

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 27, 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. Chairman Leslie Babb was absent. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Also, present were Ned Kucera, Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, Jamie Mullen and Jayne Britton.

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 of the Selectmen's Meeting and Non-Public Sessions held on 12/20/2021. Ernie seconded. Melissa noted that Rob Cunio was also present at this meeting. All in favor with correction, the motion passed.

Department Head Updates

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen reported they are actively investigating recent car break-ins reported. Jamie urged people to call 9-1-1 to report any incidents, not through social media, and to also lock cars. A new vendor in Newington will be used to outfit the new cruiser when it arrives. They will complete everything down to the graphics and surrounding communities have had good luck with the company. Officer Diaz is enrolled for full-time police academy in September.

Highway – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported the highway crew has been busy with winter weather. He received a call back from HP Fairfield last week on the new 5500. Due to staffing shortages, the end of the month completion they had targeted looks like it will be closer to mid/late-January. Scott stated he was told by the salesman if the truck was there in August, it would be 120-days, putting completion in November. The truck has been there since August and the dump body and controls were supplied with the truck; the plow gear was not ordered timely. Recourse would be to not have the Mack outfitted there. Other towns have reported dissatisfaction with the dealer and have chosen to do business elsewhere. The department is down not only a truck but also a sander as a result of the delays.

Fire Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 3 medical aid, motor vehicle accident, mutual aid-fire, and 7 active covid cases. It has been quiet otherwise. Rob has received two quotes on the new Rescue and recommends proceeding with Alexis' pricing as they have been the most responsive. EBI has not supplied the information requested. E-One's quote has just been received at \$329,000 with an anticipated 10% increase expected. Alexis' quote is at \$335,000 factoring in the 10% increase expected. Rob will work on getting the third quote to meet the purchasing policy requirements. This will be added to the Warrant Article list and the Board will determine where the funding will come from. Although EBI was the preferential dealer, Alexis has been recommended by Tuftonboro and Sandwich.

FAISC – Chairman Ned Kucera reported the State will be funding 50% of milfoil treatment expenditures in 2022 and provided an updated cost analysis based on proposed treatment. This

information will be updated in the Warrant Article reflecting \$35,950 in treatment costs of which \$17,975 will be the town's portion. The grant paperwork has been received and will need to be signed and submitted by the first of February.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White informed the Board the County tax payment was lost in transit and a duplicate check was hand-delivered on the due date. The check was received at the County office last Monday and has been destroyed. Future payments will be hand-delivered as this was the second year there was a mail delay. The operating budget has been tallied up as presented and prep for year-end is in process. Ellen stated that the FCC minutes expressed some concern on the lack of meetings held by the FAC and whether they are in compliance with minimum meeting requirements. Tentatively there are no meetings scheduled for January or February. The FCC will be addressing this concern with the Selectmen in the near future. Active pursuit to fill open vacancies will be prioritized. Discussion on present membership and encouraging various board representatives to attend regularly may help with the lack of quorum.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Contracted Equipment Rates – An updated rate sheet was presented for review. Minimal increases are reflective. Ernie made a motion to approve the rates as presented. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Rates will go into effect on January 1, 2022.

2022 Budget Review – Melissa stated the Forest Advisory Committee budget request is for level-funding.

Ossipee Lake Dam Authority – Secretary Roberta MacCarthy provided the annual expense report for a total of \$14,955.92 of which Freedom's portion is \$6,846.52.

Freedom Old Home Week Committee – Chairman Kate Chaput provided an email response graciously requesting level-funding support from the town in the amount of \$2,000.

Operating Budget Summary – All budget requests have been input as presented. Current requests reflect an overall increase of 3.26%.

Proposed Warrant Articles – Brief review. This will remain on the agenda through the month of January for additions as necessary.

Public Input:

Ned read a statement (attached to these minutes for reference) he prepared regarding regulating short-term rentals in Freedom and the impact it will have on the property owners. A copy will be forwarded to the Planning Board.

Appointments:

Not applicable.

Old / New Business / Discussion continued:

Jayne Britton, Treasurer, discussed a request received from NH Retirement for electronic funds transfer of the monthly contribution. The lockbox that was used to previously receive payments has been closed. The Board was in agreement an EFT withdrawal should come from a separate account from the General Fund. Jayne will contact NH Retirement to see how to proceed. Jayne requested a separate work space and various locations were discussed. All were in agreement the flow of the office building is difficult to work around.

Non-Public Session(s):

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:35 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) for legal. Melissa seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes. All in favor the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to reconvene public session at 7:47 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor the motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting & Non-Public Sessions – 12/20/21	Approved
Accounts Payable – Week ending 12/24/2021	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 12/22/2021	Approved
Letter – Employee recognition/agreement expiration	Approved

Correspondence

Minutes – Conservation Commission Meeting – 12/21/2021	Reviewed
Minutes – Planning Board Meeting – 12/18/2021	Reviewed
Email – Carroll County Business Office re: acknowledge lost check destroyed	Reviewed
Email – Kyle Clifton re: RTK Request – Short Term Rentals	Reviewed
Letter – NH DRA re: 2020 Cyclical Revaluation Summary Response	Reviewed
Receipt – State of NH Meals and Rooms Tax	Reviewed
Report – Unpaid (Tax) Receivables Listed by Warrant	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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