**Town of Freedom**

**Selectmen’s Meeting**

**Monday, September 16, 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 Jamie Mullan, Alan Libby, Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks

Public: Sue Hoople, Bill Elliott, Rich

**Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes**

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

The following motions were made for the trustee of the trust funds:

**Les made a motion to request $40,000 from the Police Equipment Trust Fund per Article 19 for the purchase of a police cruiser, Alan seconded the motion; motion carried.**

**Les made a motion to request $69,900.00 for a reimbursement expense of the Mobark chipper as discussed at Town Meeting from the Highway equipment CRF Article # 34, Alan Seconded the motion; motion carried.**

Les requested for future letters if it was discussed at town meeting, then he would like to be reflected in the letter to the Trustee of the Trust Funds.

**Les made a motion to accept the September 16, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as written, Fall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Department Head Updates**

**Transfer Station-** Alan Libby reported that the transfer station was busy this past weekend, and everything went well.

**Police**- Jamie reported that both fire and police responded to the accident at 65 Elm St. Three people were taken into custody. Due to their expertise and resources, State Police will be handling the investigation.

**Highway-** Scott reported that they finished screening sand last week and they have been trucking it to the town garage. There was a brief discussion around the shared use of the backhoe. Selectmen Babb stressed the importance of communication if Alan Libby was not going to have the backhoe at the transfer station for the day to move the shipping containers. If they do not get packed down, they go out half-full.

**Fire-** Rob updated the board the department had 7 medical aids, one motor vehicle accident and the assisted with a carry out in with the Effingham Fire. The trucks are going through annual inspections and a walk through is scheduled for the fire department at Calumet.

**Office-** Stacy announced there is a joint loss meeting tomorrow at the town garage. She also said that she has a webinar with BS&A for accounting software. This will be the third company she and Linda Mailhot, the bookkeeper, have looked at. The school board meeting is tonight, and she asked if the board wants to meet with them in October. Les said yes. Lindsay will be back this week and will be doing the payroll while Linda is out.

**Public Comment**

Sue Hoople asked if Stacy knew who had provided the plans that she had looked at last week regarding Wabanaki. Les reminded Sue this is public comment, and if she has any questions regarding the plans, she can talk to Stacy during office hours. She also said she would like to review Gary’s files to see what permits have been issued this year and questioned if Gary was going to take Ernie’s seat and if he be the rep to the FAC. She would like to invite Gary to the FCC meetings. She has a lot of unanswered questions. Les stated that Stacy informed him that Mr. Salvati would like to be notified when Wabanaki is being discussed. Alan added that it should be an agenda item if it is going to be discussed. Mr. Salvati reached out to Stacy about being on the FCC agenda as to why Wabanaki is on it and questioned if he should send someone. The FCC chair has clarified for Mr. Salvati why Wabanaki is on the agenda.

**Tahoe Bid-**

Because Gary was not available last week, the bid for the 2013 Tahoe will be awarded this week.

Gary made a motion to accept the Bid for $1,680.00 to Ringwood Motors, motion seconded by Alan; motion passed unanimously.

Les stated that the check needs to clear the bank before the vehicle is released.

**Alan Fall-** Alan reviewed where they are with the Masonic Hall. Annette Dey has looked at the Masonic Hall and sent a contract for Proposal for Engineering Services (compensation on an hourly basis). Alan is hopeful that we may have a warrant article for the town meeting for remediation for the Masonic Lodge.

Alan referred to the meeting house on Rt. 4 in Grafton NH as a testimony to Annette Dey’s engineering expertise.

The town of Freedom is very fortunate to have her consider our project and make a proposal.

**Alan made a motion to accept her proposal, Gary seconded the motion; motion carried**.

**Les made a motion to authorize Alan Fall to sign the contract with Annette Dey Engineering LLC.**

Alan also informed the board that he had talked to Beth Miller about the historical assessment needed for LChip money. She can do it but can not do a site visit until late October. Alan did not see a problem with this because of our timeline. She is willing to do the assessment for the Masonic Lodge. Half of the assessment is paid for by the grant. The cost is $4,500.00. Alan has a building inventory for the Masonic Lodge. Alan recommends signing the contract with Beth Miller.

Alan made a motion to sign the contract with Beth Miller, Gary seconded the motion; motion passed.

Les agreed to sign the contract because some of the money will come back to the town.

**Les made a motion for Alan Fall to sign the contract with Beth Miller North Country Architect, Gary seconded; motion carried.**

Alan also explained that Micheal Gaudette has volunteered to take care of the powder post beetles in the Masonic Hall for the cost of materials.

Alan has talked with the abstractor about Danforth Bay, and it will be a while before we have an answer.

Budgets were reviewed for accuracy and to make sure they are tracking.

**Police-** Jamie said he may have the IT people look at pricing out new computers and he is considering body cameras.

Les would like Jamie to price them out. He will be adding office support data management.

**Fire-** Part- time station duty percentage is good. Chief Cunio will be taking vacation time soon. Mutual aid is overdrawn $2,000.00 because he forgot to increase the line during budget season. We will add a computer support line to the fire budge for transparency.

**Office-** The computer support line needs to be broken out more for transparency.

**Sanitation-** Uniforms line was discussed. It still has $500.00 in it. the line. A $150.00 boot reimbursement was also discussed.

Alan inquired about the telephone and questioned why it was so expensive. The phone needs to be switched to Spectrum. Buying a new container was discussed or repairing what we have.

**Highway-** the gravel crushing warrant article is over $38.65. Linda will move it to line 224 gravel.

The summer budget ends on November 1st. Huckins Rd. repair will begin soon.

Stacy said there is money that came in from the State for Scott that is earmarked for roads from the State. The overage in the rental equipment was due to the April storm. The gasoline line is over, but the school has been billed but has not paid yet. There was also a lot of power saw gas and chipper gas.

**Office-** the tax collector’s salary needs to be moved from the top line down to line 114. The auditor line is over due to a bill from the CPA for last year. The tax map updates still have money because the tax maps have not been updated yet. Alan will talk to Seth Bergeron about the tax updates. Additional lines will be added for transparency for subscriptions and computer support. The Emergency Management line is overdrawn due to the Emergency Management plan needing to be updated. The State will reimburse 50%.

Alan said that he got numbers from the State regarding monitoring well #2. They tested for six of nine different PFAs and found PFOS 45.3 nanograms per liter (billionth of a gram) There are no standards for the State of NH (min or max) and PFOA was 22 nanograms per liter and the PFHPA 2.73 nanograms per liter.

**Non-Public-**

**Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 9:00 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) motion seconded by Alan Fall; Roll call vote:**

**Les-yes**

**Alan Fall-yes**

**Gary -yes.**

**Les made the motion to reconvene the public session, motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.**

***The Board reconvened the public session at 9:10 pm***

***Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: NO***

***If no the following motion is required:***

***Motion made by Alan Seconded by***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pending litigation***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Render the proposed action ineffective***

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pertain to terrorism.***

Stacy will post the Zoning Officer/Building Inspector position in the paper this week.

**Consent Agenda:**

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 9/11/2024 Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 9/13/2024 Approved

Meeting Minutes 9/16/2024 Approved

**Correspondence:**

Annette Dey Masonic Temple Proposal

For Engineering Service Reviewed

North Country Architecture Proposal Reviewed

Ringwood Motors Reviewed

Les Babb Bid Reviewed

Trustee of the Trust Funds Reviewed

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

Adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

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Leslie R. Babb Alan G. Fall Gary R. Williams