

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
December 14, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Joe Freeman, Jim Waterman, Dylan Turner, Nathan McCann, April Turner, Palmer Pearson and Amanda Jamison, who is AMDM?

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

FVFD: Jim said this coming Friday he'll deliver 30 USDA food boxes to Freedom residents. On Saturday, Waldo Cap is delivering to Jim 21 boxes from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.

Jim is having a business meeting this evening at the fire department at 7pm.

Public Works: Travis reported that in total there was 7.5 tons of garbage this week from both Freedom and Montville trash runs. The department is going to go back to just having one pick up from each town and then go to the landfill. The garbage will be taken to the landfill on Mondays.

Travis reported that there are two different residents parking close to or in the road. This is very dangerous during storms when the Public Works department is plowing. Steve said he will talk with both of these residents about this.

Travis will meet with Paul Woodbury on 12/15. Paul is a local contractor that will give Travis an estimate on labor for the addition proposed for the Public Works garage.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa said the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$2,653.86. The AP Warrant is in the amount of \$75,659.23. The AP Warrant includes the November school payment. Ending checkbook balance is \$350,775.76.

Alyssa asked where she should account for the Beaver Ridge Wind donation? It was agreed to create a new line on the last page of the Select Board All Accounts. Elaine thought accounting for it this way makes it easier to keep track of it.

Humane Society question from last week, Alyssa reported that the first quarter check the town paid in 2020 was accounted for as a donation instead of the quarterly payment. Alyssa said the Town can be reimbursed or apply it to 2021. All Select Board members in favor of applying it to the first quarter payment of 2021.

Elaine made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$2,653.86 and pay the AP Warrant in the amount of \$75,659.23. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy sent an email to Select Board with the flyer that will be sent out to residents tomorrow. Mailing includes information about the Town Meeting, winter roads policy, Belfast soup kitchen, information about the recreation committee.

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Cindy sent the Select Board the information about the abatement for Palmer Pearson in the amount of \$275.60. Ron made a motion to accept the abatement, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Elaine asked Cindy if the Town Office found a good vacuum cleaner. Cindy said yes, and they have used it, and it works well.

Cindy said there needs to be a place to put sand or salt to do the walkways to the election hall. Travis suggested giving a key to Blake for the Voting Hall and keep the buckets in the Voting Hall. Cindy is going to check to see if there is an extra key to give to Blake. Steve made a motion to authorize Cindy to make more keys, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman said cutting those trees back was a lifesaver. He didn't lose power. Ron let Joe know that 55 gallon bags need to have two trash stickers on them on January 7th. Ron said there is a new resident 119 Palermo Rd that will need to have their trash picked up.

Steve talked about an article Ron sent him about a cargo ship from Ireland loaded with 3,000 pound bales of plastic, hit rough tides, spilled into Penobscot Bay. This ship was headed for PERC to dispose of this plastic. PERC incinerates the waste and turns it into electricity. Freedom is a member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) that shipped solid waste to Fiberight for a short time prior to Fiberight's closure. Now Freedom's waste goes to a landfill. Steve reported this is the first time in over three decades that the Town's waste has gone to a landfill. Steve thinks it is time to take action as a town to change contract with MRC, since MRC is not doing what they said they'd do when the Town signed the contract with MRC. Ron agreed that it is time to get out of contract with MRC and time to take action. Ron thinks a first step would be to contact other towns who are part of the Municipal Review Committee.

Citizen Issues:

Nathan McCann asked if information about the nomination papers will be on the upcoming mailing from the Town? Cindy said yes.

Steve reported that he received a call from a townsperson to inquire about whether she would need a permit to do a candlelight walk by of someone's home on the Rollins Road? The person said there would be about ten to fifteen people singing and carrying candles. Steve didn't know of any permit needed or think there was a problem with this. Ron asked if this is going to happen after dark? Steve said he thought so and told the person that they needed to carry lights. The specific date of this was not known.

Steve received a call from someone from the Peace Ridge Sanctuary. They have bought 600 plus acres from Basil Barnes. Their intent is to create an equine center. Steve wanted to make the Select Board aware of this.

Correspondence: Ron did fill out the survey regarding the speed sign from DOT.

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Steve made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron reported that the town has received information from MMA in regards to masks and updated guidance about that masks are mandatory in any public space.

Recreation Committee: Cindy said there will be information in the mailing that people can vote on their favorite decorations in town.

Budget Committee: meeting on 12/16 at 6pm

Old Business: Recycling Trailer. Ron reported that Montville has had it over a month. They would like to keep using it. Ron made it clear with them that Freedom would need to start charging. Ron asked what to charge as a rental fee? It was suggested \$25/week. Travis asked who is in charge of the maintenance of the trailer? Ron said that they are. Joe asked do they pay all the repairs? Ron said yes.

Ron made a motion to charge Montville \$25 per week starting this week, and that the Town of Montville is responsible for all the maintenance, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

New Business: Ron said there has been a request from Blake, he would like to see the town invest in a snow blower. Ron has thought that the shoveling that is needed around the Town Office, would benefit from a snow blower. Ron thinks the snow blower could fit in the shed where the lawn mower is. Steve asked how much would it cost? Ron said it would cost \$950. Steve thinks the Budget Committee should take a look at the budget under Grounds and Building Maintenance lines. Elaine wondered about finding the money in the cleaning line for the Town Office. The SB decided to talk more about this on Wednesday, the 16th at the Budget Committee.

April Turner let the SB know that the Freedom Church is looking for referrals of people that might need assistance during the holidays. Ron suggested that April should contact Jim Waterman.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.