

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 9, 2020

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

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

FVFD – Jim reported that Truck #2 is back in service tonight. Jim will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets, but that program will be run differently this year. Jim is figuring out how it will work. Jim reported on the Anderson house that Ron has processed the letter.

Steve received a letter from MMA that stated concern about eye wash station that is broken. Ron said that he ordered parts a month ago from N.H. Bragg and is still waiting to receive them. Ron looked into buying a new eye wash station, but it is expensive. Ron will get the eye wash station fixed.

Public Works – Travis said he will be meeting with Dave Bennett, where the Public Works department has been doing road work, to flush out culverts on Thursday morning. Elaine thanked Travis for all the work that has been done on the Skidgell lot. Steve asked if Travis has talked with Mr. Bagley? Travis said that he had not, but would go to Mr. Bagley's house this evening.

Ron made a motion to accept Select Board Minutes from November 2nd meeting. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron reported that he is meeting Jacki Robbins next Monday to look at the property on N. Palermo Rd.

Citizen's Issues – Nathan McCann expressed that the Select Board is acting in an undemocratic way by requiring masks in Town buildings. He expressed his thoughts that the Coronavirus is no more serious than a common cold. He wanted to make sure his concerns would be recorded in the Select Board minutes.

Ron took a moment to congratulate Cindy and the Election Committee for a professionally run election. He commended them for taking on the responsibility of the election and for a job well done. It was reported that 464 ballots were cast in Freedom. Steve added that Cindy's leadership has been great. He appreciated that Cindy convinced the Select Board to install a drop box and that Cindy rose to the occasion. Elaine added that she owed Cindy an apology for thinking the drop box would not be used that much. Elaine said it was used and that the Select Board and town are lucky to have Cindy on the staff.

Ron asked if Elaine heard anything from MMA in regards to premiums for next year. Cindy said a letter arrived today from MMA and put it in Elaine's box.

Town Clerk – Cindy reported that the supplemental tax bill is in Ron's box. Ron said the Board will have to go in and sign it. Cindy reported that one property owner was given the Homestead exemption but has not lived there for a year. She asked the Select Board what they would like to do. The Select Board said that the property owner is not entitled to that exemption until that person has lived there for a year and that \$512.50 is owed to the Town.

Treasurer – Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,555.01. AP Warrant in the amount of \$156,395.33 includes the Tan Payment and the School Payment. \$534,141.01 is in checking.

Discussion about the Chart of Accounts. Select Board has desire to change the Chart of Accounts to make the Chart of Accounts easier to understand for everyone and to present to town's people. Alyssa said this takes time to make these changes, not something she can just do on December 31st to have ready for January 1st. Alyssa said that the changes she and Erna made to equipment lines are all tracked in the journal entries. Steve did not think these changes would be done until January 1st. Ron stated that he is not sure how many other accounts may want to be changed so that they are easier to read. These changes would not be figured out until the budgeting process is finished. Ron also stated though, that there is the reality that the changes take time for personnel to complete. Ron thought it would be good to get some help with this from someone from Trio. Elaine thought getting advice and help from Trio would be good too. Steve will call Trio and the Auditor to find out how much each would charge in order to get recommendations from them on how best to handle this.

Steve asked if the money came from the State? Alyssa reported no, not at time of finishing AP Warrant. Ron asked how much is coming? Alyssa said a little over \$15,000. Steve asked if Alyssa had sent the Town's liability coverage to Terri Ann? Alyssa said, no, she would do it tomorrow morning. Steve said he would call Terri Ann tomorrow morning to check on the final payment. It was confirmed that the final call to complete this grant will be on Thursday the 18th at 3:30pm.

Elaine made a motion to pay AP Warrant in the amount of \$156,395.33 and pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,555.01. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Solid Waste – Ron stated that Montville wants to use the recycling trailer again. Montville is exploring other options as well to transport their recycling. Ron said that the Board should be thinking about the whether the Town wants to rent out the trailer, if Montville approaches the Town.

Planning Board – Not meeting this month.

Historical Society – Ron reported they are having problems with their computer.

Recreation Committee – Cindy reported about the upcoming Veteran's Day Ceremony. It would be simple, outdoors, raise the flags, prayer and laying of the wreath. Elaine suggested trying to connect with younger Veterans in town.

Budget Committee – Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 6pm. The major discussion will be Public Works.

Old Business – Ron and Jim met with DEP at Anderson House. Ron clarified that any old building that needs to be done away with, DEP has tightened the restrictions on being able to burn them. It is now very hard to get permission to burn old buildings. And it is very expensive to get rid of them. Ron stated the Select Board should be aware that if the Town takes possession of land with old buildings, it will be hard to get rid of the building(s) and expensive. If the Town does not want to take possession of building, the Town needs to file a form with the registry of deeds that you have no interest in the property prior to the property being foreclosed, which happens after three years of not paying taxes.

Property on Greeley Road – Cindy said to let her talk with Trio so it gets turned over to the town.

Banks and Knight buildings – Steve will call Bill Kelly to find out when the Town needed to file the form. The property will have three years of unpaid taxes on November 30th.

Ron said there will be a workshop in executive session on November 18th at 1pm to work on Personnel Policies.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve 2nd. Meeting adjourned 7:39pm.