

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, June 17, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Less Babb, Alan Fall, Ernie Day, 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 are Scott Brooks, Chief Cunio, Rich Laferriere, and Alan Libby.

Public: Paul & Bonnie Elie, Rich & Jennifer Ulrich, Brain Taylor, Ken Tibbetts, Sue Hoople, Scott Brooks Jr., Paul & Joy Nowak. Laura Roberts.

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 minutes and non-public minutes of June 3, 2024, motion seconded by Alan Fall; motion passed unanimously.

Department Heads

Fire- Rob reported the boat is in the water and is looking into a smaller boat called a Zodiac at no cost through the State. All the doors have been re-lettered at the Public Safety building to help prevent any mishaps or accidents. It was a busy weekend with calls, and the department has been gearing up for summer.

Police- Rich reported that he picked up the new cruiser. Traffic is picking up, and Rich cautioned everyone to stay alert.

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported that sixty-two loads came into the transfer station this past weekend, down from three hundred and fourteen loads. The brush was ground last Wednesday. The door has been fixed at the transfer station, and the container has been fixed and returned.

Allan Fall- Alan reported he will be meeting with two architects this week to give them a tour of the building. He will report back at the next meeting how things went.

Les informed department heads that we have a meeting with Health Trust Wednesday at 10:00 am at the town office to review what options are available to us. All employees are welcome to attend.

Office- Stacy reported she is very busy with Lindsay being out, and the audit is still ongoing.

Highway-

7:00 pm Public Meeting

The public meeting was opened at 7:00 pm for the proposed transfer station fees.

Les opened the meeting by reading the proposed transfer station fees handout.

Les asked if there were any questions regarding the first section. There were no questions, so he moved on to asphalt shingles. Laura Robertson asked what makes up a square.

The proposed brush fee is the most significant change to the fee schedule due to the cost of disposing it due to being unable to burn it. The proposed fees are the following:

Per 10' to 16' trailer load \$35.00

Per pickup load- \$25.00

If the pickup load is full and has a trailer load \$45.00

Discussion:

To date, we have spent \$29,000 for grinding brush from the April storm. We are unable to burn it, and hauling it proved to be very expensive.

Laura Robinson asked why the town could not burn the brush. Chief Cunio explained that the ash was covering the cars and houses across the street; therefore, the decision was made last year to stop burning. Laura asked if there was another place to burn it. Les responded no because you would have to monitor it and it would still impact the surrounding neighborhoods. Justin Brooks asked if anything over 5" would be accepted now that we are grinding. Les said no they left the size at 5 inches knowing people would still bring some bigger stuff. Brian Taylor asked how many acres make up the transfer station. Alan said ten acres Alan said changing the footprint of the transfer station requires updating the permit. Stacy said we looked at that last year. Alan Fall said the hope in the future is to grind/chip only once a month if that. Laura Robinson asked about using the towns chipper we just bought. Erine explained we currently grind it and the chipper we have will not handle that amount of brush. Les said once we get through July 4th we should have the worst of it behind us, and we may be able to go back to hauling. Brian Taylor asked where the brush that the DPW picked up was going. Scott said some of it goes to the transfer station and some of it went to the DOT garage to be chipped or grinded.

Laura said she hauls her brush in the trunk of her car and asked how that would be priced. Alan Libby said the attendants should be able to use their discretion.

Paul Eli asked about the hazardous waste and why the town is not participating in the hazardous waste program. Stacy explained that it was over \$4,000.00 to participate in the program and Wolfeboro is available to us at \$50.00 per five gallons every third Saturday of the month. The town will reimburse \$50.00 per household. Information can be found on the town's website under the transfer station tab.

Bonnie Eli asked about payments being taken at the transfer station. Les said cash or checks are currently being accepted. The card is not being accepted currently because it is a two-swipe system and there is a fee to use the card that would have to be passed on to the resident. The decision was made to stop taking cards at this time.

Sue Hoople inquired about PFAS and whether the town had a plan to mitigate them. She is concerned about whether there is any monitoring in place for the old transfer station. Les said we have not been notified that we are out of range with the PFA's.

Les closed the public hearing at 7:25. The board discussed the fees and agreed unanimously on the proposed fees. Discussion ensued around opening the bottom gate. Alan Libby takes care of the construction debris below the

June 17, 2024

Minutes

C & D with the loader. Les asked if the hill should be paved now. Scott said he will try to get gravel and dust control to define where the road is from the new gate entrance to the C & D this week. He said paving should not happen until after the scales go in. Signs need to be obtained for the new gate entrance.

It was agreed to keep the fee the same on white goods (washers, dryers, and microwaves etc.)

Alan Fall made a motion to accept the transfer station fees as proposed, Ernie seconded the motion; Motion passed 3-0-0.

Appointments-

Scott Brooks Jr.- Scott Brooks Jr. came before the board to discuss the proposed gravel pit on Cold Brook Rd. He proposed doing the permit process, but they may not finish it before winter. He would like to get gravel on the ground in the meantime and investigate what the process is if the town owns more than 50% of the material. Can they get started stocking material for the town? Les will reach out to the State to investigate what the process is if the town's material is involved regarding a gravel pit.

Old/New Business-

Mr. Tibbetts came before the board to discuss the collapsed wall on Danforth Bay. He was looking for direction from Scott Brooks to see where to start. Scott advised getting any needed permits in place first. Ernie suggested also reaching out to the Zoning Officer. Discussion ensued about what the wall was made of. Alan thought it would be a permit by notification based on the square footage.

Stacy asked if she could cancel the Joint Loss Committee because no one could commit to being there, and the office was too busy to close.

Lakes Region is delivering the computers for the transfer station and Gary tomorrow at 9:00.

The phone at the garage is still not working.

Health Trust Ins. Meeting is Wednesday at 10:00 am at the town office.

Public Comment -

Non-Public-

8:02 pm Les made a motion to go into non-public under RSA 91-A:3,II (c) Reputation, Roll call Vote

Les-yes

Ernie-yes

Alan-yes

Les made a motion to resume the public meeting at 8:03 pm, motion seconded by Ernie; Motion passed unanimously.

Stacy asked direction regarding the FAC. The length of the FAISC/FCC meeting was discussed. Les said the board never voted to combine the boards. It was a trial basis. Stacy encouraged the board to have Jeff Nicole in and discuss the matter. Stacy said the feedback she received was that the FAC/FCC meetings were productive and helpful because questions were answered. The next meeting board appointments will be reviewed.

Agenda item next Week:

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

June 17, 2024

Minutes

Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Consent Agenda:

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 6/12/24	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 6/14/24	Approved
Meeting Minutes 6/3/24	Approved

Correspondence:

Proposed Transfer Station Fees	Reviewed
Profit and Loss	Reviewed
North Conway Water Precinct Agreement	Reviewed
Vachon Clukay	Reviewed
Abatement for Courville	Reviewed
Abatement for Payeur	Reviewed

Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Alan G. Fall