

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, December 4, 2023**

Present were Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Ernest Day, Jr. and Melissa Florio, and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, 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 was Chief Cunio, Chief Mullen, Karen Collier, and Jeff Nicole

Non-public- Paul Elie.

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes**

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

**Ernie made a motion to accept the November 27, 2023, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as written, Motion was seconded by Melissa; Motion passed unanimously.**

**Department Head Updates**

**Fire Department/Forest Fire-** Chief Cunio reported two medical aids, one MV accident, two fire alarms, and two service calls. A new furnace has been installed in the village. The tires have been swapped for the winter on the rescue. Spectrum is setting up the new service for the fire department today and there is still an issue with the phone. Lakeside security will be back to hook up the fax.

**Police-** Chief Mullen reported that it has not been busy, so they were able to schedule vehicle maintenance. He has also been working with local chiefs to establish the local k9 program. He will have policies for the board to review soon.

**Office-** Stacy reported she took a call from Square brook inquiring why the side streets were not plowed. Scott was not present to answer. She also took a call from Joyce Watson inquiring if she had to be present to request money for the cemeteries for the budget. Les responded no, they just need to put it in writing. Employee reviews have printed out. The plotter quotes were reviewed.

**Ernie made a motion to purchase the plotter/scanner machine for \$4,950.00 along with the service agreement for \$225.00 a year from Porter Office Machine, motion seconded by Malissa; Motion passed 3-0-0.**

Stacy reached out to Tamworth to get more information on their proposed recycling plan at their transfer station. She has not heard back from her yet.

**Transfer Station-**

**Public Input:** Paul Elie inquired about the plotter, scanner.

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## **Appointments:**2024 Budget Review

**Conservation Commission-** Jeff Nicole presented the conservation commission budget.

Stacy handed out the Land Use Change tax account information.

Jeff reported that after moving some lines around the budget remains flat at \$2,250.00.

The water quality testing is up 5% due to an increase in lab fees. The GMCG water quality test program fee is \$3,307.50.

Other water testing is as follows:

Round Pond- \$1404.00

Loon Lake \$1,896.00

Trout Pond- \$188.00

Total 2024- 6,795.50

Last year the Trout Pond testing was not completed because they could not get a boat out due to the road being washed out.

The total amount requested for water testing is \$6,500.00 to give a little buffer for unforeseen testing and price increases.

Two revolving accounts for forest maintenance. Last year FCC requested \$4,000. Some money was put aside to replace a culvert but in doing some research and talking to the State the FCC may qualify for a grant instead because they are upgrading to a wildlife crossing culvert due to the area is a spawning area for brook trout. The line will stay at \$4,000 because of the boundary marking and signage that still needs to be done. Jeff is still waiting for confirmation from Barry what his expectations for next year are. Last year it was 6,700.00. It will be similar to last year.

A warrant article to expend 35,000 from the maintenance fund to do the road. The warrant article was approved last year but no money was expended from it because the road did not get done. So, another warrant article will be presented for 2024. It will have to be explained at the town meeting if it cannot be added to the article that this money was not expended last year.

**Heritage-** The budget is \$850.00 and will not change.

Karen Collier came before the board to present her idea for keeping nonresidents from using the beach. Jamie gave an overview of some of the challenges his department had with policing the beaches. Alfred Godfry beach is the area that poses the biggest problem. Jamie reported that he has encountered members of the addicted and homeless community as well as people leaving tires and defecating. Most of the people he encounters don't know they need a pass to use the beach.

Karen proposed in November, a beach attendant but considering some of the things being reported is now suggesting a gate of some sort. She researched the cost of a gate system where her daughter lives and the cost of the sticker to open the gate is \$15.00, she proposed the sticker could be purchased at the Town Office and it would be a lifetime sticker (RFID Chip). She got a quote for an arm gate. The quote is from a company in North Carolina and for everything except for hooking into Spectrum it would be 10,000-12,000 per gate. This does not include maintenance if someone damages the gate. Karen thinks Loon Lake beach is most important due to what is being reported. Other additional costs would include electricity to run it and Spectrum hookup costs.

Jamie warned against a private practice becoming a government practice because there may be push

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back from the public about the technology. People do not want their movements tracked. It is illegal for a government entity to put up cameras to monitor a road in New Hampshire. There are special laws that govern this.

Discussion ensued around the pros and cons of any gate and what kind of gate would work. Ernie wants to look at numbers before committing to anything. Les supports the theory for Godfrey Beach. other points discussed if it is an arm gate will it get snapped off. Ernie commented on the water supply at Godfrey Beach and the importance of protecting it.

Les asked Jamie what he thought of a metal gate like what is at the Town Forrest. Jamie supports this idea. The electrical gate could be very expensive after putting power in. Les asked Malissa to find out how much a steel gate would cost through the State.

Ernie updated the board he talk to Scott and he explained the issue with 127 Haverhill St. The issue is a ditch not with the driveway and he talk to the homeowner this past summer and explained the situation to him there was nothing the town could do.

### **Plowing the Transfer Station**

Ernie talk to Scott about plowing the transfer station and Scott explained the highway department has not plowed the transfer station in the past unless it was an emergency. The pusher was purchased exclusively for the transfer station staff to plow the transfer station. The highway department is responsible for sanding the transfer station once it is plowed. Malissa disagrees with this strategy because there are only two employees working at the transfer station. She argued the highway department plows the office, and the school the transfer attendants were hired to run the transfer station and have been instructed not to run the loader during operating hours. She also pointed out that they would be working outside their normal schedule if it snows on Tuesday-Thursday. Ernie responded that's how it been done for twenty years when a former employee had to go in and plow it. Malissa said things have changed and pointed out that we now plow Durgin Hill because the town voted to take it over. Les said the best piece of equipment we must plow the transfer station is the pusher.

Les asked if Charlene was opposed to plowing the transfer station with overtime. Charlene works another job and would not be available on days the transfer station is closed.

Les suggested maybe we need a person does all the shoveling of Town Buildings and plows the transfer station and in the summer does all the mowing. This person could be per diam.

Les suggest paying a town employee time and a half \$100.00 minimum. The highway department is stretched now with what they have. Discussion ensued around getting Brian trained on the loader and the job description not including the duty of plowing the transfer station. The time it takes to plow the transfer station could vary from person to person based on experience. The board decided on a flat fee of \$150.00 per event for a qualified town employee. Communication is key to making this work. Plowing would take place before and after closing.

Malissa inquired if sand was going to be stored in the bay for residents to have access to. Ernie talk to Scott about it and he advised him against it because there are no doors on the bays to keep it from freezing. The bays face the west, and he believes it will freeze.

**Fire Budget-** Rob reported that his overall budget is up \$2,250.00. The following lines were increased:  
Telephone – went up \$1000.00 due to the addition of a new data line.  
Gas/fuel line went up \$1,000.00.  
The boat line went up-\$250.00.  
Stacy will replace the 2013 Chevy Tahoe line with the 2023 Tahoe line and will be for \$2,250.00.

Rob said overall it has been a great year and does not see anything significant impacting his budget.

Funds that will need to be encumbered is the dredging. Rob requested if money is left over in his budget, he would like to purchase a bail out kit that goes with the safety belt. The price range is from \$460.00- \$500.00. Les said on December 18<sup>th</sup> bring the quotes and the board will discuss it for approval.

Malissa reported the septic got pumped at the transfer station.

**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 (E), 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 8:40 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.**

*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 8:45 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.**

**Old / New Business, / Discussion:**

Renee Wheaton's disclaimer she sent to the town administrator was discussed and the Selectboard said they prefer she not give out durable medical equipment on behalf of the town. The position when it originated did not include giving out medical equipment. They prefer that she refer them to the right agency to get their needs met due to the liability in giving out durable medical equipment.

The school board meeting is December 11<sup>th</sup>. Selectmen will attend the beginning of the meeting and then resume their meeting at the town meeting.

Malissa and Les requested their yearly stipend.

Stacy will schedule Linda Mailhot and the Computer bid for Wednesday 12/13 in the morning.

Ernie wants the flags taken down in the village. Stacy will call Eldridge logging to see if they can take them down.

**Consent Agenda:**

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 11/27/2023	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending - 11/29/2023	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 12/1/2023	Approved

**Correspondence:**

Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council	Reviewed
Carroll County FY24 Budget	Reviewed
Carroll County Delegation Public Notice	Reviewed
2023 Trial Ratio Study Report	Reviewed
Monique Hopkins Conservation Funds Report	Reviewed
Community Action Report	
Reviewed	Approved
Abatements	

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

The meeting adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb

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Ernest F. Day, Jr.

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Melissa M. Florio