

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 18, 2021**

Selectman Ernie Day called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectmen Ernie Day and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes.

Also, present were Kim Stephan, Morgan Dubuque, Lilian Coriaty, Quinn Stephan, Emily Daggett, Jason Daggett, Jessie Dubuque, Sean Coriaty, Scott Brooks, and Bob King.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Melissa made a motion to approve the minutes from the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on 10/4/2021. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Melissa made a motion to have Ernie sign the final audit report representative letter. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Appointments

FES Student Council to present project proposal for roller rink: Ernie opened the meeting to the Freedom Elementary students for their presentation on a project idea for the rehabilitation of the roller rink in an effort to give back to the town. The plan was presented by Lilian Coriaty, Morgan Dubuque, Quinn Stephan, and Emily Daggett. Slide presentation attached to these minutes. Melissa questioned the timeline to start. The students would like to start in November but the timing is tentative and contingent on the town's approval and fundraising efforts. Ernie suggested we have Mark McKinley reach out to Mrs. Stephan to review the plans and actual work to be completed. Melissa suggested reaching out to Primex to make sure the students are covered for work they will be doing. Ernie thanked and commended the students on their presentation.

Department Head Updates

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported that the crew has been working on grading roads and cleaning out ditches and will continue until all leaves are off the trees. Sand levels are reported to be ok. Melissa asked if Scott has had a chance to measure for the lean-to off the side of the proposed sand shed. Scott responded that the length is 88' and can be adjusted in 8' increments. The shed can hold approximately 3k yards. The lean-to will provide storage to the yolk rake, chipper, broom and hopefully the grader can also go under cover. Scott will call to have the quote updated to include the lean-to. The help wanted ad for winter help is actively running; Scott suggests it continue to be advertised until November 15. No applications have been received. Scott estimates the new Mack will be received in the first quarter or 2022. Mack shut down their ordering early to take on only what they could realistically fulfill.

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported a very busy week. He has been fielding calls regarding the chase through town by the Sherriff's Department. A second pursuit took place down Route 25. He has contacted Ford and Dodge for availability for a new cruiser and is looking at 18-20

weeks for a Ford at approximately \$37,600 and a Dodge may be up to 30 weeks. Chevy is unable to provide a timeline. Officer King stated the microchip shortage is expected to worsen next year and positive turnaround is not expected until 2023. Chevrolet opened their ordering period up from 8/11-8/23 only taken orders for what they know they could produce. They also operate on a fiscal year so State agencies were prioritized. The Department will be audited on 10/25/2021 as required for new chiefs. They will be verifying use of force, training records, firearm, handgun and rifle training policies. A review of the use of force and driving policies are in progress as well as the in-car cruiser tour policy.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported 1-4 positive Covid-19 cases and call volume including 6 calls for medical aid with 1 Covid positive, 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 mutual aid-fire, 2 CO, 1 service call, 2 police standby. The new radios are on order and the repeater has already arrived at OME. Rescue will be going over on the 28th for install but have to wait until everything is in before they can be put in use. An all-day relay pump training with the Madison took place at Totem Pole last Saturday. The turbo in Forestry 1 is no good and estimate of repair is \$2-3k. With all repairs completed more recently, it should be good to go for a while. Call volume is busy; 343 total as of today where last year's total was 350. The new rescue specs are still awaiting submittal from E-One. The participants in the EMT and Firefighter classes have reported things are going well and they are about halfway through their training.

Transfer Station – Justin Brooks reported a busy weekend with most closing their camps for the season. He reached out to George Ricker to coordinate pickup of scrap metal before snowfall. The numbers reported for the Household Hazardous Waste Day were the most reported by double.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported septic issues experienced at the Town Office last week resulting in no restroom facilities Thursday and Friday. Mount Washington Drain was called in to do a drain inspection and a large diameter root was removed. It was noted that the sewer drains are compromised in several places and require replacement. A video of the inspection completed with commentary has been made available. The water was turned on at the Masonic Lodge for restroom access and the system requires winterization and to be checked out. Staff training continues with updates on the right-to-know law to keep up to speed on handling more frequent requests for information. Scott stated the septic system is considered in failure and repair may require a new 1250-gallon tank and leach field (presently on the neighbor's property). Ernie requested that Mark obtain quotes to do the necessary repairs.

Public Comment

None presented.

Old/New Business

None presented.

Non-Public Session(s)

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:58 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for legal. Melissa seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Melissa-yes, Ernie-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:32 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion

Ernie announced the Town was served with a Summons in a Civil Action by Consolidated Communications of Northern New England, LLC related to ongoing assessment appeal.

An email received from William Farnum (Tamworth) regarding a plan to develop a regional facility for handling waste and recyclable commodities was reviewed. No action will be taken at this time.

Zoning amendments proposed by the Zoning Officer were reviewed. Ernie and Melissa were in favor of the proposed amendments. Suggestions made for food truck licensing include request for proof of landowner permission, copy of food service license and hawker's and peddler's license, hours of operation, etc., approval to be at the discretion of the Zoning Officer and Board of Selectmen as to when and where they would be allowed by special permit. A memo will be drafted to Gary Williams acknowledging support of the proposed amendments.

Discussion on feedback received by the Town Office staff regarding the ZBA meetings with certain cases with incomplete applications receiving extended discussion. Question arose as to whether the applications are being checked for completeness before the case is heard? A memo will be drafted to outline concerns expressed for review next week.

Question raised as to whether any Freedom residents are associates of Scrub Oaks Scramblers that may be interested in membership on the Forest Advisory Committee.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting & Non-Public Session – 10/4/2021	Approved
Letter of Appreciation – Matthew Howe, GMCG re: Molin Donation Assistance	Approved
Letter of Appreciation – Michele Mierzykowski re: Molin Donation	Approved
Letter of Appreciation – Alison Mierzykowski re: Molin Donation	Approved
Letter – 2020 Final Audit Representation Letter	Approved

Correspondence

Email – William Farnum re: Regional Facility for Waste & Recyclable Commodities	Reviewed
Complaint – Summons in Civil Action Consolidate Communications of Northern New England v. Town of Freedom	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed x2	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax Payment as Agreed/Paid in Full Acknowledgement	Reviewed
Letter – Glen Meserve re: Tax Deeded Property	Reviewed
Application – NH DES Standard Dredge & Fill Wetlands Permit (Map 9, Lot 18-1)	Reviewed
Application – NH DES Min. Impact Wetland Permit (Map 35, Lot 8)	Reviewed
Report – Facilities Update – 10-18-2021	Reviewed
Report – Building Permits Issued 9/1/2021-9/30/2021	Reviewed
Advertisement – Highway Help Wanted	Reviewed
Public Notice – Town of Wakefield ZBA – Proposed Wireless Service Facility	Reviewed
2022 Medical Coverage and Rates – Health Trust	Reviewed
Memo – Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

_____ absent
Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio