able to return to work.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for

personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene at 7:55 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:55 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene at 8:05 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:08 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for reputation. Fall seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Babb-yes, Day-yes, Fall-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene at 8:25 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion:

Babb made a motion to require a review of all zoning applications by either himself or Anne Cunningham prior to any permits being issued. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion on setting up a drug and alcohol testing account with Huggins Hospital and Memorial Hospital. White was asked to obtain results from recent testing to incorporate into personnel files.

Discussion on projects and duties for office support staff.

Consent Agenda:

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| Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 11/9/2020 | Approved |
| Minutes – Non-Public Session – 11/9/2020 | Approved |
| Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 11/11/2020 & 11/18/2020 | Approved |
| Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 11/13/2020 & 11/20/2020 | Approved |
| Employee Leave Request | Approved |
| Warrant - 2020 Property Tax Levy | Approved |
| Intent to Cut – Caroline Marston, 184 Scarboro Road (Map 9, Lot 18) | Approved |

Correspondence:

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| Minutes – FAISC Meeting – 11/12/2020 | Reviewed |
| Minutes – Conservation Commission/Forest Advisory Joint Meeting – 11/17/2020 | Reviewed |
| Minutes – Planning Board Meeting – 11/19/2020 | Reviewed |
| Trust Fund balances as of 10/31/2020 | Reviewed |
| 2021 Budget Request for Funding – Starting Point | Reviewed |
| 2021 Budget Request for Funding – Northern Human Services | Reviewed |
| Ossipee Lake Dam Authority Report | Reviewed |
| Central NH VNA & Hospice Community Report | Reviewed |
| E-Mail – Dave Gonsalves re: Totem Pole Campground correspondence issued | Reviewed |

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall