

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday February 25, 2013

Present: Leslie Babb, Scott Cunningham, Neal Boyle Selectmen; Josh Shackford, Police Chief; Justin Brooks, Fire Chief; Karen Hatch, Town Administrator; and several community members.

Meeting opened at 6:30pm. Manifests were signed and general mail was reviewed.

Members of North Broad Bay Land Trust Bill White, Gerard Constantino and Bob Smart met with the board about the North Broad Bay Road. White made reference to the 1995 agreement and 1998 plan showing the reconstruction location of a portion of the road. He stated that all they wanted was to get their cul-de-sac back. They asked if the board would just follow up to the prior board's actions and record the agreement and the plan.

Camp Robin Hood had a subdivision plan created in 2004 which currently shows a disputed land area abutting and including said cul-de-sac. There was much discussion and accusations made by White against Robin Hood; Hatch explained how this disputed area came to be and stated that at this time neither party is paying taxes; currently it is considered "owner's uncertain".

Because their request was just for the recording of the above two documents, Babb made a motion to have them recorded; Cunningham seconded and Boyle was against as he wanted to involve Robin Hood.

Hatch will try to locate the original of these two documents to have them recorded.

White now questioned ownership and Babb responded agreeing with Boyle that this will be discussed later if necessary. Land Trust members thanked the board.

R.A. Oram and Jim McElroy of the Conservation Commission met next with the board to explain a Lake Host Program Grant for the inspection of milfoil and other exotic aquatic plants on boats and trailers prior to being allowed in the lake. They have contacted the marina and they are showing support. This grant is being administered by the NH Lake Association with payment for the inspectors thru the association. McElroy explained that there is a soft match which could be met through volunteers. The board is in favor of this and asked McElroy to verify if there were any stipulations to the grant.

Babb asked for public comment and Brett Buggein the Chief Operating Officer with Tarpon Towers, LLC gave an update on the cell tower project. He explained that they are intent on finishing the project. Work has stopped for the winter but the site will be monitored by them, White Mountain Survey and Engineering and Klumb Environmental.

Boyle inquired about the mounting of the town's equipment on the tower, Buggein was informed by Fire Chief Brooks that we have had the repeater and was just waiting for the tower. They are in agreement that they will mount the equipment.

They will be looking to ask for a 2/3 reduction in their letter of credit. Where this is just public comment they have been put on the agenda for next week.

Police Chief Shackford stated that he had a deposition tomorrow in Manchester and the past week had seen several domestic issues.

Fire Chief Brooks reported that the rescue bay door's motor system has been installed at the Public Safety Building. They had responded to several medical calls and chimney fires. Brooks also reported that the Transfer Station is quiet.

Road Agent Scott Brooks joined the meeting and announced that all equipment is working and we have the necessary sand and salt for the impending storm this week.

Hatch had a request from the moderator Don Johnson to meet with him next week at 6pm. Board agreed to start the meeting early to accommodate the request.

J. Brooks asked if there was to be an information meeting prior to town meeting. He stated that this has been beneficial in the past. The board agreed to have the meeting on Sunday the 10th at 2pm at town hall.

Scott Cunningham next addressed some highway issues that had arisen. He gave a bit of back history of the Highway Committee being created and the work that they had performed.

He stated that there had been some implication that the road agent was filling his personal hired trucks at the town pumps. He had met with Brooks and reviewed all records to find that there were worksheets and supporting documentation that the town has always been reimbursed for all gallons with the exception of the one tank per week for patrol duty that was allowed.

Any maintenance of an emergency nature done on leased equipment has been reimbursed by the equipment owners. One major truck rear end rebuild was done after the crew had completed their 40 hour week and they were paid directly by the truck owner. This compensation and the reimbursement of fuel were deducted from the hourly rental rate prior to submitting for payment.

Cunningham commented on the great quality of the work with few complaints. Cunningham also stated that the town is still using the 2006 equipment rental rates, approved by a prior board and that policy has evolved but could be reviewed.

Scott Brooks also spoke and gave prior history on the rental of the G.W.Brooks trucks. Years back before the town had equipment; those trucks were always there on call for any emergency.

Cunningham did note that the taxes on the fuel had not been figured in as the town pays no taxes on fuels. For 2012 this would amount to approximately \$230 dollars, but appeared that the Select Boards had blessed the non payment of these taxes. Prior legal advice had been that when non taxed fuel was used in leased truck for town business no tax was due. It now appears that the state has an opposite view and we have been advised to stop this practice. In the future taxes will be paid by the equipment owners on all non tax fuel, if any, used in leased trucks.

A statement will be drafted regarding the highway policies that the Selectmen will sign and make available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Leslie R. Babb

Scott M. Cunningham

Neal E. Boyle