

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021**

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

Brief discussion on active COVID-19 cases.

Review of email correspondence received from Melissa Florio regarding speeding and heavy truck use on Eaton Road. Determined to be a police matter and will be forwarded as such.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 12/21/2020. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume for the past two weeks including 5 medical aid, lift assist, 3 mutual aid-fire, 2 fire alarms, and an illegal burn. According to the State, Freedom has no active COVID-19 cases but there are actually 6. Cunio reported receiving the first round of COVID-19 vaccination last week as did 3 other members. Several other members of the department are scheduled to receive theirs this week. Cunio picked up the decon sprayer that was acquired from the State's grant funding efforts. 3 out of 4 participants in the EMR glasses have passed their written testing. The Fishing Derby is scheduled for 1/23 with an alternate date of 2/5 if the ice is not sufficient by then. Quotes are in the works for portable radios to be replaced upon acceptance of the AFG Grant. Engine 2 may also be considered for replacement through the grant funding as it may be prioritized for replacement due to its age and lack of safety feature requirements. The sled and mule are winter-ready. Cunio reported 31 calls received in the month of December. At the election of officers held once every 3-years, Eric Seamans was reappointed Deputy Chief and Mike Eldridge was appointed Assistant Chief.

Babb forwarded to Cunio correspondence received on an AED promotion with State bid pricing along with a request to seek units for the Town Office, Highway Garage and Transfer Station.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported an update on staffing. Salt was delivered today and winter maintenance is well underway. Brooks discussed quotes he is obtaining from O'Connors for a Western Star and Mack option spec'd out with a manual transmission. Brooks is estimating approximately \$140,000 for the cab and chassis. Figures for the plow wing and body should be in by mid-week. Brooks reported working on these quotes for over 4-weeks now. He received a quote for a Chevy 550 within the same day as his request from Hilltop but is still waiting to hear back from Diprizio GMC for an additional quote. In speaking with JC Madigan, the recommended truck manufacturer is Mack of International, both requiring less fabrication to get setup. Day questioned what the State uses. Brooks responded that they use State bid and acquire whichever is cheapest. He

is unable to use the same truck spec'd out for the State in Freedom. There is need for two 1-tons.

Town Office – Town Administrator Ellen White stated several inquiries regarding the new assessments were fielded by the Assessor before the holidays. In addition, there are approximately 20 requests for abatements to be acted upon, primarily due to campers that were either registered or proven to have been removed prior to April 1.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Old / New Business/Discussion:

Brooks questioned if the Board has reviewed the proposed rate increases for subcontracted equipment? Babb responded that they will review it and add it as an agenda item for next week. Brooks stated the increase is due to a 7% increase in insurance and hourly rates are up.

Day requested a thank you letter be sent to Bruce Howlett acknowledging his donation received toward milfoil treatment.

Day questioned the status of the quotes for a new phone system at the Town Office. White responded that she has the quote and will bring to the next meeting.

Fall updated on the Danforth Bay Bridge stating both sides of the bridge have been backfilled up to the bridge deck. The 4 corners of the wing walls need additional fill and rip rap. At the construction meeting held this morning, there was discussion on how to proceed with the deck in order to get the bridge reopened for traffic. An option to scrap the option to cast in place and shim and instead apply gravel over a heavy fabric layer has been presented. Fall stated if the cast in place is done now, the bridge may not be reopened until mid-February but if the alternative option is used, it could be reopened by mid-late January with a lane closure to take place in the spring to complete the cast and shim. Discussion on weather conditions inhibiting the ability to put a final surface on the bridge now. Brooks stated that the State does it all the time by tenting and heating the site. Discussion on change order configurations and unrealistic project completion dates that were stated by HEB. Babb stated that the bridge should be reopened sooner than later. Day agreed. Fall agreed as well and will speak with Josh Bouchard at CMA on how to proceed. Brooks added that a plant in Poland, ME has 10-tons of asphalt year-round as a closer location. Fall will alert the contractor of this option. Babb stated the importance of restoring the access for servicing on both sides.

Brooks requested consideration for additional encumbrance of funds to address the Durgin Hill Brook culvert. A review of remaining funds in the highway budgets took place. Brooks will contact CMA for a quote for the engineering study. The Danforth Bay Bridge project was approximately \$75,000 and Square Brook was \$40,000 for (3) to use rough figures. Brooks estimates \$50,000 for the underdrain. Babb made a motion to encumber \$50,000 from the summer maintenance budget to address the under-draining of Swett's Hill Road. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to encumber \$25,000 from the summer maintenance budget to cover the engineering costs of up to \$25,000. Fall seconded. All in favor. The culvert runs from Cold River across Durgin Hill and was installed 1974-ish.

Public Comment:

None presented.

Non-Public Sessions:

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:28 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 8:10 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:10 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (l) for consideration of legal advice. Fall 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 8:40 PM. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 12/21/2020	Approved
Payroll Manifest – weeks ending 12/23/2020 & 12/30/2020	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending 12/23/2020 & 12/30/2020	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Map 7, Lots 6-2, 6-5 & 6-6, Ossipee Lake Rd., 63 Acres	Approved

Correspondence:

Letter – Devine & Millimet, Cybersecurity Breach Notification	Reviewed
Letter – Bruce Howlett, Donation toward milfoil control efforts	Reviewed
E-Mail – Melissa Florio, speed and heavy truck use on Route 153	Reviewed
Performance Report – Action Ambulance for period ending Nov. 30	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall