

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, July 26, 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 Jamie Mullen, Alan Fall, Rob Cunio, Daymond Steer, Justin Brooks, Carl Blomquist and Dotty Reed.

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.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on July 19, 2021. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to authorize Babb to sign the certificate of substantial completion on the Ossipee Lake Road Bridge project. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The Board commented on the notice of return of insurance premiums amounting to approximately \$20,000.

Public Input:

Carl Blomquist thanked the Selectmen for their consideration in dealing with his deck dispute stating it was handled appropriately. All were in agreement that it was a satisfactory resolution for both parties.

Department Head Updates:

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 7 medical aid, 1 motor vehicle accident, 3 fire alarm, 1 service call for a gas odor in a building. A total of 65 positive Covid-19 cases have been reported in Freedom. The grant status for the truck and radio is ready to award but a computer system malfunction is delaying the notifications. Three members that attended the EMR testing all passed. A Firefighter I class is scheduled to be held in Bartlett in September. Cunio reported on the latest Covid-10 variant stating that those who are vaccinated are getting minor symptoms while those unvaccinated are experiences the worst-case scenarios. Pricing has been received on the new truck as spec'd out from E-One and HME; the third company was dropped because they do not participate in group pricing. Laconia has an E-One he will be going to look at as that appears to be the manufacturer of preference. Cunio states the Rescue truck is tired and has met its useful life of 20-years. It is also noted as the busiest truck. Concern expressed with need for upcoming repairs and recurring transmission slip. Cunio discussed replacement with a 4-door chassis, non-walk-in for better efficiency and more space. Very rough estimate for replacement is \$250-300k. Cunio will work on getting firm numbers for consideration

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported calls including 5 alarm, 2 warrant checks, 1 suspicious activity, 37 directed patrols, 3 VIN verifications, 6 general information, 4 citizen and 4

welfare checks, 1 follow-up, 3 domestic, 2 disturbances, 1 motor vehicle complaint, 1 civil standby, 1 Fish and Game assist with a bear, an injured hawk relayed to Elaine Connors Center for Wildlife, 4 pistol permits, activity at the beach on Pequawket-several removed, 1 boating complaint, right-to-know request fulfillment, background check investigation with another almost complete, request and thank you for placement of the radar trailer on Ossipee Lake Road. Babb provided history on the speed sign at Camp Calumet purchased by the town with costs offset from donations received from Camp Calumet.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported that the contract book has been reviewed and upcoming renewals this year, in addition to the propane and heating/road fuel supply already out for bids, will be for assessing services and town building landscaping services. The assessing RFP from the last round will be distributed for review in September-October to allow time for reward and review by the Department of Revenue. Scott Brooks is unable to attend but reported the paving bids have been solicited with bid opening scheduled for Monday, 8/2. If the pricing comes in too high, he may opt to wait until next spring. The underdrain on Swetts Hill will be wrapped up this week and crack seal on Ossipee Lake Road was started today. The balance of the archive tax records have been inventoried and once there is a clear break in the weather, they will be moved over to the vault at the Public Safety building. Personnel files review is still in progress and once missing items are compiled, they will be distributed along with the newly updated Personnel Policies Manual. Tax-deeded property notifications will be issued to former owners this week informing of their right to repurchase.

Florio questioned if Dave Senecal had a chance to look at the ballfield bleachers. White confirmed stating he had no concern with the deck screws used to fasten the boards. Senecal did comment that a piece of strapping could be used along the seat bases on the higher tiers to lessen the risk of smaller children falling between. \$400.00 remains in the warrant article. White will discuss the recommendation with Mark McKinley.

The abatement request from Mullane will remain tabled until the Assessor is in tomorrow and is able to verify that all properties with access to the “common lot” are being assessed accordingly.

Babb recessed the meeting at 7:08 PM to begin the Public Hearing on the ARPA Grant funds.

Public session reconvened at 7:21 PM.

Babb requested the decision on the ARPA funds acceptance be an agenda item for next week.

Department Head Updates continued:

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported the tonnage comparison he calculated from January-June in 2020-2021: MSW is down 66,000 pounds, C&D is down 4,000 lbs., and recyclables are up 6,035 lbs. Last year was busier because everyone was home. Tire disposal is now being charged at \$14 each so our rate will have to be increased from the present of \$5/tire. Florio questioned if there are any other fee items that need to be updated. Brooks stated that he will review the surrounding towns for comparison; it’s inevitable that some items will have to be increased. This will be added as an agenda item. Brooks reported that the landfill cap was mowed last week per state requirement. The town is no longer being serviced out of Scarborough. It is a 5-hour round trip out of Littleton which is why the additional container was purchased.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Florio received a call from Helen Cheese-Probert to comment the Board on taking on the short-term rentals and spoke in favor of not prohibiting them. Babb commented that she also wrote a letter to the Planning Board.

Policies & Procedures Update – Town Hall Use Policy: White stated that the content remains the same in the draft version, it has just been redistributed throughout the document, and the user form has been updated as well. Insurance requirements have been added to reflect language recommended by Primex. All were in favor of adopting the policy as amended.

Masonic Lodge Lease Agreement – Alan Fall announced he presented the draft document of the lease agreement and deed at Lodge meeting last Thursday. They have been escalated to review by Grand Lodge and he is hopeful he will be able to execute the documents as early as next Monday. Consensus received is that the transaction is a good thing. Day and Babb are in agreement to proceed forward. Florio has reservations with the term of the lease agreement not being the norm, and the language in the document binding the taxpayers. Fall reminded all of the gift being made to the town. Fall is prepared to sign next week unless something significant comes up during Grand Lodge’s review. This will remain as an agenda item for next week.

Non-Public Session(s):

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:36 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 7:37 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:38 PM pursuant to RSA 91-a:3, II (e) for personnel. 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 8:05 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:05 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 8:11 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

White stated she will be meeting with A & B Lock this week to review the re-keying of town buildings and gates. The Board requested the keys be non-duplicating to maintain control over access.

Florio asked for clarification on RSA granting authority to enter into the lease and her concerns with the lease agreement including a termination clause. The document was reviewed further.

Consent Agenda:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 7/19/21 | Approved |
| Payroll Manifest – week ending 7/21/21 | Approved |
| Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 7/21/21 | Approved |

Correspondence:

Letter – cc'd response to zoning violation complaint filed	Reviewed
Letter – cc'd letter of appreciation for CPR certification class	Reviewed
Letter – Primex re: 2021 Premium Holiday Contributions	Reviewed
Letter – NH Electric Co-Op re: Broadband expansion through ARPA funds	Reviewed
Receipt – Per tax payment agreement	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio