

**Town of Freedom  
Selectmen's Meeting  
Monday, November 25, 2024**

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

Also present: Alan Libby, Jamie Mullen

Public: Linda Mailhot, Sara Florio, Nadine Chapman, Rich & Jen Ulrich, Betsy Barrett, Scott & Quinicy Brooks.

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

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

**Gary made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/18/2024 as written, motion seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.**

**Department Head Updates**

**Transfer Station-** Alan Libby reported that the new containers came in this morning, and he has the quote to replace the leaking pistons, although he does not want to act on replacing them because changing the oil has fixed the leak at this point.

The budget was briefly reviewed.

**Police-** Jamie reported on the active shooter training that firefighters, police and Action Ambulance took part in. Police also did some use-of-force training, which was used the following day in a situation that arose.

Jaime has taken speeding complaints for Rt. 153 and Village Rd. He made it known that police can only do so much. They have increased patrols in that area, and he reported he is investigating an assault on a child by another child at the elementary school, which takes precedence when these situations arise. The police department has a small staff and limited resources.

Camp Calumet will hold a 5K race on Thanksgiving and has not applied to the State for a permit. He has addressed the issue with Camp Calumet, and they will need to apply to the State to use state roads for the race in the future. Jamie also discussed charging for police details for these events.

Stacy asked the Selectboard to make a motion for a \$50,000 withdrawal from the Highway Equipment Fund for the loader because it did not make the minutes for October 21<sup>st</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. The Trustee of the Trust Funds needs the minutes to reflect the motion.

**Alan Fall made a motion to withdraw \$50,000 from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund for Equipment for the loader, motion seconded by Gary; Motion passed unanimously.**

**Town Office-** Stacy reported she had a very busy Monday getting the Voya HRA paperwork in and a right-to-know request from David Smith for Wabanaki Campground. Not having Lindsay in the office is proving to be difficult. Both were completed by days end.

Stacy reported Rod will be in the office tomorrow and explained the tax collector is very busy but is pleased with how the collection is going. The call volume and complaints are no more than any other tax cycle. Rod said the only 11/25/2024

complaints he has taken is the few the office sent him.

**Highway- Not present**

**Fire-**

**Appointment-** Scott Brooks Jr.-

Scott Brooks Jr. came before the board after Tuesday's zoning board meeting to determine whether the board was still interested in pursuing the proposed gravel pit.

Scott Jr. contacted a land use lawyer who deals with construction companies. Brook's lawyer stated the town is exempt. The town's attorney had a different opinion. Scott Jr. did not want to assume the expense of hiring an attorney if the town was not interested in moving forward. He recommended the town contact their attorney again for further information. Alan Fall said it is a conversation for the BOS when Les returns. Brooks' lawyer claims the town is exempt even if Brooks owns the pit.

**Public Comment-**

**Rich Ulrich-** commented he was at the ZBA meeting and recalled the town attorney reportedly stated in a conversation with the ZBA chair, "of course the town can do it". Then she retracted and said, "no they can't". Rich also asked if the town had to go to bid for the gravel.

Scott Brooks Jr. said that is how they got to this point because he got prices from companies to haul the gravel, which they can do cheaper. Rich responded shouldn't the town put it out to bid though. Alan Fall said not necessarily because you don't always get three bids back. He is confident that if the town got bids from Colemans and Ossipee Aggregates, it would be in excess of what the costs to do it ourselves would be. Rich said that's your opinion and supports putting the gavel out to bid to see if anyone is interested.

**Nadine Chapman-** read a letter into the minutes on behalf of Elicia Bernard and Frank Orme (see attached). The letter does not support the gravel pit RSA 674:54 was quoted.

**Jen Ulrich-** spoke in opposition to the pit.

**Betsy Barrett-** stated there had to be another way to get the gravel instead of destroying the land that is being proposed.

**Sara Florio-** Spoke out against speeding trucks. She volunteers at the Freedom Village Store and states the trucks go too fast by the store. Jamie responded he has not witnessed a logging truck going fast by the village store.

**Betsy Barrett-** the road is steep and curvy.

**Nadine Chapman-** questioned if the Cold Brook application should be discussed at this meeting if there is a conflict of interest between the selectmen and the property being owned by G.W. Brooks and where Scott Brooks Sr. is an elected official (road agent) and is the principal owner of G.W. Brooks and Scott Jr. is the spokesperson. There is something going on here that does not feel right between the selectboard and G.W. Brooks. She feels the application is before the ZBA and that is where the discussion should be.

Gary Williams stated he does not disagree with getting additional quotes for the gravel, so the landowners realize the savings. Gary said he hears what the public is saying.

Alan thanked the public and moved to the Police Budget.

**Budgets-** Jamie discussed the possibility of needing a warrant article for body cameras. He has two quotes.

Quote #1- Motorola \$27,000 (4 cameras)

Quote #2- Axon \$22,000 (4 cameras) lease program.

Cameras broadcast to a cloud and they have software to help write reports.

11/25/2024

The cruiser cameras have not been replaced for two years. The body cameras are good for interviews and helping with clearing up what was said on scene. Nobody wants both a cruiser and body cameras. The lease program is under \$5,000 a year. Computers were discussed next. Lakes Region has quoted three computers at \$3,824.00. Boca (police dog) certification is \$6,500.00 and would like to do it this year but may have to do a warrant article. Clayton is a k9 handler, and Boca needs a K9 trainer. This year's budget numbers have not been firmed up yet. No decision needs to be made tonight. The rest of the budget will remain. A K9 line will be added to the budget.

### **Planning Board-**

Linda handed out her budget for the planning board and thanked the selectboard for supporting her in her first year as chairperson.

The year has brought 7 site plan applications  
2 subdivision applications and 6 mergers of lots and lot line adjustments.

Postage line went up with anticipated increases next year. Linda reported that there is a trend in NH to use verified mail as opposed to signed receipt. The board of procedures would have to be updated to change the process.

Training and conferences no change. Budget went from \$5,350.00 to \$6,100.00

Notices- \$1,500.00

Operating-\$400.00

Heritage- no change.

### **Old Business:**

**Alan made a motion to enter nonpublic at 7:50 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation motion seconded by Williams; Roll call vote:**

**Alan Fall-yes**

**Gary -yes.**

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

***The Board reconvened the public session at 8:04 pm***

***Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: yes***

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ ***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.***

### **Consent Agenda:**

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 11/20/2024

Approved

Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 11/22/2024

Approved

Meeting Minutes 11/18/2024

Approved

11/25/2024

**Correspondence:**

Atlantic Recycling Equipment, LLC	Reviewed
Bill of Landing for Containers	Reviewed
Letter from Elicia Bernard and Frank Orme Re: Gravel Pit on Cold Brook Rd	Reviewed
Lake Region Sales Quote for PD Computers	Reviewed

Being no further input, Fall made a motion to adjourn. Williams seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.  
Adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie R. Babb

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan G. Fall

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary R. Williams

November 25, 2024

Town of Freedom, NH.  
PO Box 227  
Freedom, NH 03836

Re: Board of Selectman Meeting 11/25/24


Regarding the potential gravel pit on Cold Brook Road:

At the ZBA meeting on 11/19/24, the board read statements from the attorney that represents The Town of Freedom. It was clear that the proposed gravel pit could not be considered a town project and the application was sent back to the ZBA to decide. Ultimately, this was continued until the January meeting.

This confirms what our own attorney advised: RSA 674:54 cannot be applied because a gravel pit is not statutorily or traditionally governmental in nature.

Given what the town attorney has stated, and the fact that this proposal/application remains with the ZBA, we think it would be inappropriate for the Selectman to have any further discussion regarding a gravel pit at the Cold Brook Road location at this point and time.

Respectfully,



Elicia Bernard      Frank Orme

86 Cold Brook Road