

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, August 2, 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, Alan Fall, Scott Brooks and Justin Brooks.

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 26, 2021. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held on July 26, 2021. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Department Head Updates:**

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 4 medical aid, submerged boat, water rescue on lake with assistance given from West Ossipee Fire's boat. Wednesday, Cunio will be heading to Woodstock to look at their E1 for consideration of the chassis. Annual truck inspections and service started today to beat the rush for the upcoming inspection month. Car 1 is experiencing some electrical issues with dash lights and door locks that will be looked into. Suspected module issue. The F-550 will be going in next week. Cunio was able to obtain some more aggressive tires for Forestry 1 through Fireomatic. He had priced out an off-road tire at approximately \$400-800/each and was able to get these at clearance price for \$1,060 for all four and Advanced Diesel installed them last week. There is still no update on the grant awards yet.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported a busy week; two compacters are full and he is hopeful they will be changed out tomorrow. Over 400 flyers have been handed out for this Saturday's Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White the 2020 financial audit is in the final stages with adjusting journal entries just received. The MS-535 will be prepared in the next couple of weeks for signatures. White met with A&B Lock last Wednesday at all locations for quote and reconfiguration of the town's master key system. Department of Revenue completed their field review at the office last week and a report of findings will be supplied shortly; the review went very well and comment was made on the completeness of the town's files. Two separate 91-A right-to-know requests have been received and are in the process of being responded to/fulfilled. Sean Bergeron is ready to begin his study for the Town Office Advisory Committee and will begin with measuring both the Town Office and Masonic Lodge. The carpets at the Town Office are tentatively scheduled to be cleaned this Friday. Budget status reports for the month of July will be distributed on Tuesday after a few adjusting entries are posted.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported the work on the underdrain was completed last week.

They worked on paving the swale on Swett's Hill and finished up there today. No reported significant washouts from the recent heavy rain. Brooks was hopeful for paving bids to come in to have some figures for budgeting reclamation projects for 2022.

**Public Input:**

None presented.

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

Open Paving Bids – No bids were received in response to the bid solicitation.

Masonic Lodge Lease Agreement – White informed the Board that the lease agreement has been updated to include today's date, the term dates, and general liability insurance limit of \$1,000,000 per occurrence. Day made a motion to have Babb sign the lease agreement as representative. Florio seconded. Babb requested all three sign the agreement. All in favor, the motion passed to sign the lease agreement. Alan Fall executed his portion as well as the deed on behalf of Carroll Lodge #57. The Board thanked Fall for the gift.

ARPA Funds Acceptance – Day made a motion to accept the ARPA Local Fiscal Recover Fund Program funds in the amount of \$165,724. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Florio commented that she has done some more research and in addition to being able to use the funds toward hiring more staff to adapt to changes instilled by the pandemic, funds can also be used in stormwater and watershed projects to prevent water contamination including for engineering and design work in addition to actual construction. There are no Davis-Beacon requirements for these projects. The Board agreed to authorize White to sign the application for funds.

Transfer Station Fees – Brooks discussed the current fees charged for certain items in comparison to what the town is being charged to dispose of them; mattresses/box springs were increased to \$20 last year. Suggestion for an increase for the larger console televisions, demo materials, and the price per bag. Brooks stated that fees have not been increased in his 20-years although costs for disposal have gone up 50%. Discussion on increased fees for tires and an alternative solution to dispose of them. An increase in disposal fees may result in more found on the sides of the road and in remote locations. S. Brooks questions if it is time to consider a scale option. Discussion ensued and cost will be researched. Brooks stated that he would like to see any fee changes be incorporated in the sticker renewal year. He will continue to review the surrounding towns for comparison for further discussion.

White confirmed with Assessor Rod Wood that properties using the common beach lot now owned by Julianne Mullane are receiving a water access assessment to contribute toward the reduced assessment of the lot itself. The request for abatement has been presented for approval as recommended.

Florio commented on loud music reported Saturday night around midnight thought to have originated from "Dock Fest" held on Ossipee Lake. A similar complaint made last year was disregarded but it was noted that this type of complaint can be handled by the Police under disturbance of the peace due to the noise complaint being after 10 pm.

Question raised regarding proper permitting is in place for ongoing renovations of buildings at 95 Burnham Road.

**Non-Public Session(s):**

Babb made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:29 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 8:00 PM. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

**Discussion continued:**

A letter in response to an inquiry received from Peter Park was reviewed and approved to issue.

Discussion on location of off-duty cruisers. Day would like to see them parked at the Public Safety Building.

Discussion on reporting of hours on timesheets to include salaried employees for tracking worker’s compensation claims. Also, on missing new hire paperwork.

Discussion on obtaining updated prices on the salt/sand storage building for consideration for use of the ARPA funds.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 7/26/21 Approved
- Minutes – Public Hearing – ARPA Funds – 7/26/2021 Approved
- Payroll Manifest – week ending 7/28/21 Approved
- Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 7/28/21 Approved
- Request for Abatement – Julianne Mullane, Sherwood Forest Way (Map 36, Lot 5) Approved
- Request for Abatement – Mary Lou Graper, 123 Youngs Hill Rd (Map 13, Lot 33-02) Approved
- Timber Tax Warrant – Marjorie & Paul Wynn (Map 7, Lot 3) Approved
- Letter – Peter Park re: Cash Receipts Inquiry Approved

**Correspondence:**

- Receipt – Per tax payment agreement Reviewed
- Receipt – Highway Block Grant Disbursement – Q1 Reviewed
- Letter – Highway Block Grant Allocation Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 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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Melissa M. Florio