

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, February 5, 2024**

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

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

Also, presents were Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, Anne Cunningham, Darwin Moulton, and Allen Fall.

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 January 29, 2024, meeting minutes as written, Motion was seconded by Melissa; Motion passed unanimously.

Melissa reported that she got the quote for a compactor to see if we have enough money to replace one if needed. The total costs are \$61,400. In 2018 it was \$40,000. \$56,685 in the capital reserve fund. It was agreed to add \$10,000 to the capital reserve fund.

Department Head Updates

Police- Rich gave a brief update about the deer still in the road and people not cleaning off their car's roof and he also cautioned about pulling out of roads with high snowbanks. Scott stated everything had been winged back.

Invoices- The Bergeron invoice (\$906.75 and \$14.63 for Turpin were reviewed to determine where to take the funds to pay them. Les said the people voted to expend from the Municipal Land and Building CRF in 2020 he thinks. Stacy will go back and see how much has been expended for Bergeron.

Town Office-

Transfer station-

Highway-

The 2024 budget was next.

The budget was reviewed again for areas where money could be cut. The following points were discussed:

- Increase the transfer station hazardous wastes line \$2,000.
- The amount of fund balance taken to pay down the taxes.
- Les said there was approximately 200,000 of unrecognized revenue.
- Tax Collector Audit needs to be done costs in \$1,500.00.

Warrant Articles

Ernie suggests writing the article for the bond to include 60% needed to pass. Les responded the state writes it out as 3/5 vote needed.

Article 13-line three update the last word should be unassigned not assigned.

Article 22 update the word fixing to repairing.

Article 37 Selectmen took a roll call vote. Les- No Ernie- No and Melissa- No. Not recommended.

February 5, 2024

Minutes

Stacy will send the warrant articles to the attorney and have Michelle at DRA review them.

The board discussed using Divine and Millimet for bond counsel. Ernie and Les both feel there is a conflict of interest because they represent Mt. Washington Valley Short-Term Rentals and Consolidated Communications. Stacy explained Renelle did a lot of work around the bond language and helping to get the bond posing correct for the paper. Ernie suggested she submit a bill for the work she did but does not support hiring them because he feels it is a conflict of interest for the reasons stated above.

Fire Department- Rob updated the board that he talk to Kate Bergeron and the office renovation proposal does not need to include sprinklers.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:30 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 7:40 pm. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.
Minutes were not sealed.

Meeting reconvened at 7:40 PM

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

Adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting – 1/29/2024	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending – 1/31/2024	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 2/02/2024	Approved

Correspondence:

Devine Millimet Engagement Letter	Reviewed
Renelle Huillier Engagement Letter and Bond Article Edits	Reviewed
Don Johnson Deliberative Portion of the Twon Meeting March 16 th	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio