

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
October 26, 2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbot, Travis Price, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Waterman and Amanda Jamison

FVFD:

Food Security –

Jim reported on the USDA food distribution that took place at Mt. View on 10/24. They will be doing another food distribution event on 10/30 giving away boxes of food. There is no income eligibility requirement.

Jim is willing to help distribute boxes of food to Freedom from Waldo CAPs Neighbor Warming Neighbor program that takes place in November.

Jim also mentioned that Freedom residents can go to Jackson Food Pantry.

Contact with residents – Jim made contact with two Freedom residents. He dropped off a box of food and checked on the residents.

Jim reported that the Interstate Fire Extinguisher Company is coming in November. No update on the truck.

Public Works:

Montville recycling – Travis reported that Montville's recycling truck is not working. Freedom's trash truck ended up picking up Montville's recycling. There was an extra ton and a half on the trash truck from Montville's recycling. Ron doesn't think Montville plans to keep putting recycling in garbage. Ron suggested determining how much they are shipping, and if it is beyond what the town of Freedom negotiated with Montville to haul, perhaps the contract needs to be renegotiated. Ron will talk with Montville Select Board to find out what is going on.

Travis asked if the Select Board would approve overtime pay in order to get the plows on the trucks in anticipation of snow coming. Overtime may be needed since the Public Works department is currently renting mulching equipment and an excavator doing other work that needs to get done ditching the roads. Overtime pay was approved.

Travis reported that a bed chain was ordered for Truck #8 at \$1,150 from Ben Reynolds.

Travis reported that the bill for the excavator rental should be coming out of the winter budget line.

Steve spoke about the 3 or 4 mailboxes that are leaning backwards on the Greeley Road. Steve talked with John from the Post Office and found out that the Post Office is responsible for the posts to keep them upright and straight. Freedom's Public Works Department has already gone and fixed the ruts in the shoulder of the road twice. Steve said he would also speak with Joe at the Post Office to clarify whose responsibility this is.

Steve spoke with John about the possibility of increasing hours at the Freedom Post Office. Steve reported that John said that is not possible because revenue is decreasing. Steve reported about the water stains on ceiling and that someone from Freedom would go look at it.

Steve reported that when the lease was renegotiated with USPS, it will increase to \$12/foot next year. The lease states that the USPS pays for all expenses in regards to operating the building and the Town

of Freedom pays for repairs to the building. Steve reported that from leasing the building to the USPS, Freedom will get around \$9,400 after an approximate \$1,200 in expenses for one year.

Citizens' Issues: Steve and Elaine reported that they worked with four local teenagers in cleaning up the Skidgell Property. They all worked one Saturday from 9:30am – 12:30pm, and that the kids did a fantastic job. They worked the entire time and got so much done. Elaine will write a letter of appreciation to the children.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported the payroll amount of \$5222.35 and the AP amount of \$21,515.08. Included in the AP amount is the \$16,992.67 check for DECD. The check needs to be voided at this time until town receives reimbursement check from DECD. Also the total grant amount of \$214,000, the town needs to submit \$8.00 more in receipts. Then the town can have a final meeting with DECD and then close out the grant.

Steve makes a motion to approve payroll warrant and the AP warrant. Ron seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Secretary position: Discussion to include in the position description the responsibilities to set up Zoom. Steve makes a motion to amend 2020 wage sheet to say "Select Board Secretary" and to amend wages from \$12/hour to \$15/hour. Elaine seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Steve seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Town Official Reports:

Planning Board – Elaine reported that she emailed Prentice and let him know the Planning Board minutes need to be sent to Select Board after their meetings.

Recreation Committee – Hosting a Drive Thru Trick or Treat on Friday the 30th from 3:30pm – 5pm.

Budget Committee – Next meeting is 10/28 at 7pm

Old Business:

Ron talked about the account summary and chart of accounts needing to align better. Need a work session with Select Board and Treasurer. Cindy suggests that Erna be there too.

Cindy asked for permission for the Recreation Committee to use the town's credit card to purchase candy for 10/30 event. Ron makes motion for Rec. Committee to use credit card to purchase candy for Trunk or Treat. Elaine seconds it. Unanimous.

Cindy has been working on absentee ballots. 203 requested so far, 166 returned.

Cindy mentioned a Freedom of Access Training for Select Board. \$35.00/person to participate.

Cindy mentioned she completed a training on the Trio program. This will help her to respond quickly to the different requests from town's people throughout the day having multiple windows open to operate the computer program faster.

New Business:

Elaine spoke about the need to have the Town's website reflect current Town Office hours. Those need to be updated.

Elaine wondered about a "Welcome" packet for new residents? Cindy gives Town Report to new residents. Ron suggested that would be nice if Elaine wanted to write something.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm