

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, April 1, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Less Babb, Ernest Day, Jr., Alan Fall, 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.

6:30 pm- Nonpublic:

Les made a motion to enter nonpublic session under RSA- 91 :3 II (c) Reputation, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 6:50 pm, motion seconded by Les, Motion passed unanimously.

Ernie made a motion to seal the non-public minutes due to reputation, motion seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.

Also, present Chief Cunio, Jamie Mullen and Scott Brooks, Darwin Moulton, Roberta MacCarthy, Brandy and Karri Buttrick, Justice Babb.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Department Heads-

Highway- Scott reported the last storm brought 18 -20 inches of snow in the village and 30 inches of snow in the mountains, and they are getting ready for the next storm fixing potholes. They were able to get most of the tree limbing and brush cutting done on Cold Brook Rd.

Fire- Rob reported seven medical aids, one mutual fire aid, one fire alarm, and two trees down on wires. He picked up the new trailer and is very happy with it. They took \$100.00 off the trade because the lights didn't work, so the Fire Fighter association picked up the difference. Engine seven had a steering issue and is already back from Lakes Region Fire. Annual fire hose testing is supposed to be done next Wednesday, but with the pending storm, he's not sure. He has his final ortho appointment to clear him of light duty this Wednesday.

Police- Jamie briefed the board he has fielded calls this week for little stuff. Jamie said with the upcoming storm rooms have been reserved in Conway for homeless people or people needing a place to stay. Jaime updated the board the cruiser may not be ready until May.

Office- Stacy reported she has two quotes for laptops. One is for Gary, and the other is for the transfer station. The transfer Station did not budget for a new laptop, but Gary did. The transfer station needs on to verify addresses for stickers. Stacy requested permission to order the transfer station computer. The red folder was reviewed. Stacy was looking for guidance to write a tree-cutting policy and gave Scott the RSA's for tree-cutting and noticing.

STR's list was reviewed. Les would like the resident to be able to click on the address and see that the safety declaration form has been completed.

Frank Lalumiere's requested a way to introduce the contractor to the road agent and the board. This contractor will be designing a package to mitigate stormwater runoff from Ossipee Lake Rd into Danforth Pond. This will be an agenda item when the contractor is ready. Scott will review the RSA's and make notes for Stacy.

Ernie made a motion to accept the March 25, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.

Alan updated the board that he had contacted Shawn Bergeron about the interior design, and he said he needs to talk to Kate first. He has also been in contact with Mike Richmond from Custom Concepts in Scarborough and he expressed interest in doing the renovation design. Stacy forwarded Shawn Bergeron's schematics. Alan said the board may want to look at remediating the house at 50 Eaton Rd. for the staff to use during the renovation. He and Chief Cunio looked at it; and the roof was in bad shape, and mold was present. He also contacted Andy Bramhall at the Freedom Hardware Store; he will work up some numbers. Les wants the Town Hall considered as well.

Appointments

Brandy Buttrick stated to the board that the Heritage Commission supports the board regarding the renovation, but it does pose a dilemma for him. Alan was the Chair of the commission and has since stepped down because he was elected to the selectboard, and now Brandy is acting Chair. They are down a chairperson, and Brandy cannot assume the duties of the chairperson. And they will be reaching out to see who might be interested. He also reported that he and Karri have been in touch with Andy Cushion from the NH Preservation Alliance and have taken the L Chip course. There are a lot of pros and cons that go with L Chip money, so it will have to be examined if the money is worth it. It may cost the town more money trying to meet the guidelines.

The Heritage meeting will be next week.

Public Comment

Darwin commented that the Bergeron stated that all the siding and trim contained lead paint. He suggested jacking up the building and moving it 10 feet from the neighbor's house. He does not think there is enough room to create a buffer when they start removing the siding and the trim. Les responded that he had talked to the neighbor, and he is amicable about working with the town. An agreement would be drawn up to use the property, naming him the co-insurer.

Non-Public

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:30 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation Alan seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Alan-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 7:35pm. Alan seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to resume the public session, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passes unanimously.

Stacy asked the board to consider closing the office if the school closes for the storm on Thursday. Les asked what work was pending to be done. Stacy explained that she and Lindsey will have sign in capabilities from home so long as there is power. Scott can text the highway hours to Stacy or Lindsey. Les said it takes the pressure off the highway crew to keep the office parking lot open. Libby will adjust her appointments accordingly.

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:40 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (B), Hiring Alan seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Alan-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 7:45 pm. Alan seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Ernie made a motion to enter into a non-public session at 7:45 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (C), Reputation Alan seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Alan-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Ernie made a motion to resume the public session at 8:00 pm. Alan seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion to resume the public session, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passes unanimously.

Ernie made a motion to appoint Sam Porter as Deputy Tax Collector, Alan seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Ernie made a motion to appoint Craig Niiler and Denney Anderson to three-year terms for the Zoning Board and also appoint Dan Footit and Tim Cupka to as alternates for a three-year term, motion seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Gaudette request for appointment to board or committee was reviewed.

Stacy brought the board up to date about the beaver dams on Huckins Rd.

The computer for the transfer station will be ordered.

Lindsey wanted to know if the board would entertain the idea of a mailbox outside for the office. The board did not support the idea because of the sensitive information sent to the office.

Agenda item next Week:

Being no further input, Alan made a motion to adjourn. Ernie seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 3/27/2024	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 3/29/2024	Approved
Meeting Minutes 3/25/2024	Approved

Correspondence:

Jeff Nicole Current Membership and Officers	Reviewed
Town Officers and Board Members	Reviewed
Michael Gaudette Appointment to Board or Committee	Reviewed
Girishkumar Patel email re: Road Bans	Reviewed
Frank Lalumiere	Reviewed
Thurston Towle email	Reviewed
Abutters Notification for Short Term Rental	Reviewed
Forestry Statutory Permit for Tax map 12, Lot 13	Reviewed
Sales Quote for Lake Region Computer	Reviewed
Dale McConkey email Re: Tree on his property	Reviewed
Stephen C Baldrige email	Reviewed

*April 1, 2024
Minutes*

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall