

Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 12, 2023

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Selectmen Les Babb, Ernie Day and Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

Also in attendance were Jamie Mullen, Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, Charlene McCurtain, Lindsay Pettengill

Public: 34 estimated public in attendance

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

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

Ernie made a motion to approve the Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Session minutes of the June 5, 2023 as amended in draft for public minutes Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion Passed 3-0-0.

Department Head Updates:

Transfer Station – Charlene reported she had enough help to get things done today and the burn took about a half hour.

Fire Department- Rob reported three medicals, two fire alarms and one service call. The weekend was slow unlike the other side of the lake.

Melissa- reported two full-time people have been hired for the transfer station. She summed up the clean up at the transfer station for the State. The only thing not done is the exit signs due to the electrician's busy schedule. She got a quote on the prefab shed 5x8 already wired for heating, electrical and, A/C; it would just need to be put on a cement pad. Gary is checking with his son to place a pole. DES has been called to notify them about the reconfiguration of the transfer station. During the call, it was discovered that our transfer station permit does not allow us to take C&D or any bulky items such as couches and mattresses, electronics, or burning. The application will be sent Wednesday to Melissa. The transfer station also needs an opening and closing plan for the new application.

Hazardous Wastes Day update- Effingham will not be doing hazardous waste day. Melissa reached out to Wolfeboro and spoke with Sarah Silk. Sara said they could do what they do for other surrounding towns which, is charge \$45.00 for a five-gallon pale. The person would get a receipt and the Town would get a log of who brought wastes to cross reference with the receipt to reimburse the resident the fee.

Melissa also took a complaint regarding a concern about ATV in the Town Forrest.

Office- Stacy reviewed the correspondence in the red folder regarding a request for speed bumps to slow traffic and the letter from the Water Precent regarding the fire hydrant fee. She also reminded department heads that the Joint Loss Committee meets tomorrow at the highway garage.

Police Department – Jamie reported that Officer Cyr is on his own and has caught one juvenile doing tire burnouts. The department also investigated the use of fireworks and did a welfare check. Office Laferriere will be going to training.

Highway Department – Scott was not present.

Public Comment

Roberta McCarthy came before the board to revisit last week's conversation regarding the Historical Society holding their event at the ball field. Roberta is asking to hold the event at the Historical Society instead. They have a large field in the back that would work well. Selectmen agreed to the request.

Kate Chaput read a letter regarding food truck contracts from Monica Simmons. The letter was requesting any vendor they are using for Freedom Old Home Week this year be granted an exemption due to the lateness of accepting a Food Truck Ordinance. Melissa responded that was agreed last week all the committee had to do was present a signed contract. Nothing has changed.

Robert Libby asked if anything else has come of Nerine Sullivan's issue with getting a driveway permit for her property on West Bay Rd.

James Guido inquired about the transfer station. Les explained the entrance of the transfer station was approved by the voters, and the transfer station was inspected by the State of New Hampshire. The fines could have been as high as \$33,000 because we had tires, propane tanks, fertilizer, and other items we do not have a permit for. The only thing we have a permit for is household trash. The permit is in the process of being updated. Melissa said O'Reilly's would take used oil, and we are working to see if we can have a company pick up the tires monthly. Right now, the focus is bringing what needs to be brought into compliance. Les said we are looking at scales. The scales cost \$75,000 and should pay for themselves in two years. Using the scales will charge everyone fairly and consistently by the pound.

The discussion ended because the public hearing starts at 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

Les opened the discussion by explaining the people voted on a Food Truck ordinance in March to try and regulate them. Lindsay was given directions to look at other towns to see what they have for an ordinance. Les went on to explain he has been passive in his approach to the application and went through it recently and found it may be a little much for our resources. He spoke with Rob Hatch and got his feedback on the ordinance. Les went through the process to fill out an application with the State and found some things that were concerning that the State asks. He also found the Towns application asks for some things that the State already asks for, and he stated when a food truck is on town property, there will be a different set of rules than when it's not.

