

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, December 7, 2020**

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

Babb made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 11/30/2020. Day seconded. Fall abstained (absent). All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to approve the minutes of the Non-Public Sessions held on 11/30/2020. Day seconded. Fall abstained (absent). All in favor, the motion passed.

Fall updated on the Danforth Bay Bridge project stating a few concerns regarding the elevation and plumbness of the footings that have been set are being reviewed by the engineers and precast manufacturer. Further information will be available on Tuesday afternoon.

Happy Birthday to Bill Elliott!

**Department Head Updates:**

Transfer Station – Supervisor Justin Brooks reported that George Stone has been running things in his absence. A hydraulic hose blew and has been repaired.

Police Department – Chief Josh Shackford stated that some electrical issues in his cruiser are to be looked at this week. Calls included theft of mail, alarm activation, car vs. deer and drugs in mail. The Chief's cruiser will be in for new tires and brakes this week. Sgt. Tyler reviewed the drugs in mail issue stating that preloaded syringes containing psychedelic mushrooms are being transferred through the mail using area business addresses. This is happening in surrounding communities as well and is under investigation. Discussion on numerous complaints received on the welfare of horses on Village Road. Shelter is in place; the horses are healthy and the state vet has completed inspections.

**Old/New Business:**

2021 Budget Review:

Conservation Commission – Chairman Paul Elie presented the annual report and budget request including a reduction in the wage and dues line to increase the operating line in order to complete water testing in Loon Lake and Round Pond. The CC has met with Green Mountain Conservation Group on completing VLAP testing for approximately \$2,000 of which the CC will fund \$1,500 and the Loon Lake Association will be donating \$500.00, covering 11-days of testing throughout the summer. At the meeting on 12/16 they will be reviewing the numbers and develop a plan. Budget request remains level funded at \$5,100.

Forest Advisory Committee – Elie stated they plan to proceed with the controlled burn of the Pine Barrens estimated to cost \$5,000. This amount to be raised by Warrant Article, along with a request to encumber the funds raised to 2022 in case the burn is not possible to be completed in 2021. Town Forest Maintenance request for \$500.00 will also be presented by Warrant Article.

Transfer Station – Brooks presented the proposed budget noting a significant increase in the transport of recyclables but most other lines staying the same. The hydraulic hoses on the backhoe are also due for repair/replacement so that line item has been increased as well. Fortunately, most repairs have been able to be completed at the highway department which has save a lot of money.

Highway – Tabled.

Heritage Commission – Request for level funding in the amount of \$850.00.

Emergency Management – White stated that she increased the budget by \$2,500 for a total of \$3,000 to cover the town’s match of the approved grant to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Department Head Updates continued:**

Fire Department – White reported the call volume in Chief Cunio’s absence to include: 3 medical aid calls, 1 fire alarm, 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 CO alarm, 5 trees into wires; 3 storm-related, and one new positive Covid-19 case in Freedom. Action Ambulance provided response to the two delayed call responses reported last week and that response is in the Selectmen’s folder. Cunio requests consideration for donation of the old extrication tools to the Errol Fire Department in exchange for a 60-volt chainsaw and cut off saw. This is because the extrication tools were purchased through grant funds and cannot be sold. The Board questioned the value of the tools to receive in exchange. Further discussion to ensue next week.

Town Office – White reported that she reviewed the remaining budget and outstanding invoices with Chief Cunio and authorized the thermal imager purchase as there is sufficient money left in the budget. Discussion on the Historical Society’s request for appropriation through petitioned Warrant Article process. Babb reviewed the Warrant Article presented in 2020 and confirmed the funding approved was for a specific project and should have applicable invoices applied to it. Future requests for funding will need to come in by petition. White will review the expenses related to the approved 2020 warrant article. White informed the Board that FX Lyons will resume weekly water testing at the Town Office. She has authorized time for Anne Cunningham to work on the building and zoning permit application in an effort to streamline the application process. A draft version will be forwarded for review. The 2020 audit is complete in draft form and will be reviewed for follow up. Training on the building permit software has been tentatively scheduled for next week.

**Appointment:**

Not applicable.

**Non-Public Session:**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:38 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. 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 8:42 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 11/30/2020	Approved
Minutes – Non-Public Session – 11/30/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 12/2/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 12/2/2020	Approved
Abatement Request – 8 Zealand Rd., Map 60, Lot 1-YZE08	Approved
Form CD-57-S – Real Estate Transfer Declaration, Alvino Road, Map 31, Lot 2-01	Approved
Letter of Appreciation x2	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Minutes – Danforth Bay Bridge Construction Meeting – 12/1/2020	Reviewed
Draft 2019 Financial Statements, Independent Auditor’s Report	Reviewed
E-Mail – Action Ambulance re: delayed call response	Reviewed
Public Hearing Notice - Carroll County Delegation	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 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