

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 4, 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, present were Darwin Moulton, Allen Fall, Scott Brooks, Chief Cunio, Chief Mullen

6:30 Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 6:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b), hiring 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 6:55 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 as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Ernie made a motion to accept the February 26, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as amended, Motion was seconded by Melissa; Motion passed unanimously.

Department Head Updates:

Highway- Scott reported they are still cutting brush but moved to a new location on Loon Lake Rd. Scott updated the board that the 1992 chipper is done, and a new one must be purchased. The cost is \$64,900. Unfortunately, due to the age of the chipper and the fact that it is not in working order, we cannot use it for trade. How to finance the chipper was discussed. Scott questioned if we went with a lease, and whether the money could come out of Capital Reserve and then put an article on the warrant next year. The chipper that Scott is looking at is the last of its kind (Morbarck E Beaver 1415 Chipper) V8 Chevy gas engine.

Les supports buying it outright and taking the money out of unassigned fund balance. He is not sure of the timelines for the town meeting coming. Scott asked the board if he could have them hold the chipper. Stacy will call Michelle Clark at DRA to see the best course of action. The board supports Scott making the purchase of sale for the chipper.

Police- Chief Mullen said the call volume was low, but he was busy doing record searches, and they had an untimely death incident. Ritch and Clayton finished training and Chief Mullen was accepted into a two-day training to become a firearms instructor.

To keep cruiser's costs down, the Chief found an adapter kit, and they kept the divider from Clayton's car. The department is considering body cameras and will check what grants are available.

Fire- Rob reported eight medical intercepts, one fire alarm, seven trees down on wires, two service calls, two smoke investigations, one police standby. Rob asked if he could use 50 Eaton Rd to train using the new bailout system they just purchased; other than causing minor cosmetic damage to the building, there would be no significant damage done to the house. The house currently has water damage. Ernie suggested having Gary access if the sills are rotted. Les confirmed that house will not look different after the training. The training will take place tomorrow night.

*March 4, 2024
Minutes*

Office- Stacy reported payroll is now being issued through the new payroll company. Everyone got their first check, and pay raises were retroactive back to January 1st . The red folder was reviewed and the office's responsibility in taking applications for the planning board. It was concluded that the office is not responsible for determining who the abutters are or determining if the application is complete. Ernie stated that we need to remember the planning board members are all volunteers. The office will follow the checklist to ensure the requested materials are in the packet.

Stacy brought to the board's attention that the Trustee of the trust funds should have a checking account. Currently, when requested, the funds are electronically deposited and then a check is written to take the funds out and then redeposited into the same account. When there have been discrepancies, they have been linked back to miscoding trust funds. The board agreed after the town meeting this would be addressed with the Trustee of the Trust Funds.

The MS 636 has been posted and the spreadsheet that breaks out the departments in detail will be added to the posted Warrant.

Chief Cunio explained that he has had trouble with Health Trust in getting claims paid and getting insurance cards issued. He has also had trouble with getting medication at the pharmacy. Part of the issue is that he does not have a primary care provider on the cards.

Les informed the board that he got a complaint about Melissa's vote being changed on the Warrant. He has called the Attorney General's Office, NHMA and the town attorney. It's still to be determined if a correction needs to be made to the book to put the original vote back to what was before it was changed because there was not a seven-day notice for reconsideration of the bond. The town attorney is looking into it. The NHMA stated that if you want to change anything at the bond hearing, there needs to be another public hearing with seven days' notice.

Les made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:50 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 7:54 pm. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie confirmed that NHMA should be the first legal advice sought out before calling the town attorney. There was a brief discussion about Lakes Region Computers installing a new firewall for Libby.

Agenda item next Week:

Being no further input, Florio made a motion to adjourn. Day seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Minutes – Selectmen's Meeting – 2/26/2024	Approved
Payroll Manifest – week ending – 2/28/2024	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 3/1/2024	Approved

Correspondence :

David Muse LEOP Contract	Reviewed
Lease Corp	Reviewed
Legal Letter Regarding abatement denial	Reviewed
DOT Driveway Permit for Alice Rapken	Reviewed
Community Action Report	Reviewed
Rick Davidson Email	Reviewed
Bruce Howlett Resignation	Reviewed

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Minutes

Scott Kinmond email Re: Driveway permits HB1202
Effingham Zoning Board Notice of Appeal

Reviewed
Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio