

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, August 19, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Alan Fall, and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Also present were Rich Laferriere, Alan Libby, Rob Cunio

Public: Kerri & Brandy Buttrick, Sue Hoople, Paul Elie, Bonnie Elie, Janice Zecher, Roberta Maccarthy, Gary Williams, Carol and Brian Taylor, Bill Elliott, Robert Oram, Jen Ulrich, Daymond Steer Conway Daily Sun, Bill Carney, Megan Broderick, Jeff Nicole, Anthony & Maureen Raynes, Don Johnson

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Alan made a motion to accept the July 29, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as written.

The Selectboard meeting started at 33 Old Portland Rd. and had to be moved due to the number of people to the Town Hall located at 16 Elm St.

At 6:45 pm Les made a motion to adjourn the meeting to move to the Town Hall at 16 Elm St.; Motion seconded by Fall; Motion passed.

Department Head Updates

Fire- Rob reported 14 medical aids, on motor vehicle accident, two mutual aid fires one mutual aid propane leak, seven fire alarms, one boat/water rescue and Rob will be taking a k9 prerequisite course (will allow him to treat Boca) 8/27-8/28 in Milford. He has coverage for both days.

He concluded his update by reading a letter of appreciation on behalf of the Day Family for the outstanding services his family received from the Freedom Rescue on behalf of his mother and father.

Transfer station- Alan Libby reported that he and Chief Cunio have gone through the transfer station and mapped it out in three different zones so if anyone gets hurt and needs medical attention the rescue will be able to respond quickly. The locks are now locked so if fire/rescue had to enter the transfer station after hours, the chain is the only thing they would need to be cut.

Alan talked to Horizons about the PFA testing done in 2023. He explained because there is a higher elevation of something in the soils does not mean that there is a public safety issue. It may not have been in the soil before so anything would be at a high elevation if it was never in the soil before. We will know more after this year's test results come back from the lab.

Gary Williams Zoning Officer- Gary reported the registration from the Chiefs police cruiser has been swapped over to the zoning officer. The car needs \$5,000 in work to be road worthy.

Rob Cunio- the roof at the village fire station has been started. Les ask about the wires on Rt.153. Rob said the wires are not in the travel way. The wires have been called in to dispatch.

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Police-

Appointments- Don Johnson gave an election update. The state statues state the Selectmen appoint the inspectors of election (pole workers). In the past Don has always done the recruitment and would like tonight's minutes reflect the Selectmen have appointed the following people to be inspectors of the election for the year 2024:

- Chuck Brooks Registered Democrat
- Micheal Gaudette registered undeclared
- Kali Eldridge Republican
- Rochelle Brooks Undeclared
- Jane Davidson Democrat

Kali and Rochelle will be serving as ballot clerks.
Elizabeth and Don are elected officials.

Les asked if there is another republican. Alan said he has no issue with any of the people appointed. Les said he has no issue either but would like to see another republican appointed. Don said he will try to find a republican voter for the November election.

Les made a motion to elect:

Chuck Brooks

Micheal Gaudette

Kali Eldridge

Rochelle Brooks

Jane Davidson

As election inspectors, Alan seconded the motion; Motion passed.

Don reviewed the parking and the signs for the September primary. He asked for a police presence, and the selectmen need to be present during the poling hours, 8:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. Don asked that the November election be held at the school due to the number of people that are expected due to a general election on November 5th to meet all the requirement for booths check- in stations. Stacy will reach out to the school to let them know.

Old Business –

Alan Fall reported that he has received a draft contract from Place Works. Alan gave history of the plan to have the Masonic Lodge assessed for structural integrity and if there are structural issues what would the mitigation look like. The theory is we know it will cost \$100,000 or more to relocate the staff during the remodeling of the School Building. The thought was that the money would be better spent on town property and presuming there is a reasonable cost for mitigation, it would open more possibilities for using the first floor of the Masonic Lodge as office space.

The proposal for the contract is for \$76,500-\$93,000 for engineering and support services, and that is presuming a mitigation plan can be designed. He discussed the proposal with Alyssa and communicated that the cost is high.

Jason Earle was asked to review the contract and also thought it was high. Alan proposed to reach out to an engineer who is working with Turpin on the Grafton Meeting House. Alan would like to contact her and get her opinion. It is unlikely to have a warrant article for the Town Meeting. He will also reach out to Beth Miller to see if she would be interested in the renovation.

Les addressed Brandy. He asked if it was possible to move forward with the school design without having a place for the staff.

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Alan said one of the issues they are running into is a historical structural assessment needs to be done for the Lchip group. The cost is around \$10,000. If money is spent before the grant is issued, then the town cannot get the grant.

The school can get the historical structural assessment and be ahead of the game next year.
Les asked for feedback from the public.

Jeff Nicole questioned why we need the historical assessment when Bergeron has already done an assessment.
Alan said this historical structural assessment is different from what Bergeron did. There are two levels, and the historical structural assessment will get the town the most LChip money. It will need to be done on both the Masonic Lodge and the School Building.

Les said we need to come up with the cost of the design for the school building and where the staff is going to go and the costs associated with placing them elsewhere.

Alan will contact Beth Miller to see if she is interested and contact a structural engineer for the historical structural assessment.

Jeff clarified the difference between a historical structural analysis and the service Bergeron provided for town meeting.

Alan Fall explained the name is misleading and the historical structural analysis is a very involved analysis of the historical significance of the structure (needed for LChip money). Bergeron did not do a structural analysis of either building. Jeff asked if there were conflicting reports on the soundness of the structure.

Old Business –

Stacy reviewed the red folder.

Non-Public-

Les announced the board has a non-public for Paul Eli. Les said we need to go into nonpublic. Janice asked why it has to be nonpublic. Les responded that something could be said to damage his reputation.

Paul said his intention was to be heard in a public meeting. There is nothing he has to say that needs to be said behind closed doors. Les explained you say whatever you want to the board in public, but the board may not be able to respond in public.

Paul Elie read a letter into the minutes. He expressed his disappointment with the board and the emotional fallout from not being appointed to the Freedom Conservation Commission. His letter asked for the reason why he was not reinstated to the FCC and the time delay from March to July. Les said he would give his reasons in a nonpublic session. Paul said you can express it now. Les said he will follow the recommendation from town council and go into nonpublic.

Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 7:50 pm, motion seconded by Alan Fall; Roll call vote:

Les-yes

Alan Fall-yes.

Les said the nonpublic is with Paul Elie. Paul said the public could stay.

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The Board reconvened the public session at 8:30 pm

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: Yes

If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by _____ *Seconded by*

_____ *Pending litigation*

_____ *Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or*

_____ *Render the proposed action ineffective*

_____ *Pertain to terrorism.*

Sue Hoople said she wanted to follow up from the last meeting. She is trying to create a record to defend herself. She feels the July 1st meeting was orchestrated. Ernie Day made a motion to appoint Sue to the FCC Alan seconded the motion and then Les had a question for Jeff. The question was addressed to Jeff Nicole if the FCC appointed Sue to talk on behalf of the FCC at the Planning Board meeting. Jeff responded no and said he crafted an email telling her so. She also said there was conversation that the board had knowledge that she was attending the Planning Board and Heritage meeting and other stating she was representing or speaking on behalf of the FCC. Sue reiterated FCC members have a sworn duty to look into the planning board submissions and any wetlands applications. Discussion continued around plans that have been found and she wanted to know who planted the seed for her not being appointed to the FCC or Heritage.

Les said they came to the realization in July that board appointments had not been completed, especially FCC. One of the downfalls of meeting every other week is that the board did not meet with Sue before reappointing her to discuss any of the above with her.

Sue said she was asking questions on behalf of the FCC. Stacy asked what the difference is between asking questions on behalf of the FCC or being at a meeting on behalf of the FCC. Sue said she was hung because the minutes reflected, she said on behalf of when the recording states that she had questions on behalf of which she feels she is entitled to do. Because the minutes reflected "Sue Hoople on behalf of the FCC.

Les asked Stacy to ask the council how a member of a board should represent themselves to another board.

Jeff explained his point of view of Sues situation and all comes down to communication with between the chair and the board. Sue wanted to know offended Alan Fall at the Heritage Commission meeting and misrepresenting herself. Alan repeated what he heard her say was that she was representing the FCC. She may not of said it but that is what he heard her say.

Daymond asked what the board's plan is for replacing the Selectboard member. Les said it will probably be discussed at the next meeting.

Janice asked if the board would entertain appointing Melissa Florio. Les said the board is not discussing it tonight.

Consent Agenda:

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 8/14/2024

Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 8/16/2024

Approved

Meeting Minutes 7/29/24

Approved

Correspondence:

Town Road Agent Letter to Huckins Residents

Reviewed

Rooster Production Office Renovation Proposal

Reviewed

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| Email from Rick regarding Transfer Station Changes | Reviewed |
| Freedom Conservation Commission Reappointments | Reviewed |
| Paul Elie letter Regarding Appointments | Reviewed |
| Jeff Nicole email to members re appointments | Reviewed |
| Ossipee Road Sign Proposal | Reviewed |
| Permit by Notification for 28A lot 71 | Reviewed |
| Lakes Region Planning Commission Attendance | Reviewed |
| Carroll County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes | Reviewed |
| Freedom Highway Block Grant Aid | Reviewed |
| Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility List | Reviewed |
| July Tax Report | Reviewed |

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Fall seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Allan G. Fall