

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 21, 2022**

Present were Selectmen Ernest Day, Jr. and Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Also present were: Justin Brooks, Road Agent Scott Brooks, and Fire Chief Rob Cunio

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

The Municipal assessment data certificate was signed and the following STR applications:

30 Old Portland Rd.- Renewal application is now complete and renewed for 90 days, and eight people max.

30 Pauli Point Rd.- First time applying was approved for 115 days and ten people. Ladders have been removed from the loft, and will not be marketed with a loft.

21 Abenaki Dr.- Renewal for 90 days and six people max.

30 Milford Ave.- Renewed for 90 days and six people max. The Zoning officer, and Chief Cunio has checked ensure the room with the window that needs to be updated is locked.

698 Eaton Rd.- First-time application approved and now has a septic design on file, and Anne will question legal if the number of days to rent will go with the house or the owners. The house is currently for sale. It has been grandfathered for 173 days and six people max.

161 West Bay Rd.- Owner occupied STR approved for 90 days and eight people max.

Winter Road inspection report, all roads have passed though Ash Road could be better.

There was a brief discussion on how far the equalization report is off from assessed property values.

Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the Selectman's Meeting held on 11/16/2022. Florio seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting minutes for November 14th will be reviewed next week.

Appointments/ 2023 Budget Review:

Ambulance- It is looking like all Towns are in favor of the proposed ambulance contract. Another meeting will be held.

Emergency Management- Jim Stone has been appointed to the position. Budget will be left at \$500.00

Transfer Station- Justin reported that everything is staying the same, payroll will be the only increase. He still has \$96,000 left in the budget, but he may be looking to cut more and needs to look at the contracts to see what they are going up. Justin wants to keep the budget at 3.29. The proposed improvements that need to be done will be a Warrant Article. The garage door needs to be repaired and will come out of this year's budget. The garage door will be insulated. Justin will lists who he has

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contacted to get a quote.

Department Head Updates

Transfer Station- Justin reported that he has all the cans arranged and asked if he could use a floating holiday for Sunday; he has the coverage. Selectmen had no problem with the request. He also reported that the debit card does not work at the transfer station, it only accepts credit card. Ellen will investigate this.

Road Agent Brooks- Brooks handed out a new rate sheet to rent equipment to Selectmen. Between increased equipment and diesel fuel costs, and percentage to individuals, there is an increase that does not reflect insurance and wear and tear on tires. They have finished grading for the winter. Allied Equipment has gotten prices on a sweeper back to Scott, Fairfield has not yet. Ellen will add the rate changes to the agenda for next week. The cameras are fixed at the garage and the road signs are printed and in the roll, they just need to be applied to the aluminum.

Fire Department/Forest Fire- Chief Cunio reported numbers from the last two weeks, 5 medicals, 5 fire alarms, 1 CO alarm. Two trucks went out while he was on vacation. Rescue is still out due to an o ring being gone. A kit has been ordered and it should be back in service tomorrow or the next day. Forestry one is back in service as well. Chief is still waiting on the money for dredging from Homeland Security. He hopes to know something next week. The cardiac monitor has arrived, and it will be a little bit before it is in service because it has to be programmed. The department responded to a fire on an island in the middle of the river while chief Cunio was on vacation.

Office- Stacy reported that 473 Ossipee Lake Rd. called about their survey pins missing because of the bridge construction. Brooks said usually with a construction project, ties are put out, or stakes are put out, and it is flagged off. It was decided to have Ellen call Earth and report the matter to them. An email from Bruce Howlett will be discussed later in this meeting.

Budget Review

Chief Cunio reviewed his budget next. He increased the fuel budget \$500.00; the equipment line will increase \$1,000, and the operating line will be increased by \$200.00. Chief requested to add a line for 2012 boat and trailer and put \$1,000 in that line item. The total increase in the fire budget is \$2,700.00.

It was also discussed increasing the station duty line to 25.00 an hour for medical coverage and \$20.00 for all other positions. The total increase in that line would be \$600.00. This increase is to help keep coverage, especially when the Fire Chief is on vacation.

Looking at Capital Reserves were discussed because the cost of new equipment has increased.

Florio updated Selectmen on the Planning Board meeting and the discussion on the proposed Driveway ordinance. Not all planning board members support the proposed drive ordinance because some feel it violates residents' rights and freedoms. There was also a request to know what the legal issues are involved. Chairman Cunningham explained any legal issues are non-public. The Planning Board decided that circular driveways would be discussed next month to give planning board members that support the proposed driveway ordinance, time to prove why circular driveways should be restricted. Brooks outlined some of the reasons why they should not be permitted as follows:

- The more circular driveways we have the more drainage issues the town will have on town roads due to washouts and mud
- People tend to pull out and not check traffic because they do not come out 90° to the road.

- In the wintertime most people plow in one side of the driveway and out the other leaving snow and ice on the road.
- These issues create a court liability for the town. The town is responsible for ensuring there is no court liability due to the problems that circular driveways can cause by not allowing them.

Having Brooks go to the Planning Board meeting to explain the towns problems with circular driveways was discussed.

Bruce Howlett email/Friends of Danforth Bay

Pictures that Bruce Howlett sent to support a grant that Friends of Danforth Bay is applying for to prevent runoff into Danforth Pond was reviewed.

Brooks explained he has done work and continues to do what he can to prevent drainage issues and washouts in the pictures presented. After a brief discussion Florio stated the Select Board has yet to see what was submitted for the grant or what is involved. Brooks recalled that he asked that the group, the Select Board and himself get together to visit the sites in question. That has not happened. The board decided that Florio would reach out on behalf of the Selectboard to gather more information to get the scope of the work before committing the highway crew and town equipment.

Babb made a motion, seconded by Day, to authorize Melissa to represent the Board and reach out to Bruce Howlett to discuss this matter further. Motion passed 3-0-0.

Day updated the Board that 342 West Bay Rd. has expressed interest in putting in catch basins at his expense and fixing some drainage issues. Brooks said the town rd. ends at his driveway and explained that they used to turn around in their driveway in the winter, but when the driveway was changed, the former owners did not want the town turning around in their driveway anymore. It was discussed opening an old Town Rd. that has grown in to make plowing easier and grant rescue equipment more accessible and safer access. Brooks will access the road to see if the road can be opened. It was discussed just opening the road for the winter and installing a gate that will lock.

Public Input: No public present.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Non-Public Session(s):

Bab made a motion to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c), seconded by Florio.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 11/16/2022 Approved

Payroll Manifest – week ending - 11/16/2022 Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 11/16/2022 Approved

Correspondence:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Administrative Assistant

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio