

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, September 9, 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

Public: Jen Ulrich, Rich

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Les made a motion to accept the August 26, 2024, meeting minutes and nonpublic minutes as written, Fall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6:45 p.m. Les made a motion to recess the meeting so the meeting can be continued at the town hall due to the number of residents in attendance.

Department Head Updates

Highway- Scott updated the board the highway crew is preparing for winter.

Police- Jamie updated the board that he hired Jackie Cortez, and she will be starting in the next couple of weeks. The department is ready for the elections tomorrow. Officer Cyr arrested someone going 125 mph on rt. 25.

Transfer station- Rob reported four medical aids, one fire alarm, two service calls, and one vehicle fire in the woods and the following activities:

- Still waiting for an update on the draft letter from Effingham regarding the shelter.
- Dredging on Watson Hill is done
- There may be a potential warrant article for Scarboro Rd.
- Attended K9 prerequisite class for the State to be able to treat police K9
- Annual service inspections are in process
- The Polaris ranger went in for repair and is now back in service.

Office- Stacy reported she talked to Brian Brownell about the police car that Gary now has, and he quoted \$1,000 in repairs. The car also needs tires that are separate from the quote. Les asked how soon he could get to it.

FEMA is almost complete and will be here Friday 13th, at 1:00 pm.

Mark Mackinley updated the board on removing the fire escape on the side of the Town Office. He contacted Bill Barrows, and he can remove it. He thought he could do it this Thursday and Friday, and would bill by the hour.

Les requested the door be screwed shut. The board agreed to move forward with the removal and Bill Carney agreed with the proposal.

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported that it was a very busy holiday weekend with over 1400 cars coming through, and e-waste has generated an additional \$3,000 in revenue.

*September 16, 2024
Minutes*

Public Comment

Daymond Steere questioned the board on Gary's appointment to the select board. How the board came to the decision and what the board's goals are.

Les explained that the board found it more difficult than they thought to run with a two-person Select Board. The discussion took place because Gary showed interest in the position. Les continued to explain Gary has demonstrated that he works well with the town residents while in his current position as Zoning Office/Building Inspector. He is familiar with all the town staff and works well as the town administrator.

Daymond asked about his current role as Zoning Officer. Les did not want to speak for Gary about his plans in his current role but said that it is not a conflict of interest because he is part-time.

The equalized evaluation was briefly discussed. Les shared his concern that the DRA would overvalue the town which would result in paying too much in education tax. He has been reassured by the Town assessor that is not the case.

Sue wanted to ask if the board could provide answers to her letters, she gave them back in May and June regarding Wabanaki. She is trying to create a timeline from 2000 to now. She wants to know what happened when the subdivision was closed until 2001. Sue is requesting a central place for Wabanaki file to be located so the boards could research any questions they may have. There was also discussion on printing plans.

Appointment-

Vinney Vaccaro-Vinney came before the board to discuss the triathlon event that takes place every year in Freedom.

Jamie opened the discussion, stating Vinney has worked with him on safety concerns, and he continues to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes made. There are still areas of concern. He questions if the number of people who participate should be capped. Chief Cunio's crew worked with the police department to ensure safety. Scott Brooks recounted his experience in trying to get home on 153. He witnessed three bicycles abreast. They are not willing to move out of the way. Les said his concern is the amount of traffic on the road, and would like to have a car count next summer. He asked if it was possible to move the timing of the event to a later date. Les would like to see the event take place when less people are around. Alan made it clear he is not a fan of the event due to safety concerns. Vinney said he can't put people in the water during foliage season, it just does not make sense. Vinney responded that the board is talking about roads that are both town and state. People that come to this event pay state taxes, and the event follows regulations that require them to ride single file, and he believes the majority of the participants do ride that way, and there is a course Marshall that rides around to ensure the participants are following the rules.

Vinney has donated in the past to the Freedom Food Pantry to give back to the Town for hosting the race. Les suggested around the 13th of September. Vinney explained he can't move the race to another date because he can't compete with other races going on in New England.

A brief discussion ensued around traffic counts.

Les said he appreciates Vinney coming in and discussing this with the Board, but the fact of the matter is he has discussed the event with people who are not present tonight and the fact of the matter is there are too many people on the road, and we will not know how many until the traffic counts are done. Les also suggested an alternative route that would include rt. 25 and rt. 16 because there is a bike lane. Vinney responded no; he doesn't even ride his bike on Rt. 16.

Vinney thanked the board and left the meeting.

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Alan Fall- Alan updated the board about his meeting with Annette Dey. She is hopeful and thinks the Masonic Lodge could be saved. Brandy asked if she had the Horizons report. Alan said yes, but she wants to see the Bergeron report mentioned in the Horizons report. She looked at the floor load and did not think it was unsound.

Tahoe Bid- the bid will not be awarded until the next meeting because Gary in not present.
The following is the bids:

Les Babb- \$1,251.00
Ringwood Motors \$1,680.00

The bid will be on the agenda next week.

The Danforth property was briefly discussed. Alan needs to talk to the abstractor. Frank questioned if minor improvements could be made. Les wants to give it a couple more weeks with the abstractor.

Alan Libby came before the board to request to close the transfer station on October 14th, the board after discussion the board agreed to close the transfer station if they would be open for a window of time on Tuesday. Flyers will be printed out for the employees to hand out.

Non-Public-

Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 8:15 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) motion seconded by Alan Fall; Roll call vote:
Les-yes
Alan Fall-yes.

The Board reconvened the public session at 8:25 pm
Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: NO
If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by 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.

Consent Agenda:

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 9/4/2024	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 9/6/2024	Approved
Meeting Minutes 8/26/24	Approved

Correspondence:

Annette Dey Masonic Temple Building	Reviewed
Abatement for 60-1-YCA24	Reviewed
Tax Collectors Report	Reviewed

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Jeffrey Hertel	Reviewed
Police Donation	Reviewed
MS-434 Revised Revenues	Reviewed
Carroll County Commissioners Agenda	Reviewed
Town of Moultonborough Notice of Public Hearing For a Cell Tower	Reviewed
Renee Wheaton	Reviewed
William Carney Email	Reviewed
Freedom Historical Society Letter	Reviewed
NH Association Assessing Ballott	Reviewed
Lake Region Household Hazardous Facility	Reviewed
Land Use Change Tax Iannazzi	Reviewed
Eaton Fire Contract	Reviewed
Notice of Intent Brooks	Reviewed

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

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Alan G. Fall

Gary R. Williams