

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, November 4, 2024**

Present: Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Alan Fall, Gary Williams 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: Alan Libby, Rob Cunio, Scott Brooks, Rich Laferriere

Public: Barry Rollins, Bill Elliott, Brian Taylor, Bill Carney and Mark MacConkey.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Department Head Updates

Highway- Scott reported they have been working on Huckins Rd. doing grading. Watson Hill will be closed November 13th – 21st to install a box culvert. Stacy will post it in the paper, the office and the post office.

Scott received a trenching permit to install the conduit for the fiber optic lines from the intersection to go up Watson Hill to the other side of Ms. Pipitts. There are four telephone pedestals up through there will be replaced with fiber optic. They will be digging 1-2' in the road to the ditch line. Scott asked for the selectboards opinion. Scott said he never found the lines when he was doing road work, and he has had the area dig safed so, they must be deep. Les asked how deep they will be digging. Scott responded 18" to 2' of very rocky ground.

Les asked if they could wait until the box culvert was installed. Scott said they want to do it next week. The lines will not go into use right away. Gary asked if they had easements. Alans concern is putting the road back in the condition they found it. Scott said they need to gravel the road anyway. It was decided that before Scott signs the trenching permit, he will ask for the easements. If they don't have easements, then they would have to follow where the existing lines are.

Fire- Rob reported three medical aids, one motor vehicle accident, one mutual aid fire, one propane leak, one outside fire. Halloween went well handing out candy. There will be active shooter training Thursday evening at the Town Hall and a practical session Saturday at the school. The iPads and the phones showed up today. Stacy will update the website with Robs new phone number.

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported that they went to a training in Moultonborough and the new compactors will be delivered next week. Rickers may be able to take the old one for \$3,000. They will let us know.

Police- The new cruiser was picked up to be outfitted today.

Town Office- Stacy updated the board the issue with the website going down has been resolved. It was not noticed at the time of renewal a plug-in needed to be purchased. Lakes Region has been notified to upgrade the website to .gov. Stacy needs to get together with Scott to answer questions for the audit. The Certificate of authority for LChip has been signed and sent back.

The health officer would like to talk to Chief Cunio about the driveway being cleared for a property on Independence Drive for safety purposes.

Health Trust has assigned a new advisor to Freedom as requested by the board.

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Public Comment

Bill Elliott thanked the police department for patrolling Elm Street during Halloween. Les asked if the taxes went out. Stacy said yes.

Barry Rollins asked if the board sent out evaluations before the tax bill went out so residents could schedule an appointment with the appraiser to discuss the appraisal. His home's square footage is wrong by 1,400.00 ft. Les explained why the board did the reevaluation to capture all the growth that has not been captured and Mr. Rollins' house is new. His dispute is the house has more square footage than it has.

Stacy will make Mr. Rollins an appointment with Rod to evaluate the square footage.

Budgets

Fire-

No change in Forestry.

Mutual Aid- increased \$2,000

The Phone line increased by \$2,400.00 because Rob added a phone and iPads.

Engine 7- increased \$1,000

Overall increase is \$5,400.00

Ambulance- budget for the year-\$120,103.00

We do not have an Emergency Management director.

Transfer Station-

Alan questioned if the part-time salary line could be moved down to other lines. Les said it will be moved up to the full-time salary line. The brush line was discussed. Boggs quoted \$5,500 for chipping/grinding the brush and Alan figures four times for 2025. Les asked what income has been collected for brush since July. Alan L. thought around \$3,000.00.

Building Maintenance line will go up to \$3,000.00 to fix the siding on the pole barn.

Engineering Line- Les explained the backstory behind the engineering line.

The Supplies line is over because of the State audit.

The hauls are being maximized and this shows in the hauling line only \$54,715 used out of \$94,958.

Alan proposes pulling out the recyclable container so both sides of the container can be used and moving it down below the building where the machine now loads for the C&D. There is enough room for two lanes of traffic.

The bottleneck has been resolved at MSW containers but there is now a bottleneck at the recyclables that needs to be resolved.

Vinney Vacarro Trittech Race-

Les explained that Vinney came back to the board and proposed holding the race May 31st. The board agreed to put the proposed date on this agenda to inform the public and receive feedback. Gary agreed to the proposed date but would like all races that are hosted to be held to the same standards. All agreed the race could be held.

Square Brook Estates Letter- Square Brook Estates Request for limited snowmobile use.

Road Agent Brooks reviewed the letter and stated the letter does not take into consideration anything prior to the town laying out the roads for winter road is just history, If you follow the RSA quoted in the letter the roads become classified roads that are the sole responsibility of the Town of Freedom and are a liability to the Town of Freedom from November 15th to April 1st.

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How many times the town has said no to snowmobiling during a storm was discussed and the issues with the snowmobiles while the trucks are plowing. Stacy will invite Dan Evarts in to discuss this matter with the board.

Alan made a motion to accept the selectmen minutes and non-public minutes of 10/23/24 and 10/28/24, Les seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 8:10 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (B) Hiring 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 8:20 pm

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: NO

If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Les Seconded by Alan

_____ *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.*

Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 8:20 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (C) Reputation 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 8:25pm

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: Yes

If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Les Seconded by Alan

_____ *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.*

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Les made a motion to enter into nonpublic at 8:25 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (A) Compensation 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 8:30 pm

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: NO

If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Les Seconded by Alan

_____ *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 – 10/30/2024

Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 11/1/2024

Approved

Meeting Minutes 10/28/2024

Approved

Correspondence:

Environmental Fact Sheet Regarding Sharps

Reviewed

Square Brook Estates Letter Re: Snowmobiling

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

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