

Freedom Select Board

4/6/2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Watermen, Cindy Abbott, Nathan McCann, Francis Walker, Ron Price, Travis Price, Dylan and Billie Jo Turner, Ann Marie Adamson, and Brian Jones.

Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Citizen concerns: There is concern that the general public cannot access the town office and meetings to express concerns. Ron feels the town is doing their best to reach everyone and make sure people are safe and getting what they need. The town has Zoom conferences open to the public, Jim Watermen has set up a call list, the phone lines are open for comments, the town has created a Facebook page and continues to work on making the needed improvements during this time of uncertainty. Another concern is the public boat landing, should the town shut it off for now? For now the feeling is to keep the boat launch open, for town will not put in the dock for swimming.

Another concern is local business' not complying with the social distancing guidelines. Perhaps someone could speak to them about setting up barriers, etc. Another concern is how will the town reach all towns people instantly if people needed to be notified immediately? If there was information that the whole town needed the county/state and news would take over.

Fire Chief Jim Watermen reports he had a long conversation with Dale Rowley and Olga Rumney from EMA. Cindy also has access to D4H live, shows food pantries, etc. Tonight the FVFD is doing a monthly truck check, and then dismissing.

Reusable masks are available for purchase, the link will be posted on the Town Facebook page.

Steve asked Jim while he was attending the meeting what part of the Fire Department budget could be placed on hold for a time. He asked Jim which areas he would think best? Jim will review his budget and get back to the Select Board. This question is being asked of all departments.

Public Works director Travis Price talked about what work he would suggest putting on hold for now. The Select Board believes putting a hold on the Smithton Road project to

start. After that, there is labor and diesel fuel costs. Travis has done a lot of the equipment work since there has not been a lot of snow recently. If Smithton doesn't happen, there are other projects, painting the trash truck, minor work on roads, etc. Review of Public Works budget and where possible holds can take place if needed, prioritizing work that is primarily labor. Nothing has been solidified, there will be further discussion for how the town can prioritize the budget going forward.

Select Board will be having a workshop Wednesday, April 8th from 9:30 - 11:30 via Zoom. During this workshop they will discuss the TAN application, and prioritizing the budget. This will be open to the public, but no public comment.

Treasurers Report presented by Alyssa: Payroll Warrant is \$5,313.29, A/P Warrant is \$19,067.02, ending checkbook balance is \$143,098.16. Ron and Elaine will review warrants and sign them tomorrow.

Town Clerk presented by Cindy: Would like to review the office hours, business is low, no one came or called Saturday. Would like to look at using portals to do some business from home. Steve asked how not doing business from other towns has affected her hours. Cindy has noticed a drop off. Nothing decided, further discussion needed.

A citizen was upset about the trash along 137, after cleaning up an area the next day more trash had been thrown along the edge of the road. The citizen was wondering if anything could be done. Select Board believes there is nothing that can be done to prevent this.

Other Boards: Meredith Coffin is passing off all information to Phil. Jacki Robbins has been approached to look at a building in downtown Freedom to see if it needs to be declared unsafe.

Questions were asked about the following:

- 1-Is the RHR Audit back yet? No
- 2-Is the TAN Ap ready to go? Yes
- 3-Is the Property & Casualty pkg back from MMA yet? No

Brief discussions were held about the following:

- 1-Solar Credit Applications
- 2-Spring Cleanup
- 3-Town Retirement Plan
- 4-Bangs & Knight Store
- 5-Skidgel Lot

Executive session legal consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6) E started 7:58pm - 8:26pm

Ron makes a motion to approve A/P and Payroll warrant after reviewing Payroll amounts are correct, and have Elaine sign tomorrow. Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm