

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, August 30, 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 Office.

Also, present were Jamie Mullen, Rob Cunio, Jeff Nicoll, Justin Brooks and Scott 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.

Mullen discussed speed and traffic complaints received as well as monitoring of specific complaints. Florio provided information received on placing signage on state roads to include request for limited engine brake use by heavy trucks. Mullen reported Route 153 and Ossipee Lake Road are the heaviest patrolled roads in town. There has been an increase in tickets written resulting in additional case load.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on 8/16/2021. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Day made a motion to sign the Fiscal Agent Agreement with Green Mountain Conservation Group for the acceptance of a donation (stock) from the family of Jennifer Moulin and to authorize Florio as representative to sign the document. Babb seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. White confirmed the stock will be transferred to GMCG's vanguard account and they will in turn disburse the cash value of the stock to the town to be deposited into the Town Forest Special Revenue Fund.

**Department Head Updates:**

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported the Transfer Station will be converting to its winter hour schedule effective Saturday, October 2. Additionally, they will be open on the Monday of Labor Day but closed on Tuesday in observance of the holiday. Good weather is expected for the holiday weekend and they have been preparing for it.

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported the race went well this past weekend with no incidents reported to fire or police. It was noted that signage was not put out until late Friday evening and several complaints were made that it was not sufficient notice. Mullen has addressed this with Vinny Vacarro. Rich Laferriere has been promoted to Sergeant. Officer Diaz has finished his field training. Coverage in the month of September looks to be good. Sgt. Laferriere is attending sexual assault response training. Chief Mullen has completed his physical agility testing.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume for two weeks including 16 medical aid; 1 positive covid-19 case for a total of 4 active in town; 1 motor vehicle accident; 3 fire alarm; 1 service call; smoke investigation; and a transformer fire. Cunio learned at the Chief's meeting last week that they are finishing up the simulcast expansion using grant money awarded to the mutual aid. Inspections and service of trucks has started. Last week, the tank truck, Tahoe and Rescue were all out of service with repairs in progress. Advanced Diesel is the vendor being used for servicing needs.

EBI trucks will be reviewed next week for comparison to the E-1 brand. EMR retesting will be completed next week for one member and another will be attending an EMT class next week. Two grants have been awarded so far since the system came back online.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks provided a quote received from R&D Paving for reclamation and paving figures to be used for 2022. He also presented a brochure and quote on a high arch gambrel building for the salt shed at \$340,000. The building at 60'x88' will hold 3,000 yards. Brooks has requested a quote to add a lean to on one side to store equipment. The manufacturer recommends a wood wall in place of concrete foundation because it will flex when hit rather than expose rebar in the concrete. Brooks will not be pursuing a door option (\$25,000). \$75,000 was raised at town meeting this year and it was agreed that \$130,000 of the ARPA grant funds will also be used toward the purchase of the building leaving a balance of approximately \$140,000 to be raised. Discussion on designating a separate sand pile for residents to access.

Brooks stated that the quote received from R&D is for the full road while he prefers to do the two sections of Swett Hill Road. An additional \$150,000 will be needed to purchase and install the box culvert. CMA is working on obtaining quotes from subcontractors to provide a price for the Durgin Hill Road project.

Jeff Nicoll reported the FCC met with Barry Keith regarding the Town Forest logging operation at their last meeting. There were no issues with the selected harvesting as planned and the logging commenced the day after the meeting. Discussion on poor communication and how notification and education to residents could have diverted a lot of concerns that were expressed on social media. Discussion on additional signage to alert those utilizing the forest of the ongoing logging operation. Nicoll confirmed the FCC will be issuing a letter to the Town of Effingham regarding the gas tanks at Boyle's Market. A legal review of the FCC's Rules and Procedures has been completed and will be discussed at their next meeting. It was clarified during the review that the Forest Advisory Committee is a standalone committee and not a subcommittee of the FCC. Babb explained that it was setup this way due to state funding used to obtain the town forest and per the requirement, the Forest Advisory Committee must meet on a quarterly basis.

