

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting, Town of Freedom, NH 03836
Monday, April 22, 2013**

Present: Neal Boyle, Leslie Babb, Ernie Day, Jr. Selectmen; Scott Brooks, Road Agent; Linda Farinella, Administrative Assistant; members of the community

Meeting opened at 6:30pm.

Babb opened the meeting to public comment.

Boyle spoke with the Elementary School principal and she hopes that the Selectmen will again join in the Memorial Day activities and have a Selectmen's meeting at the school during school hours.

Boyle began the bid opening for 2013 Summer Grounds Maintenance, there were two bids:

Freedom Landscaping: \$3,020.00

Welch Landscaping & Property Management: \$2,977.00

Both bids met the criteria and included certificates of insurance. Motion by Babb, seconded by Day to award Welch Landscaping & Property Management the bid. The motion passed unanimously.

Boyle asked if there were any public comments.

Rob Hatch, FAC Chairman, made a comment regarding bidding policies. He asked the Board to consider the difference of bidding commodities versus services. Using a forester as an example, it could take 3-4 years for a new individual to wrap their head around the restrictions and stewardship plan and all the info that comes with it. It would be difficult to do an apples to apples comparison.

Boyle asked if there were any department head updates.

Scott Brooks, Road Agent, informed the Board that all postings for roads came down this afternoon. Brooks added he will be headed to Concord soon to pick up some new signs.

Brooks informed the Board that the 1-ton dump frame has holes in the floor of the body. The truck is 6-7 years old and has been damaged by the salt. This vehicle is due to be replaced in 2014 and Brooks would like to see into getting a stainless steel frame on the new one. Also, Brooks hopes to look into having a body that dumps.

Farinella informed the Board for Karen Hatch that the auditors have been in the office. They were relocated from the upstairs office because of a wasp infestation to down in the

Town Clerk's office; the space was cramped for them. There was also an issue that we did not have an internet connection available for their use.

The Board discussed policies. Each member received a copy of the Local Government Center's publication "Basic Financial Policies" 2009 edition for review. Discussion will be placed on next week's agenda.

Boyle was pleased to hear the wi-fi at the Town Hall is set up and would like to see it made available at the Town Offices too, however, he has a concern of security issues. Boyle would like to see this come up for discussion in two weeks.

The Board received a formal written request from the cell tower company Florida Tower Partners requesting a reduction in the amount of the Letter of Credit. They have requested a reduction from \$403,361.00 to \$120,038.30.

Babb has spoken with Attorney John Ratigan and Engineer Mark Lucy. The Town has received an estimate for completion of \$222,316.00.

Motion by Boyle, seconded by Day that based on the discrepancy between the tower company request and the report by Mark Lucy and based on the history of dealings with the tower company, the letter of credit shall not be reduced and will be left at \$403,361.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Boyle made a motion at 7:46pm to enter non public session under RSA 91-A:3II(e). Returned to open session at 7:59 pm.

Babb, as the Selectmen's representative for the tower company, has the permission of the Board to have Attorney John Ratigan inform the tower company in writing that the Board has voted to not reduce the letter of credit, keeping it at \$403,361.00 and to inform the company that the road bans have been lifted. All agreed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Neal E. Boyle

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.