

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, December 16, 2024,**

Present: Selectmen Les Babb, Alan Fall, Gary Williams and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office. Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Absent:

Also present: Alan Libby, Scott Brooks, Rob Cunio, Sue Hoople, Roberta Macarthy, Paul Elie, Jane Britten, Don Johnson, Libby Priebe, Mark Mckinley, Paul Olzerowicz, Linda Mailhot

**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**

**Transfer Station-** Alan Libby reported the last couple of storms went well as far as cleaning up. When the compactors were serviced, they failed to check the heat pumps. They will check them when the recyclables are fixed. Casella is now charging \$45.00 a mattress so the mattresses will be broken down going forward. The metal will go into the metal and the rest will go into the C&D.

**Highway-** Scott updated storms have gone well but he had to order salt. The last storm used 3 loads of salt and with two storms on the way, will make the budget tight. The FEMA check will hopefully be here the first of the year.

**Fire – Rob** reported five medicals, one mutual aid, one fire alarm, one mutual aid for a propane leak, two service calls, and EMT class starts January 1<sup>st</sup>. He has one person who will be attending, possibly two. The grant for the vest is gone. He asked permission to buy two vests out of his budget at \$1,004.00 a vest. Permission granted.

**Police-** Jamie is not present.

**Facilities-** Mark Makinley came before the board to discuss the location of the proposed Mini splits for upstairs at the town office. The quote is for placing them on the end of the building where the old fire escape was located. Alan was concerned about the boundary line. Mark confirmed that it would fit but recommended doing the mini splits with the renovation and getting a quieter, more efficient air conditioner for the window in the meantime. The board supported this idea and agreed to wait on the mini splits for the town office. Mark said when the job was assessed for the mini splits putting the splits under the fire escape was not an option, that is why they had to go to the end of the building. Chief Cunio was not aware of any changes to the fire codes that would not allow the units to go under the fire escape. The thought process was that it would be under cover from the elements.

The mini splits are on hold until the renovation for the town office.

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**Budgets**

**Don Johnson Elections** – Don stated there is only one election in 2025, he suggested taking the 2023 budget and adding .05% to it. There is however a mandate by the State that towns offer an AVS (tablet) system for all state elections. Up until now the State has been providing the tablet and the programming. The State legislature has recently mandated that it also be used in local elections and towns need to fund the mandate. The cost of this mandate is \$2,500.00 which will be added to the operating election budget. The state is looking at hardware that is less expensive to program for the 2026 election. Libby added that we still don't know how the programming will be done. Town meeting will be held the same day as the elections on Tuesday.

**Town Clerk-** Libby presented her budget. Her numbers are staying the same except she is requesting a printer in her office. As of November, the town clerk has generated \$516,379.38 in revenue.

**Scott Brooks Highway-** Scott gave the board a quote to replace the F-550 of \$66,800.00 for just the chassis and plow gear and another estimated \$60,000 for the truck and he cannot get the truck in green only white. He will try other dealerships. He does not have a firm number.

Summer and winter budgets will stay the same as last year and the only changes are in the general expense.

- Operating - \$7,800.00
- Life/ disability from \$5,200.00 to \$5,900.00
- Health ins from down from \$110,000 to \$96,800.00
- Drug and alcohol up from \$570.00 to \$600.00
- Uniforms up from \$5,700.00 to \$7,578.00
- Building Supplies up from \$2,544.00 to \$3,600.00
- Water up from \$700.00 to \$750.00
- Fuel tank Maintenance up from \$3,500 to \$4,000
- Chipper Maintenance up from \$700.00 to \$800.00
- Highway Chevrolet 5500 up from \$3,800.00 to \$4,000
- York Rake Maintenance up from \$2,200 to \$3,000.00
- Sweeper Maintenance up from \$1,800.00 to \$2,400.00
- Oxygen & Acetylene up from \$450.00 to \$850.00
- Total increase to the highway budget        \$5,569.80

Scott reported there is approximately 8,000 yards of material left in Watts Pitt, and it would serve the town best if it were crushed into 4- inch minus because sand is cheaper to truck. The contractor will hold the price per yard to crush the material but will have to charge a \$6,500 mobilization fee. \$8.80 a yard at 8,000 yards =\$76,900 + \$6,500.00 Mobilization fee. Warrant article.

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Will need a warrant article to replace the truck.

#### **Town Office-**

Stacy presented the office budget. Lines that had an increase are as follows:

Audit went up from \$15,000 to \$27,500.00

Computer support was broken out as follows:

IT Support - \$15,000

Software (Avitar)- \$13,241.55

Payroll services \$5,500.00

Tax Map revisions \$5000.00 or a warrant article to go digital \$32,300.

BS&A warrant article (accounting software) \$25,000.00

#### **Other Business-**

Les received a letter asking if the town would consider taking over the Mill Pond Dam.

Les thinks the State will take it. He will reach out to Jim at the Dam Authority to inquire. Stacy will send Les a reminder.

Alan reported that we have the final design for fixing the Masonic Lodge. He would like to put it out to bid.

**Les made a motion for Alan to move forward with putting the design out to bid for the Masonic Lodge; Gary seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Trustee of the Trust Funds Withdrawal**

**Les made a motion to withdraw \$40,000 from the Highway Drainage Fund per Article #17, Gary seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.**

**Les made a motion to withdraw \$ 16,372.00 from the Transfer Station Capital Reserve fund for the purchase of the two containers to replace the unusable container for hauling and the other container that was also showing signs of becoming unusable; Motion passed unanimously.**

**Trustee of the Trust funds will be paid out this week.**

#### **Public Comment-**

Rob commented he may have a warrant article for dredging.

Alan wants to put the Casella contract out to bid. The contract is up at the end of 2025. He will start the process.

Paul Olzerowitz asked if the \$100.00 is all set for the new checking account. There was a question if the towns EIN number could be used.

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Linda suggested adding an overtime line for sanitation. It is the only department that does not have a separate line. She also suggested each department have an internet line for transparency. Curranty everything comes out of the town buildings line.

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

Roll call vote:

Babb-Yes

Fall- Yes

Willaims- Yes

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

*The Board reconvened the public session at 8:35 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.*

Stacy will reach out Spambanato and Sara Butterfield to schedule an interview.

Employee Performance Awards were also discussed.

Les made a motion to enter nonpublic at 8:45 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (E) Consideration or Negation motion seconded by; Roll call vote:

Babb-Yes

Fall- Yes

Willaims- Yes

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

*The Board reconvened the public session at 9:00 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.*

*Minutes to be sealed until settled.*

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**Consent Agenda:**

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 12/11/2024	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 12/13/2024	Approved
Meeting Minutes 12/9/2024	Tabled

**Correspondence:**

Doug Welch Confirming Joint Loss Committee Date	Reviewed
Allied Equipment Quote for F-550	Reviewed
Trustee of the Trust Funds Payout	Reviewed
2024 Municipal Assessment Data Certificate	Reviewed
Performance Awards Payout	Reviewed
Property Tax Exemptions for Elderly Households for Surrounding Towns	Reviewed
Bryan Fontain letter Re: Wabanaki violations	Reviewed

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Williams seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 9:00 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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