He explained how we got to the application we have today. Lindsay was asked to look at other towns ordinances, and she found fifteen towns that self-regulate food trucks. Freedom wants to refrain from self-regulating food trucks in Les's opinion. A lot in the application can be taken out because the State already does it. If you have a food vendors license and the State has inspected you, you also need a Hawker and Peddlers license to go with it. Les found it disturbing that if you do it up to four days a year, then you don't need a license; therefore, the food truck would not be inspected. He stated the process needs to be slimmed down. Ernie agreed with what Les said and would like to hear from the public. Melissa agrees with Les there should be two different processes depending on if you are on town property or not. Melissa thanked Lindsay for all the hours she has into this project. Melissa's concern is traffic and noise control. Food Trucks do not go through site plan review so the abutters do not get a chance to voice their concerns. James Guido thanked the board for using common sense regarding not duplicating what the State already asks and asked why would there be a separate rule or process for town property vs. personal property. If its town property a food truck is not going to set up permanently. Les said the town is insured through Primex and we are required if someone is setting up on town property, they need a million-dollar insurance policy. We also need easy access for police and fire. The generators decibel levels are still open for discussion. Robert Libby asked if what Rob Hatch has is considered a food truck. Les said yes, it is. Les questioned is it

grandfathered?? James Guido questioned police and fire. Les explained there has to be an easy way for them to gain access in and out of the property. Steve Robbins asked how this would affect campgrounds. Les said they would have to look at how campgrounds have used food trucks in the past. Currently, Danforth lets people in to use the food trucks and would like to continue to do so. James Guido stated he does not see the need for regulating food trucks. Someone asked what brought all of this about. Melissa explained that this was actually initiated by food trucks because they would call the office looking for an application because other towns have a process in place and the only thing, we have is a hawker peddlers license. So, the planning board has had public hearings on it and it ended up on the ballot in March. Rob Troon from Totem Pole said they do not let the public in but because of some manager changes their normal snack bar may not open this year and they are looking at food trucks and he's wondering on where the discussions are now, how will this affect Totem Pole. Les said in his opinion they will have to fill out a form stating they have both licenses and there may be a fee. He said there are some towns that have a seasonal license. Melissa said that is on the application. Steve Hoyt questioned fees involved. Danforth is looking at having a variety of trucks to give people a choice. Les said they have to wait until the end of the process to see what the fee looks like to make sure the costs associated with inspections are covered. The fee could be as little as \$50.00 not sure. Robert Libby asked what department will be in responsible of overseeing complaints. Les said it depends what the complaint is.

Diane from Danforth asked about the time frame for operating. Les said they looked at the times so they would not adversely affect the neighborhoods that they are in.

A gentlemen stood up and stated he was yet to hear a debate on the pros and cons of a food truck. He thinks it's a unique idea but could not hear anything from the front row and suggests a microphone. He would like to hear more.

Stacy will look into a microphone or sound system.

Deb Sellers said she found out about the public hearing through Friends and Family and tried to share it, and it was taken down. She asked why it was taken down. Les explained it was posted in the newspaper, town office, the post office, and was emailed out. Les said this topic does not require a public hearing but, he does them because he requires them. The Town Administrator asked people to please get any information regarding the Town to please use the town's website.

James Guido asked how many food trucks were in town. Brain Taylor stated the Planning Board also had public input on the food trucks.

Robert Libby asked about the handicapped parking.

There will be another public hearing regarding this subject. It could be a couple of weeks before another draft is available.

The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

Adjournment:

Being no further input, Les made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Consent Agenda:

Accounts Payable – Week ending 6/9/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – Week ending 6/07/2023	Approved
Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting & Non-Public Sessions– 6/05/2023	Approved
Request for Abatement – N/A	

Correspondence:

Newsletter – NHMA Legislative Bulletin No. 21
 Paul Mathieu on behalf of Freedom Library
 NHES Economic and Labor information
 Jeff Nicole Letter to Effingham
 Rick Pelton regarding fire hydrants
 Robert Gendreau speeding on Liberty Lane
 Freedom Village Water Precinct Water Report

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Respectfully submitted,
 Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

 Leslie R. Babb

 Ernest F. Day, Jr.

 Melissa M. Florio