

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 30, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Dylan Turner, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Jason Young, April Turner, Palmer Pearson and Amanda Jamison

Meeting began at 6:05pm

Public Works: Travis says he won't be able to use up his vacation time unless he takes two days off a week. Elaine said that is why she put in the motion last week that you'd take the vacation at your discretion. Steve said yes, he can take it, as long as Travis is there when we need you like a snow day. Ron said he didn't have a problem with it.

Employee Insurance: For 2021, there are three employees interested in receiving the town's health benefits. Travis turned in paperwork to get health insurance again and will add vision coverage. Damion has been employed for over a year and is now eligible for health insurance. He will utilize the health insurance and dental coverage. Travis and Damion's policies will begin on December 1st. The Town pays a percentage of the health insurance, vision and dental not funded by the town. Cindy will also utilize the health insurance benefit. Her policy will begin January 1, 2021.

Ron introduced Jason Young, the owner of the Bangs and Knights building. Ron received a call from Jason earlier in the day. Jason said he saw the sign on the building saying that no one can enter the building. He was concerned about that and wanted to gain access. Elaine asked what are your plans for the building? Jason said he was originally contracted to take the building down. As of now, he doesn't know if he will take the building down, maybe it will come to that. Jason said he needs to talk with a structural engineer but they come at a price. He would like to keep the building intact. He said Jacki Robbins mentioned the debilitated footings. Steve feels that the building on the left as you face the buildings from the street is not safe to enter, and he does not want anyone to go into it and urged Jason that he needs to do something about the building. Ron said the CEO, Jacki Robbins, has inspected the building. She has deemed it unsafe. Ron suggested that he should follow up with a structural engineer and work along with Jacki and come up with a plan.

FVFD – Jim was just at an accident at the Stevens Road. No injuries but a damaged car. Jim mentioned he would like to resolve gas account at Freedom General Store. Elaine said that after researching this, there are missing receipts. Elaine sent Freedom General a letter that until the town receives the receipts, Elaine considers the account closed. Steve has heard also that this is a general account for the town. Jim said the town account for the trucks was a different account. This, now closed account was just for fire department for gas and oil. Travis wondered if Jim wanted to coordinate if there is tree work to do with the current storm? Jim said if any trees down that don't include electricity, then the fire department will take care of it.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 30, 2020

Citizen's Issues: Nathan had thoughts about the discussion in regards to the trash stickers. Nathan thought this would be great to bring this entire issue to the town, so the town could decide.

Palmer Pearson asked about his tax bill. When do they come out, because he has not received his? Cindy said that they came out in the summer and were due Oct. 1st. Cindy explained that the mailing address she has to send the tax bill is an address in Massachusetts. Cindy explained that the office does not automatically change an address to the local address. In order to change the address, she needs to receive a written change of address from the property owner. Palmer expressed that he would not like have to pay the interest on the tax bill, since he never received it. Cindy said that State law says that is the landowners responsibility to pay their bill. Cindy said that he needs to send an email, so that it is in writing, to the office so that the address can be changed with Cindy and Jacki. The other issue Palmer brought up was the amount of tax on his property. He asked Jacki about why the previous owner paid \$3000 and now he pays over \$6000. Palmer explained that Jacki said she had not realized there is a large building on the property for previous tax bills. Therefore, the assessment went up. He said the building is an open shell building. Wondering why it is being assessed at that amount? Cindy offered to meet Palmer at the Town Office to figure out about the tax bill and address change. Steve suggested Palmer speak to Jacki to talk about the building, if you feel like it is assessed wrong. Then you can file an abatement, if necessary.

Steve made a motion to accept the Select Board minutes from 11/23/20 as written. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa said the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$7345.86 and the AP Warrant is in the amount of \$133,199.37. This amount includes the final Tan Payment. The ending checkbook balance is \$382,516.21.

Alyssa reported that the town received two checks, one from MRC and the other from State of Maine Revenue Sharing.

Alyssa said that currently the figures being used for the School and County bills are from the 2019 Town Report. Alyssa understood this was not the way the Select Board wanted these figures reported in the Select Board All Accounts but instead wanted the actual bills.

Ron made a motion that the Select Board All Accounts reflect the current bills for the fiscal year for the School and County Bills, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to approve \$7,345.86 payroll warrant and the \$133,199.37 AP warrant, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy reported that from 2018 taxes, there is one to abate. It is accounts 769 and 452. The land was in one name and the trailer in another, therefore two accounts. When the land was sold, the new owner put the trailer and land on the same account. Therefore, 452 is the current account for both the land and the trailer and account 769 is no

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 30, 2020

longer active. Sean Murry and Sarah Potter currently own it. There was a duplicate bill for the just the trailer itself. Ron made a motion to sign the abatements which will delete Account 769. Abate the principal and the interest and the cost is written off . Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Cindy said there is a supplemental for Driftwood which is Palmer Pearson's property. He was not entitled to homestead exemption. Jacki will have abatement to me in a few days for a small shed on his property. Cindy said she is willing to sit with Palmer tomorrow at 1pm to show him all his taxes. Ron suggested let's hold off on any supplemental until he is agreeable with where we are at.

Taxes: Cindy stated Sean Gilley check is in the mail and that there is one other account that the Select Board needs to talk about tonight. Then all the taxes will be taken care of.

Local registrations: Cindy will update the Town's facebook page with current deadline dates to register vehicles per the Governor's updated mandate.

Cindy reminded the Select Board to begin to think about who they want to honor for the Spirit of America tribute for 2020. Cindy wondered if the Board wanted to nominate an individual or a group. Cindy said they need to come up with that by no later than the end of January 2021. Elaine suggested that each board member come up with a name or two for the Spirit of America. Then get together for a workshop to discuss the names and decide.

Elaine made a motion to go into Executive Session MRSA 405(6)E legal consultation Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to restart the 45 day foreclosure notice for tax issues. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Old Business: Steve went down on the Sanford Hill Lane. Just when you start up the hill, the lane is gated. Steve wasn't sure but the owners may be in their right, the way the road was closed in 1945. This road was discontinued. Most roads are discontinued for maintenance but remain available for the public. Ron asked if there have been any complaints? Steve said no.

New Business: Marie Overlock would like to have a key to the election hall
Ron made a motion to give her a key to the election hall so she can work on digitizing. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm Ron, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.