Cunio questioned Freedom's involvement in the proposed special exception for a barn in Eaton? Babb confirmed that Freedom's agreement with Eaton is to provide fire and EMS coverage only per contract; not life safety or anything inspection related.

Town Office – Administrator White reported a quiet week in the building department and office in general. The MS-434 and MS-1 forms are due Wednesday and signatures will be required. The first tranche of the ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funds was received last week.

**Appointments:**

Not applicable.

**Old / New Business / Discussion:**

White was asked to prepare a letter acknowledging Library Director Elizabeth Rhymer's upcoming retirement.

S. Brooks reviewed a request received from Mark McConkey for two driveway accesses to a property on Ossipee Lake Road; one for a garage for an over road truck on Ossipee Lake Road and the second

on West Bay Road. Babb responded that it is not allowable on the property in question noting the Ossipee Lake Road access is extremely dangerous.

Day requested the agenda item of short-term rentals be placed on the agenda for 9/20/2021 so the Board can prepare their stance on short-term rentals. Florio commented that she would like to approach the subject slower than March to allow some of the surrounding communities to work through details on regulation and enforcement.

White reminded the Board the next Regional Ambulance Committee Meeting is scheduled for 9/26/2021 to review the call volume and adjust subsidies if necessary. Cunio commented that the contract was agreed upon and they are getting the service being paid for with no complaint. Brief discussion on ambulance transportation and full capacity status at area hospitals.

The Board acknowledged the ongoing appeal with Fairpoint Communications has been settled.

Florio announced Katy Watts as the new Chair of the Freedom Village Store Committee and she has received a request for consideration of a 1-day allowance for alcohol at the Town Hall for their annual silent auction. Florio has done some research at surrounding towns and found that Conway and Wolfeboro allow alcohol with a special permit reviewed by the Police Chief. Day and Babb were concerned with allowance of an exception opening the door to others. Mullen reported that he is unaware of any past issues with alcohol at the Town Hall. The auction is scheduled for the first week of November. Babb and Day are in agreement that the policy has not changed; alcohol has always been prohibited and if there is to be discussion on changing the policy, it should be an agenda item. Discussion on concern of liability issue.

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

Not applicable.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– ~~7/268/~~16/21

Approved

~~Minutes – Public Hearing – ARPA Funds – 7/26/2021~~ ~~Approved~~

Payroll Manifest – weeks ending ~~7/288/~~18/21 & 8/25/2021 ~~Approved~~

Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending ~~7/288/~~18/21 & 8/25/2021

Approved

Fiscal Agent Agreement – Green Mountain Conservation Group (Moulin Donation) Approved

Letter – Patricia McCoy re: Request for return of town-owned equipment Approved

Letter – Sheriff Richardi re: Appreciation for agency assistance given Approved

Intent to Cut Wood or Timber – Barosky (Map 9, Lots 13, 14 & 20-1B) Approved

**Correspondence:**

Minutes – Conservation Commission Meeting 7/20/2021 Reviewed

Minutes – Planning Board Meeting 8/19/2021 Reviewed

Letter – to Jeffrey Towle re: Request for returned agreement Reviewed

Letter – to Richard Laferriere re: Acknowledgement of promotion Reviewed

Letter – to Michel Cloutier re: FAISC appointment Reviewed

Letter – from Eaton ZBA re: Application for Special Exception for Home Business Reviewed

E-Mail/Letter - from David Smith, Ossipee Lake Alliance re: Boyle’s Market gas station

E-Mail – Darrell Umlah re: Boyle’s Market gas station	Reviewed
E-Mail – ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Funding Status	Reviewed
E-Mail – from Barbara Hall-Siktberg re: Noise/traffic complaint on Route 153	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax payment as agreed x2	Reviewed
Receipt – ARPA Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Tranche 1	Reviewed
Facilities Update – August 30, 2021	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb	Ernest F. Day, Jr.
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	Melissa M. Florio