

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 30, 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 Hall. Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Absent: Scott Brooks

Also present: Alan Libby, Jamie Mullen, Rob Cunio, Sue Hoople, Roberta Macarthy, Paul Olzerowicz, Brian & Kate Chaput, Daymond Steere, Bill Elliott, Peter Park, Jen & Rich Ulrich, Bill Carney, Lynn Presby, Heather Presby, Jen Brown.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests and the red folder containing correspondence were reviewed. **Alan made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/9/2024 & 12/16/2024 as written, Gary seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.**

Alan made a motion to recess the meeting, seconded by Gary to move the meeting to the Town Hall due to the number in attendance; Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was moved to the Town Hall due to the number of people in attendance.

Les made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 6:55 pm., motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.

Department Head Updates

Police- Jamie updated the board that the department has undergone IT updates and as a result the pistol permit software is currently down. If it is not fixed by 1/1/2025 he will get a typewriter as pistol permits are time sensitive.

The final firearms qualifications are tomorrow for anyone who missed the first one due to sickness or being out, other than that all year end reporting is completed to governmental agencies. The holidays went well but since then they have had a drug overdose. Other training that will be done in the future will be on ethics, mental health and gender bias. Updating the phone system will be a 2025 project.

Fire – the following numbers are for the past two weeks: Nine medical aids, three MVA, two service calls, one police standby/assist, and EMT class starting January 1st. He gave the board an estimate for dredging the fire pond on Scarboro Rd.

7:00 Public Hearing to accept FMEA Funds

Les opened the public hearing to accept the FEMA funds at 7:00 pm. for \$173,298.60.

Peter Park asked if the money would go into the general fund. Les responded it will go into the general fund, but it is earmarked for roads (highway).

Les made a motion to accept the FEMA funds, motion seconded by Alan; Motion passed unanimously.

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported the transfer station opened late due to ice. There were a couple of

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incidents that happened that led to the decision. Some almost ran into one of the compactors and an employee fell and hit his head.

The recyclable compactor needs a lot of work and was assessed by Atlantic today. To rebuild the compactor will cost \$12,000- \$15,000 without a piston that cost around \$4,000.00. A refurbished compactor would be \$20,000-\$27,000 with a 6-month warranty and a new compactor would be \$30,000-\$35,000 with 3-year warranty. When we decide to move the compactor Todd from Atlantic will help lay out the concrete pad and give us a price to move it.

Highway- Not present

Alan updated the board; he and Stacy will put together a Invitation to Bid on the Masonic Hall repair.

Rec Discussion-

Les opened the discussion with the background leading up to tonight's discussion that Primex would not cover a rec department position because we currently do not have a rec department. The town will also need a rec director. The board discussed a \$5,000 stipend to start.

Rob Cunio asked the intention of the program and what sports it would cover. He supports the program. Peter Park asked if the community club can still be held on town property. Nothing is changing for any of the other groups. This is just about the lack of a rec director so, the kids can participate in local sports events and the kids can use the gym under town insurance if not a school sponsored event. Currently the PTA is sponsoring a small group of kids so they can play basketball in the school gym because the school insurance would not cover this event.

Marjorie Amico questioned if she is still able to hold her open gym at the school. The board said that is between her and the school. The board has no purview over the school. But it is definitely something that could be considered under the rec department. Alan added the school is trying to bridge a gap for title nine so, kids are covered to play sports with other schools and does not see why the rec department would have to be limited to kid's activities.

Whether or not this rec department will be formed will be a warrant article for the voters to vote on at the Town Meeting. The proposed rec director position will be a \$5,000 stipend position.

Bill Carney inquired about Freedom Old Home Week. Les reiterated we are just trying to close a gap for title nine for the school.

Public Comment-

Jake Stephen updated the board that the school tuition rates are in and because they are a year behind it helped the school budget. Currently the school budget is up 1.2% which is better than anticipated.

Sue Hoople inquired if the board had any answers to her December letters that she gave them back at the beginning of the month. Les responded he just got his tonight. Sue stated that she has not gotten an answer to her previous letters either. She explained she has been emailing and texting with Gary and feels he has been diverting her to the office. She would like to get a copy of the report read at the Planning Board Meeting December 19th. She is

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