

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 13, 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 Scott Brooks, Zenya Hernandez, Jamie Mullen, Jeff Nicoll, and Justin Brooks.

Chairman Les 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.

In the absence of Chief Rob Cunio, the Selectmen reviewed the activity report provided. The fire pond dredging on the Brooks property is anticipated to go over budget by approximately \$5,000 due to the conditions. The Board was in agreement to proceed until done. The budget will be reviewed and any overages will be absorbed by the operating budget or invoicing may carry forward into the 2022 budget.

Notice of award was received for the Firefighter's Assistance Grant in the amount of \$189,515.10 to be used for new radios. Les made a motion to accept the radio grant funds in the amount of \$189,515.10 of which \$9,024.53 is the town's responsibility. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Proposals were received from CMA Engineers for engineering services of culvert replacements on Watson Hill Road and Durgin Hill Road. Scott will review further but noted a few areas where the scope and pricing can be adjusted. He will contact Josh Bouchard to discuss.

Ernie made a motion to accept the minutes of the Selectmen's Meeting held on 8/30/2021 with one correction noted on page 1, line 9 changing the word "signate" to "signage". Melissa seconded as amended. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Updates:

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen stated the Reach the Beach event is coming up on Friday so traffic may be impacted at Calumet. Felony cases will be heard at court this and next week. Thanks to Ellen for her assistance in setting up department email accounts. Chief discussed some recurring issues with delayed reporting of accidents which will not be accepted due to question of insurance fraud. Ossipee Mountain Electronics completed the diagnostic on the radio in the F-150 and found a minor issue and the truck will have to be taken back over for repair. Various tickets are being issued but activity is normal. Chief reported receipt of a cover letter and resume for an administrative assistant he will be reviewing.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported it was busier this past weekend than Labor Day. He will follow up with Ricker's to have the scrap iron hauled off before winter gets here. The new-used container will be dropped this week from Atlantic Recycling. Container availability appears to be better in Littleton than it was in Scarboro so there have been no issues since the transition. The

hauling contract expires in 2023 and will be going out for bids around the middle of next year. Justin is still awaiting the numbers from Ossipee from the Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Winter hours go into effect on Saturday, October 2.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks briefly discussed the CMA proposals received. He noted there is no need for geotechnical boring as an area to reduce the price. There may not be much amendment needed for the Durgin Hill proposal. The highway crew has been busy mowing and grading roads and prepping for winter sand. Seasonal help for the spring and summer wrapped up last Thursday and we will be advertising for winter help.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported activity has slowed down at the office quite a bit but a lot of inquiries have been coming in on new assessments which may be a result of past due notices that were recently issued by the Tax Collector. Stacy is attending a training tomorrow and is signed up for some additional ones in the near future. We are still waiting on availability for two new workstations that were earmarked for replacement this year. Preparations are being made for the upcoming budget season and the cost figures and useful life information was given for the CIP project. Follow up with A&B Lock will be made regarding the re-keying of town buildings.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Scott added that lane closure and traffic control has been built into the proposals from CMA and he would like to handle it with road closures over a 3-week period much like they did for Youngs Hill Road and Loon Lake Road.

Scott also discussed a circular driveway that has been installed at the former Valley View Farm (95 Burnham Road). The driveway is not as permitted and he has brought it to the attention of Gary Williams. Discussion on the Perkins property, also with an unpermitted access. Ellen stated the court ruled in the town's favor in the small claims filing but the invoice for road repairs remains unpaid. The Board authorized Scott to bill for recent washouts resulting from the unpermitted access and advised to remove the culvert that was installed by the property owners.

Ernie discussed the option of offering NH State Retirement to employees and the costs associated. Having this benefit will open up a better pool for candidacy in filling vacant positions.

Melissa announced receipt of several comments of thanks for the Danforth Bay Bridge; many are happy with the outcome. A for sale sign erroneously placed at the Stogie's property is to be removed by the realtor. She also spoke with Bill Lambert from NH DOT and he will be reaching out to Ellen to schedule a Q&A or informational session during a Selectmen's Meeting related to traffic concerns posed on Eaton Road.

Jeff Nicoll reported that Barry Keith briefed the FCC on the logging operation at the Town Forest where 128 total acres are impacted including low grade and selective logging to improve the quality of the forest. The last logging took place in 2006. The FCC is monitoring erosion control. Jeff visited the Town Forest over the Labor Day weekend and this past weekend and has also spoken with Dave George who is the new president of Scrub Oaks Scramblers who expressed concern with access points that have been opened up near Trout Pond. The loggers are close to wrapping up and contact should

be made to have them use their equipment to restrict access where it should not be. Les stated that this is something Barry Keith should be handling as the Town Forester. Jeff stated that erosion control has been installed on the slopes and although messy, the loggers are following the bounds set in place. It was noted that the lock on the Madison side of Trout Pond was cut by emergency services and needs to be replaced. Zenya Hernandez questioned if there is a copy of the stewardship plan available? It was noted to be on file at the Town Office. Selective logging and controlled burning is taking place to recover from overuse of the property and to restore the property to a native and thriving forest. Zenya questioned how much this costs the town? Les responded that \$1,500 is raised annually to manage it but town forest funds from logging proceeds are used for the rest.

Town Hall Use Policy / Alcohol in town buildings – Email correspondence received from Primex was reviewed. Melissa stated that using other towns as an example, the scope could be narrowed down to allowance for non-profits only. Ernie still feels there is no problem with the policy as is, it is a municipal building and will open the door for others to abuse. There is no parking other than street side in a residential area and may it cause disruptions and rowdy behavior. Melissa would like to see it offered by permit to the Freedom Old Home Week, Community Club, Freedom Village Store and Freedom Fire-Rescue. Chief Mullen stated he will work with whatever is decided upon but was not aware there was an issue with the policy not being followed in the past. There is potential to open up for liability if the policy states no alcohol and it is not being followed. Justin is concerned with the burden on Mark for having to make sure the appropriate licenses and permissions are in place. Melissa responded that other towns are doing it successfully. Zenya suggested charging a fee. Scott does not recommend allowing it nor does Ellen. Les stated that the policy is the policy and should be followed. Day was in agreement. Ellen will send a courtesy notification with the policy to groups that use the Town Hall. Question arose on what consequences are in place for violations? Chief Mullen stated that it should be clear. Violators will be subject to removal. Scott suggests adding it to the building use checklist and adding some signage to the entry doors.

It was announced that the tennis court resurfacing started today and courts are closed until complete.

Non-Public Session(s):

Melissa made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:38 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) for reputation. Les seconded. Roll call was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Ernie made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:50 PM. Les seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:50 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) for personnel. Les seconded. Roll call was taken: Les-yes, Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously. Les made a motion to reconvene public session at 8:00 PM. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued:

Les discussed a property on Kidder Drive and the conditions noted from the subdivision approval in the early 2000's. Question of allowance of driveway access onto Freedom Point Road is to be reviewed further.

Discussion on the proposal received for Durgin Hill Road and monies that were encumbered.

Ernie questioned if it is too premature to hold discussion on short-term rentals? Melissa would like

to see the process slow down to allow time for others to create processes that can be followed.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – ~~7/26~~8/30/21

Approved

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

Payroll Manifest – weeks ending ~~7/28~~9/1/21 & 9/8/2021

Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – weeks ending ~~7/28~~9/1/21 & 9/8/2021

Approved

Letter – Justin Brooks re: fire service retirement acknowledgement

Approved

Letter – Elizabeth Rhymer re: retirement acknowledgement

Approved

Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit

Denied

Application for Veteran’s Tax Credit and Service-Connected Disability Credit

Approved

2021 Winter Road Inspection Reports:

Pauli Point Road

Approved

Square Brooks Roads

Approved

Ash Road

Approved

Davis Point Road

Approved

Fox Run Road

Approved

Freedom Shores Road

Approved

George Davidson Road

Approved

Old West Ossipee Road

Approved

Correspondence:

Minutes – FAISC Meeting 9/9/2021

Reviewed

Letter – NH DES re: Subdivision of land permit application (Map 3, Lot 42)

Reviewed

Letter – GMCG re: Fiscal Agent Agreement & Moulin Donation Transfer

Reviewed

E-Mail – Firefighters Grant Award Notification

Reviewed

E-Mail – NHMA Guidance on Mandating the use of Face Coverings...

Reviewed

Newsletter – NHMA Final Legislative Bulletin

Reviewed

Notice of Decision – Zoning Board of Adjustments:

Case No. 24-13-21 – Special Exception Granted

Reviewed

Case No. 23-16-21 – Variance Granted

Reviewed

Proposal – CMA Engineers – Engineering Services:

Watson Hill Road Culvert Replacements

Reviewed

Durgin Hill Road Culvert Replacements

Reviewed

Report – Possessed Property Report

Reviewed

Report – MS-434 Revised Estimated Revenues

Reviewed

Report – Permits Issued 8/1/2021-8/31/2021

Reviewed

Report – Budget Status Report – August 2021

Reviewed

Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed

Reviewed

Tax Payment as Agreed

Reviewed

Tax Payment as Agreed

Reviewed

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

