

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, July 12, 2021**

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

Also, present were Rob Cunio, Bill Elliott, Justin Brooks, Scott Brooks, Ned Kucera, Jeff Nicoll, and Gary Williams.

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

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

It was confirmed by Bill Elliott that the boat ramps are now staffed through the Lake Host Program. Any unspent funds carry forward.

Babb announced receiving a call concerning the newly constructed bleachers at the ballfield as they were screwed rather than nailed. A request to have the building inspector look at them was made.

Day made a motion to accept the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting held on June 28, 2021. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Cunio shared a thank you letter received to be inserted in his personnel file. He then reported call volume for the past three weeks for a total of 31 calls including 19 medical aid, 1 structure fire, 2 motor vehicle accidents, fire alarm activation, 2 trees in wires, illegal burn, welfare check, roadside fire on Bennett Road – detected and extinguished by Highway, propane alarm, police department assist on a search, electrical explosion at Danforth Bay resulting from buried extension cords - site checks are currently in progress. The structure fire was attended to by 13 departments and 4 ambulance services. There were also 4 medical aid calls in town at the same time and all were attended to, and station coverage was given to all supporting towns. Mutual aid response was excellent and communication challenges with dispatch were able to be worked around. Cunio commented on the community support received by way of donated water and food that continued to arrive throughout the day. Action Ambulance provided their rehab truck with misting fan that was helpful in rehabilitating the crews in the extreme heat conditions. The AFG award announcement should be coming in any day now. There was question of issue with a dry hydrant experienced during the structure fire. Cunio stated it was resolved and believes it is an issue with the PVC connection and added the hydrant will be tested tomorrow. The communication issue was a result of bad reception. Repeaters were added at the County but did not help the northern areas. Chief Thompson chairs the Mutual Aid and is surveying towns for needs to improve deficiencies and to potentially expend \$60k in grant funds that are available. Cunio added that if the AFG grant is awarded, mobile repeaters are being sought which should solve most of the problem. Babb questioned the repeater installed on the cell tower. J. Brooks responded that it is for emergency management. Cunio also reported investigation into a fireworks complaint; debris was found in the abutter's driveway. Cunio questions if the Fire Department has the authority to confiscate fireworks found in violation of the Town's Fireworks Ordinance? He was referred to speak with Chief Mullen.

Babb questioned if the loss of Sacopee Valley Rescue will affect the Town? J. Brooks stated they are able to operate at the BLS level of service only. Cunio responded that other agencies would respond first, it would only affect in a mass-casualty event.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks presented two quotes received for line striping: L& D for \$17,584.80 and Industrial Traffic Lines for \$14,095.40. There is concern for a paint shortage that may affect the pricing by approximately \$2/gallon. Brooks recommends proceeding with Industrial. Day made a motion to proceed with Industrial Traffic Lines for the quoted amount of \$14,095.40. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Brooks stated the footage quoted is estimated and will be billed on actual application. Brooks reported the box culvert replacement on Look Lake was completed last Thursday and Youngs Hill Road was started today.

Transfer Station- Justin Brooks reported an easy 4th of July weekend likely due to the rain. Demolition is down but trash and recyclables continue on a high. Trash is now being hauled to Bethlehem as the State of Maine enacted a law that prohibits out of state trash. Brooks has researched getting another 40-yard compactor container for overflow; new is \$11,900 with a 12-14 week lead time and a used refurbished is available at Atlantic Recycling in Dover for \$6,900. Brooks stated the purchase of the used container can be absorbed within the budget without having to go to the capital reserve fund. All were in favor of proceeding with the purchase of the refurbished container for \$6,900. Babb questions how long before we need to consider another compactor? Brooks would like to compare the tonnages year-to-date.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reviewed a request received from Mark McKinley to review the Town Hall Use Policy in regard to special event insurance requirements and prohibition of alcohol use. This will be an agenda item for next week. An updated list of 2017-2018 lien properties was presented in the red folder. All were in favor to proceed to deed with any remaining unpaid after the deadline of noon Thursday. A request was made for the Selectmen to come in and sign the tax deeds on Thursday when they are ready. White announced a public hearing will be scheduled for the acceptance of the ARPA funds on July 26th at 7:00 pm. Brief discussion on expenditure of funds. Discussion on rekeying town building and office locks. A general quote has been received. The Board agreed to proceed with the process. White reported NH Department of Revenue was in two weeks ago to audit the exemptions, credit and current use files. They will be returning this week to wrap up. In the absence of Chief Mullen, White reported that several fireworks complaints were received by the department over the holiday weekend and all were logged and dealt with. White informed the Board of an upcoming request to meet with the Library Trustees in August for discussion on their operating budget and the possibility of payroll processing by the town. Babb provided some history on why the budget is included as a warrant article separate of the operating budget and the lack of oversight the Selectmen have on any library expenditures.

Scott Brooks reported an issue with retrieving data readings from the fuel pumps, likely related to storms this past week. He will work with technical support to resolve. Brooks also noted the midgrade tank is out.

Florio questioned if Chief Mullen presented any information on his proposal to increase the rate for detail pay? Nothing has been received at this time.

FAISC – Chairman Ned Kucera provided the Board with an updated treatment map showing the progress made in Danforth Pond. A report is anticipated from NH DES in early August which will encompass additional treatment recommendations. Broad Bay and Huckins Cove remain to be treated

as planned. Kucera announced the desire to have 4 employees for the Lake Host Program with primary focus on Saturday and Sunday. Currently staff is available Friday-Monday at the Route 25 boat launch and Lakefront Landing. Ossipee Lake Marina is taking a different approach toward more seasonal boating use. Boating appears to be down significantly in comparison to last year based on parking at the boat launch. Florio questioned if there has been any algae bloom detected this year? Kucera responded that there are blooms but no cyanobacteria reported. Babb commented that with recent rainfall the water temp is low.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Policies & Procedures Update – Personnel Policy: Babb questioned if all department heads have had a chance to review the revised copy. Cunio responded that he is about 90% through it. Babb requested it remain tabled until next week.

J. Brooks announced Household Hazardous Waste Day is coming up on Saturday, August 7 at the Ossipee Highway Garage. Handouts are being distributed at the Transfer Station and notice is posted to the town’s website.

Kucera informed the Board of someone interested in serving on the FAISC to take the vacancy left by Jim McElroy. Babb requested the FAISC vote and provide their recommendation to the Selectmen for appointment.

A request for an abatement that was tabled from the last meeting was reviewed. Due to the complexity of the shared use of the property by multiple property owners, the Assessor’s recommendation and supporting documents will be forward to the Town Attorney for review and further recommendation.

A proposed donation for the Town Forest was reviewed. The donor would like to transfer a stock to the town to avoid a gift tax but this would require the town to set up a brokerage account. The Treasurer does not recommend this. The Board was in agreement. White will reach out to request an alternate method to receive the donation.

The Board was in favor of tree removal behind the Town Hall proposed in the Facilities Update to be completed by TLL Logging for the quoted amount of \$800.00.

Public Comment:

Kucera discussed stormwater runoff from Davis Point into Loon Lake and the past concern expressed by Green Mountain Conservation Group and FAISC for water quality. Kucera suggests installing a stormwater ditch at the end of Route 25 to collect runoff and minimize what is being deposited into the pond. S. Brooks commented on watershed runoff and what is required to install anything outside of the prescribe right-of-way. He suggested an option such as a plunge pool similar to what was put in at Danforth Bay and Pequawket Trail where there is a great deal of erosion. Riprap can be put in to mitigate the flow but would require wetlands permitting for any work to be completed within 250’ or shoreline. Permitting would require engineering and can be quite costly. Brooks also stated that both sides would have to be addressed to include Round Pond. It was noted that there is not as much concern due to the lack of a boat launch on the Round Pond side. Brooks will review the area during the next rain event.

Non-Public Session(s);

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:49 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (e) 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 8:25 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:25 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (c) for tax matters and reputation. Florio 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 9:20 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

Florio informed the Board of a call she received with concern that there was an unposted work session of the Supervisors of the Checklist, Town Clerk and Moderator held last week.

Babb questioned if the ARPA funds can be used toward the salt shed and other forecasted projects. White will research the guidance received to determine appropriate allocation.

Performance reviews will be included in the folder for review next week.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 6/28/21	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending 6/30/21 & 7/7/21	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 6/30/21 & 7/7/21	Approved

Correspondence:

Receipts – Tax Payments as Agreed (several)	Reviewed
Report - 2017-2018 Lien Status	Reviewed
Report – Budget Status Report as of 7/1/2021	Reviewed
Facilities Update as of 7/12/2021	Reviewed
Newsletter – GMCG Watershed News	Reviewed
Letter – N/A	
E-mail – N/A	

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio