

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 29, 2021**

Present were Selectmen Leslie Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Also present was Bill Elliott, Anne Cunningham, Scott Cunningham, Rob Cunio, Bob King, Josh Shackford, Jamie Mullen and an unidentified woman.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

The Landfill Annual Post-Closure Report was discussed regarding items noted to be completed in July 2021 by Stantec. Babb made a motion to authorize Florio to sign the report. Day seconded. Florio abstained. Majority vote carried.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on March 19, 2021, and the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on March 15, 2021. Florio seconded. Florio noted a correction on page 3 of the March 15th Selectmen's Meeting minutes to include Florio's nomination to sit on the Broadband Committee with all in favor of this appointment. All were in favor to approve as amended.

Brief discussion on processing of requests for abatements.

Babb announced that Ossipee Lake Marina is under new management with Goodhue Boat Company. All were in favor to sign a letter authorizing Goodhue Boat Company dba Ossipee Lake Marina as a Boat Agent.

Quotes received for the new 6-wheel AWD plow/dump truck were presented as follows:

McDevitt Trucks, Inc.	\$142,984
O'Connor Trucks	\$134,500

Babb made a motion to authorize Scott Brooks to purchase the truck through O'Connor Trucks for up to \$134,500. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

A Pesticide Application Permit for milfoil treatment in 2021 was presented for signatures. Day made a motion to authorize Babb to sign. Florio seconded. Babb abstained. Majority vote carried.

A License to Sell Pistols and Revolvers was presented for signatures. The applicant is noted as Thomas Murray dba Cupheag Armory Technical. Chief Shackford confirmed no problems with issuing the license. Florio questioned if residency status is a requirement for issuing this permit. Shackford responded that the applicant only needs to own property not claim residency. Babb made a motion to sign the license. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Anne Cunningham discussed the application for tree removal, specifically related to dead/diseased trees, and referenced a 30-day waiting period to allow for appeal. Babb responded that this is not required for dead/diseased trees. A current application will be processed with this clause removed, and the application will be updated accordingly. Cunningham is working on updates to various applications to ensure they reference the current Zoning Ordinances. Cunningham reported that the Planning Board is currently working on recommended revisions to the subdivision applications.

Police Department – Police Chief Josh Shackford reported it has been a busy week with calls including 2 sexual assaults, stolen license plates, alarm activation, suspicious activity on Pequawket Trail, assistance given to Fish and Game on Freedom Point, investigation into a remote learning absence, elder service case, motor vehicle harassment, overweight ticketing on Huckins and Ossipee Lake Road and several directed patrols.

Shackford questioned what happened to the funding for the third full-time officer he had budgeted for? He reviewed RSA 91-A and the dates of the Selectmen's meetings when his budget was presented, reviewed, and agreed upon, and again questioned when/why his budget request changed? Shackford further questioned the recent hire of James Mullen and requested review of the employment agreement issued as well as discussion held at the time of hiring regarding staffing level of the department and whether it could maintain with two full-time officers. Shackford stated the January 11 meeting notes \$50,000 was removed from page 5 but argues that no discussion took place that he was involved in. Shackford requests open communication. Babb responded that he was under the assumption the plan for Shackford's date of retirement was moving forward as April 30 and that he would only stay on longer to assist with training Shackford's replacement. Shackford stated he originally planned to retire on April 30 but made it clear he was unable to. Bob King discussed the breakdown in communication between the Selectmen and Police Chief and the importance to have the opportunity for discussion in relation to the budget and new hire intentions. James Mullen stated he is in an awkward position but is happy to be in Freedom, and reported he is actively recruiting for part-time help. Babb responded that they panic reacted with the loss of Matt Tyler's certification, an impending retirement, and the Chief being out on medical leave. King responded that it was inappropriate for the Board to circumvent a department head and Shackford is due an apology. Shackford discussed the need for a third officer to fulfill the level of service needed and further discussed the inability for part-time to cover what is needed, a shortfall of 88-hours per week. Babb and Day reiterated they were both under the impression the Chief was retiring April 30. Discussion on options to fund the needed third full-time position. A special Town Meeting is an option as a public safety issue has been presented. Additionally, \$25,000 was raised to mitigate a public health issue and that funding is no longer necessary. Challenges with recruitment and lack of housing were discussed. Babb suggested Shackford and White sit down to review the budget and see what is available to use within the budget. White stated that there may be monies available considering it would be for a partial year. Discussion on assistance given to the department by Bob King, utilizing his technical and prosecution experience. Shackford requested King's pay be increased to \$30/hour. Babb made a motion to approve the pay increase to \$30/hour. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Brief discussion on whether the full-time position will be filled with experience or if it will require putting someone through the Police Academy. Shackford responded that it will have to be someone already certified as they don't have the time to train. All were thanked for participating in this discussion.

Fire Department - Fire Chief Rob Cunio reported 6 active Covid-19 cases, 1 call for medical aid, 1 fire alarm, 1 tree across the road, and several calls starting at 6:30 this morning including a significant

medical call requiring 2 trucks from Action Ambulance and three paramedics. Cunio reported how well it worked out working with the staff and the patient was transported successfully. Cunio reported carburetor issues have been found in the pump on Forestry 2 so it will be going in for service tomorrow. Fire permits are now required due to lack of snow coverage. One road was closed as a result of the windstorm; the Village Road side of Freedom Point Road. Two trees were downed on Loon Lake Road and Freedom Point Road but storm damage was significantly less than other towns in the area. Discussion on a medical call to Cherokee Lane and confusion as to whether it was in Totem Pole or West Ossipee. White will look into the 9-1-1 addressing to see if there is a way to better designate the similar street names in close proximity of each other.

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks presented the quote from O’Connor Trucks at \$133,112. Babb informed him that they approved the purchase through O’Connor Trucks for the amount of up to \$134,500. It was agreed by all to put the 2013 International out for bids rather than trade it for \$20,000-\$35,000 in value. Brooks stated quotes have been requested from Allied (received), HP Fairfield and JC Matigan to equip the new truck.

Brooks reported 4-5 downed trees on Look Lake Road, Freedom Point Road, and Round Pond. Cleanup will commence over the next few days. Roads are drying out well and Northeast Earth has been in touch and is anxious to continue work on the Danforth Bay Bridge but road conditions are not quite there. Brooks anticipates the west side of town may be ready soon but the road ban will likely be in place for a few more weeks in the rest of town.

Discussion:

Shackford discussed a request received from Gordon Nason to have car shows in the village this summer and spoke in opposition due to complaints that will be generated. The Public Safety Building was also discussed as not a good location. Babb explained that Nason was referred to request the school as a location, and several other private locations are being researched as well.

Florio announced the hiring of Stacy Bolduc as the Administrative Assistant and reviewed her qualifications and planned start date of April 19, 2021.

Old / New Business/Discussion:

Board/Committee Appointments/Re-Appointments – Discussion on Lakes Region Planning Commissions TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee). Scott Brooks’ appointment is due to expire in July 2021 and will be reappointed at that time.

Jean Marshall and Mark McConkey’s appointment to the Lakes Region Planning Commission as Town Representatives both expired in 2020. White will reach out to them to see if they seek reappointment.

Babb announced that he reached out to Don Harris to see if he would be interested in a position on the Zoning Board of Adjustment but he has declined at this time. Day made a motion to reappoint Craig Niiler to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Florio made a motion to reappoint John Krebs to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Florio made a motion to reappoint Jeff Nicoll and David Straw to the Conservation Commission, and Robert Oram to member-at-large. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to reappoint Janet Myers to the Forest Advisory Committee. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to appoint Day to serve on the Town Office Advisory Committee as Selectmen's Representative. Florio seconded. Day abstained. Majority vote carried.

Day made a motion to reappoint Bruce Howlett to the Aquatic Invasive Species Committee. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. White announced that Jim McElroy will be resigning his position. Bill Elliott stated that McElroy has done a great job on the committee and hates to see him go; perhaps he will remain on the committee as an alternate?

Babb made a motion to appoint Kelly McClare as Emergency Management Director. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day announced that Alan Fall will be seeking appointment to the Heritage Commission. White announced the Heritage Commission will be meeting on April 15 and will be reviewing memberships at that time.

White will update the membership lists and post open vacancies.

Day briefly discussed upcoming Transfer Station certification renewals as well as eligibility for certification.

Public Input:

None presented.

Appointments:

None scheduled.

Non-Public Session(s):

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:19 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (a) for personnel. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:23 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:23 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (c) for reputation. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:40 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:40 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (l) for legal. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:47 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:47 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (d) for acquisition. Day seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Day-yes, Babb-yes, Florio-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Babb made a motion to reconvene public session at 9:03 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 3/19/2021	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 3/22/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 3/24/2021	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 3/24/2021	Approved
Letter of Commitment – Lakes Region Household Hazardous Collection Program	Approved
Requests for Abatement:	
Manuel Gendron, 41 Totem Pole Road (Map 1A, Lot 286) - \$614.00	Approved
Ricardo Porras, 9 Gray Birch Lane (Map 1B, Lot 194) - \$675.00	Approved
Maureen Roy & Joseph Venezia, West Danforth Rd. (Map 6, Lot 7-9) - \$1,769.00	Approved
Jennifer & Steve Danzig, Chocorua Circle (Map 60, Lot 1-B1)	Denied
Bruce & Nora LeDuc, 8 Garfield Lane (Map 60, Lot 1-YGA08)	Denied
Stephen & Kim Fall, 2 Great East Road (Map 60, Lot 1-T2)	Denied
Denise Reilly, Sunapee Street (Map 60, Lot 1-G14)	Denied
Michael & Rhonda Tierney, Crystal Road (Map 60, Lot 1-Q04)	Denied
Phillips Moore, 8 Cone Drive (Map 26, Lot 6)	Denied
Northern NE Telephone Operations LLC, various locations (Map 80, Lot 4)	Denied
NH Electric Co-Op, various locations (Map 80, Lot 1)	Denied
Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Michael Gendron (Map 1B, Lot 194) - \$675.00	Approved
Supplemental Property Tax Warrant – Ricardo Porras (Map 1A, Lot 286) - \$614.00	Approved
Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – David & Linda Bucknell (Map 4, Lots 25 & 25-01)	Approved
Freedom Elementary School Student Council – Request to plant perennials at various veteran memorial sites	Approved
NH DES Annual Solid Waste Facility Report	Approved
NH DES Annual Landfill Post-Closure Report	Approved

Correspondence:

Report – NH DOT Red Listed Bridges	Reviewed
Report – Action Ambulance for period ending 2/28/2021	Reviewed
Invitation – Lakes Region Housing & Economy Snapshot Event, 4/15/2021	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Lien Payment (2017 in full, 2018 partial)	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Lien Payment, as agreed	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio