

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023**

Present were Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., and Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Hall.

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

Also present were: Rob Cunio, Jamie Mullen, Gary Williams, Anne Cunningham, and Linda Mailhot.

6:30 pm Nonpublic RSA 91: A3, II(c)

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 6:30 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 6:50 pm. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Ernie made a motion to accept the November 13, 2023, meeting minutes as written; Melissa seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Updates

Police- Jamie reported it has been busy. They went to the range to get end of year qualifications done. They also had a custody case that became a child welfare case. They also continue to remove people from the beaches. Over a week ago, Rich arrested someone at the Freedom Market for DWI who was passed out in the parking lot and a police k9 alerted to two different types of drugs.

Chief Mullen and Chief Dushane from Effingham have met to review policies.

Fire Department/Forest Fire- Chief Cunio reported in the past two weeks; the department has done nine medical aids, three motor vehicle accidents, three fire alarms, one tree on a wire, one mutual aid and one call for an illegal outside fire.

The new furnace is installed at the village station. While the Chief was on vacation one of the engines had a fuel leak, which was promptly taken care of by Lakes Region. When Chief Cunio returned to work on Wednesday he had no phones. The fax line was not working either. Spectrum showed up to change a modem but did not have a work order to fix the phones. Lakeside was there a week ago to fix the telco line. So, if anyone called while the Chief was on vacation, he did not get their messages. Lakeside said there needed to be more ports for the fax line. The phones appear to be working currently.

Road Agent – was not present.

Transfer Station-

PUBLIC HEARING

Les called the Public Hearing to order at 7:10 pm to gather public input to accept unanticipated revenue for the *November 27, 2023, Minutes*

FEMA Funds for \$ 40,611.48. for the December 2022 storm.

There being no public input, **Les made a motion to accept the FEMA grant in the amount of \$40,611.48, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.**

Les closed the hearing at 7:11 pm.

Appointments: 2024 Budget Review

Planning Board- Anne Cunningham came before the board and with the aid of a handout she explained the overall budget is going up due to postage and notices. There is no indication how many applications the board will see next year, but she has no reason to believe next year will not be busy. She listed the duties of the board, the attorney, and the responsibilities of the Town Administrator. Anything that is highlighted in yellow, Anne has been doing due to turnover in the office. She will be retiring in 2025, so these duties will need to be taken up by the office. There was a \$1,000 added to the budget for other requirements.

It was decided to raise the planning board legal line to \$5,000.

Gary Williams Zoning Officer- Gary presented his budget and added additional lines for transparency purposes. The overage in the operating budget is because of vehicle maintenance for the Tahoe. He added a line for the following:

Phone-	\$4,92.36
Training-	\$6,00.00
Supplies-	\$2,495.64
Vehicle-	\$4,900.00
Fuel-	\$2,373.00
Maintenance and repair -	\$2,527.00
New laptop-	\$1,700.00

The total increase to the budget is \$6,600.00. most of this increase is due to the zoning officer having a vehicle handed down from the fire department. The Tahoe needs repair, so when the police department gets a new car, Gary will get the old one.

Les requested that the Assessor, Rod Wood, get a copy of the permit's issued report to see the estimated costs of projects total \$6,631,980.61 and get a report if the town is assessing correctly.

The board was happy with Gary's proposed budget.

Zoning Board- This budget has remained the same. \$5,500.00.

Police Department- Jamie is not changing much in his budget but would like to have his IT and computers assessed. The computers need to be updated. The new cruiser package is \$49,656.00, with a trailer package before it is equipped. He doesn't think he will need much to fit it because the radio is still working. The uniform line is over this year because of the turnover; and the only other line that will go up will be the fuel line.

Chief Mullen is working with other Chiefs to start the Ossipee Valley K9 Association to ensure a K9 is always available and coming up with K9 equipment collectively (cost sharing).

The computer support line will go up to \$6,000 and the fuel line will go up \$2,000 bringing that line to \$11,000. The Warrant Article for the new car will be for \$58,000.00.

Gary needs a gas card for the pumps at the highway garage.

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Old / New Business / Discussion:

The Thompson House on Eaton Rd. is closing.

Discussion ensued about getting back to the town office next week for meetings.

Melissa questioned why the highway garage did not sand/plow the transfer station on Wednesday. Brian sanded by hand. The sand still needs to be put in the first bay. Melissa also reported that the transfer station has a laptop that will only give staff access to the Town website to verify addresses for transfer station stickers.

A letter from the Town of Tamworth regarding designing a new Transfer Station/Recycling Center was reviewed. It was stated in the letter that the Town of Tamworth is considering opening its proposed new recycling center to residents of adjacent communities for recycling. Les asked Stacy to contact Tamworth for more details on how we can take advantage of this.

Ernie made a motion to allow Stacy sign the Health Trust Contract for 2024 on behalf of Freedom; motion seconded by Malissa; Motion passed unanimously.

127 Haverhill St. email was discussed. Stacy will ask Scott to look at it again.

Plowing the Transfer Station was discussed. Stacy will talk to Scott about plowing it.

The board will be attending the School Board meeting on December 11th.
Stacy will get a quote from PayChex for payroll services.

Public Input: None

Non-Public Session(s):

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 8:25 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), employee. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 8:34 pm. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie made a motion to seal the minutes due to employee Melissa seconded the motion; Motion passed.

Stacy updated Ernie the Lakes Region Planning Commission invoice for Municipal Membership is correct. Stacy said that she needs to renew the QuickBooks subscription until we know what we are doing with payroll. It needs to be renewed by December 15th.

Barbara Beyer tax abatement was reviewed. Stacy will ask Rod for his opinion on the matter and let the board know.

Stacy will post the joint meeting with the school for December 11th at the school. The select board will resume meeting at the town office when they finish the school meeting at approximately 7:15 pm.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 8:40 pm pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. Ernie seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 8:49 pm Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie made a motion to seal the minutes due to employee Melissa seconded the motion; Motion passed.

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Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 11/13/2023	Approved
Minutes- there was no meeting on 11/20/2023	N/A
Payroll Manifest – week ending - 11/22/2023	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 11/24/2023	Approved

Correspondence:

NH DOT one- time Highway payment for Block Grant aid	
Public Hearing Notice	Reviewed
Mike Belcher email Re: Totem Pole Resident	Reviewed
DHHS Thompsom House Closure notice	Reviewed
Florio Email re plowing/sanding transfer station	Reviewed
FY25 Lakes Region requests	Reviewed
Intuit payroll services pricing	Reviewed
Sarah Groleau’s request for Selectmen to attend School Board Meeting	Reviewed
BK email re: Freedom Forrest Monitoring Visit	Reviewed
Liquor Commission re: The Spot	Reviewed
Town of Tamworth email re: Tamworth is designing a new Transfer Station /Recycling Center.	Reviewed
Ossipee Lake Alliance 11/26/23 update	Reviewed
Lakes Region Planning Commission FY23 Annual Report	Reviewed
Health Officer Nomination Form	Reviewed
Barbara Beyer Abatement Request	Reviewed

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio