

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 23, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Phil Bloomstein, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, Joe Freeman and Amanda Jamison

Public Works: Travis wondered if Damion could use a week's vacation time and 24 hour of sick time. He has worked for over a year. Travis and Damon both worked on Veteran's Day. Travis added eight hours in for his week's pay b/c he worked Veteran's Day. How to record it? Bill it to Sick time, Holidays, Annual Leave/Vacation Time? Alyssa recorded it as 8 hours of sick time. Paid Damion for 37.5 hours.

Policy says that a holiday can be used another day. If they worked a holiday, those hours should be taken another day. They need to be used by the end of the year. Ron said both Travis and Damion have one paid holiday banked and need to take it prior to the end of the year. Travis asked if he could take one day a week off until the end of the year to use up his vacation time. Travis stated that the equipment is in good shape and if they have to come in, they will come in. Travis would try to take a day off a week that was convenient with the weather and the scheduling. Elaine made a motion that Travis and Damion take their earned vacation time until the end of the year. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Travis got pricing for 20 feet, 4' plastic culverts at \$1,735 and 5' plastic culverts at \$2338 each. This was a quote from Viking. For the job that these culverts are needed for, the length is 40', so the town would need to purchase two. Steve asked what the cost would be to rent an excavator, Travis said not necessary, if he is just putting one culvert in, he could do it himself with the Town's equipment. Total \$4,600 in budget for culverts to cover Raven Road. Travis thought an additional \$1,000 in budget for 15' driveway culverts would cover four culverts. So instead put in total \$5,700 in budget for culverts.

The whole job for Raven Rd. is \$7,500 including labor, culvert and rip rap.

Travis is trying to not spend any more for the rest of the year except for wages. He will need to buy salt.

FVFD; Jim dropped off bill for the N95 masks. \$545.00 total for N95 masks. On Friday Jim delivered 18 baskets of the Farmer to Family baskets to Freedom residents. Neighbor Warming Neighbor baskets, Jim delivered 4 to residents. Jim asked what day will be the fire department be discussed at the Budget Committee meeting? Steve wasn't quite sure. Jim asked for a head's up with a few weeks lead time to know when he'd need to meet the Budget Committee.

Citizen's Concerns: Phil Bloomstein asked about the recycling center's budget for next year. How does that process go? Is it presented to the budget committee? Ron said that the recycling center has figured out what the bill is for the Town and brings it to town and we pay it. Phil said if the tentative budget increases it would be an increase of \$1,100 for the year. This increase is mostly reflected in the wages. Phil asked the S.B. what they thought of the increase? Phil wondered if he or Meredith should attend a budget meeting? Steve said at least one of you

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should attend. Phil said the recycling center is meeting again soon to look at its budget with the possibility of reducing that increase amount. Phil wanted to let the S.B know what is up with Recycling Center budget.

MRC: Phil wondered if we have any deadlines with MRC? Some of this garbage is going to the landfill. Phil wondered if the town wanted to put pressure on MRC to switch over to Perc? If so, to let Phil know, so that garbage is not going into a landfill. The Town has a 15 year contract with MRC to represent us to take care of our solid waste. Phil asked how long do we give MRC to see if they come up with something with Fiberight? A full member meeting with MRC is coming up in December. Phil can bring up that the town may want to switch to Perc because they should be doing something different. Ron mentioned that MRC and Perc have some sort of agreement between the two of them. Ron didn't think it would be easy to just switch. Ron agreed that it would be good to apply pressure on MRC.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported that the Payroll Warrant in the amount of 6,330.50 and AP Warrant in the amount of \$14,705.45 included large bill from fire department. Therefore \$496,773 is the ending checkbook balance.

Steve asked if we should make another Tan Payment and another School Payment? Still owe School Payment for November and December. Ron said we should make a Tan Payment next week. Ron said if we pay \$100,000 to Tan, that is as low as he wants to see the General Fund go. The total payoff for the Tan Payment was thought to be \$129,000. If we pay \$129,000, then Tan would be paid off. Ron would like to see the Tan payment on our Select Board All Accounts schedule.

School Commitment should be changed in the accounts. It is a different amount.

County Commitment should be changed in the accounts. It is a different amount. Steve said on All Accounts the Tan Bond, there is a name change from repayment to bond. Alyssa will check on this tomorrow.

Ron made motion to accept Payroll Warrant \$6330.50 and AP Warrant of \$14,705.45 Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy reported that The Town has collected \$49,114.78 less in excise tax to date compared with last year. Steve wondered if Cindy is expecting more people to pay their excise taxes soon? Elaine suggested Cindy look into what the Governor's mandate is in regards to excise tax. Is there now a due date? And if so put that on the Town's facebook page so people start paying. Cindy wasn't sure that she could say that. Elaine said she would look into if there is an exact date that those excise taxes need to be paid.

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Jacki Robbins had a couple abatements. Cindy will leave those out for them to sign in the morning. Cindy wondered what they wanted to do with those? Ron said that since Jacki has signed the abatements, they must be correct. But Ron will check with Jacki first. Ron made a motion if Jacki approves and gives him the right answers, they sign them. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve wondered if anyone has heard from the landowner that had the survey done that says he owns 25 acres instead of 50. Cindy said the landowner would bring in the survey, if the S.B. would like to see the survey.

2018 taxes: Cindy reported that ten accounts are owed by November 30th, otherwise they become Town property on Dec. 1st. Cindy has talked with 7 of them. Elaine left notices in the door of the other three. Cindy does have some of them coming this week to pay.

Cindy reported that if the Town Meeting is held in March, as is typically done, that would mean this year there would be Election of Officers on March 12 and Town Meeting on March 13th. Therefore, nominations papers will be available Dec. 12th which is a Saturday – so they'll be available the following Monday morning the 14th.

Steve asked about how would we schedule a Town Meeting? Where would we meet? Ron said we can have an election of officers and postpone the town meeting to a later date until it is comfortable to meet outside. Steve asked is that legal? It is called a bifurcation town meeting. Ron said he would like to run that by Kelly or MMA to make sure. Elaine wondered if we could go through all the warrants while people come to elect officers. Ron said he thought we should still have the secret ballot vote in March and have the town meeting later in the year.

Cindy sent an email about another town and how they opened their town office. There was an electronic device to open the door. Right now the Town Office door is kept locked. Cindy has to go and unlock it. Cindy said this electronic device with an intercom was installed for \$650 by a locksmith so that Town Clerk could remotely unlock it and let one person in at a time and then it locks behind them. Ron suggested finding out who installed this and contact the Town's locksmith to find out what something like this would cost to install.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman reported that he picked up a total of 81, 55 gallon bags last week. Picked up 145, 30 gallon bags. Town made \$339.00 for this. Joe said if you charge double stickers on those 55 gallon bags, the town could make 82.50 more. Ron asked if the bags are heavy? Joe said, yes they are. He thinks people might be putting two or three 30 gallon bags in one 55 gallon bag. Cindy said we need to put out a mailing about election stuff, so we could include information about trash stickers. Cindy said the mailing would need to go out next week to let people know about election and nomination papers. This would depend on what you find out from Bill Kelly in regards to the election and Town Meeting. Joe is going to keep track of how many 30 gallon and 55 gallon bags get thrown out using one trash sticker for the next five weeks. Joe recommended that the Town of Montville should pay the tipping fee. Ron suggested

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we should go through the contract with Montville for the year and assess whether the contract works for the town or not. Ron suggested another option would be to say we no longer pick up 55 gallon bags. Elaine remembered that the town said it would not take 55 gallon bags, but people still used 55 gallon bags. The S.B. said they would like to make a decision next week. Joe said he would report again next week what the trash pickup is.

New Business: Steve trying to reach someone at Revision.

Budget: Steve stated his biggest concern that when the budget is done, we get a warrant that matches to a tee the Chart of Accounts. Steve talked with Alyssa about this. Alyssa wanted to make sure we are on the same page, that we can go back to Bernice for additional training. Alyssa stated that for end of year budget stuff and finalize things that she found, Alyssa would need to drive to Orrs Island to meet with Bernice. Alyssa wanted to get approval to use the money in the training line to get additional training from her. All three S.B. thought this was a good idea for Alyssa to get training. Steve said that in the Chart of Accounts, the changes are done for the Public Works lines.

Ron makes motion to grant Alyssa permission to utilize Bernice to get where we want to be with the chart of accounts and budget. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Cindy stated that the town office needs a decent vacuum cleaner. Cindy wondered if she could look on Black Friday for a vacuum cleaner. Elaine asked what is the budget? Alyssa said \$250 - \$300 for a new vacuum cleaner. Ron asked what line would this expenditure be taken out of? Cindy said the cleaning line. Steve said there is \$486 left but that is for labor. Steve said there is \$1,500 left in a cleaning line. Ron makes a motion to authorize people in charge of getting a vacuum cleaner up to \$400 to get a good vacuum cleaner. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Insurance Rep for town will be at the town office at noon tomorrow.

Motion to adjourn at 7:41pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Budget Committee, Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6pm