

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
January 25, 2021

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Dylan Turner, Nathan McCann, Anne-Marie Adamson, Phil Bloomsten, Travis Price, Nathan McCann, April Turner and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Public Works: Travis reported that he is working on Truck 5, which is the garbage truck. He took the starter out and had it fixed at Burley's and will put it back in the truck tomorrow. He has cutting edges for wings for plow trucks. He has inspections scheduled for all three trucks on February 1st. Travis is working on writing the yearly report. He fixed the pipes on furnace at Post Office. Travis reported he went off the road with the truck that pulls the excavator. He needed a wrecker to tow him out. Travis wondered if the insurance company would pay for this expense? Steve is going to check into it and find out whether the insurance will pay and whether this claim would increase the Town's premium.

Solid Waste: Phil Bloomstein reported that potentially Delta Thermo will buy the Fiberight Plant. Currently there are 115 towns that contract with the MRC. Phil said Mike Carroll is available to meet with the Select Board. If the Select Board would like to meet, let Phil know, and he can arrange it. Unity Area Regional Recycling is setting up glass crusher tomorrow. The glass crusher will crush the glass into sand.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$7175.79, which includes health insurance and other deductions. The A/P Warrant is in the amount of \$11,752.08. The Town received a check of \$2,000 for the grant the Fire Department wrote. Alyssa is working on the audit, W-2s went out last week and hopefully 1099s will go out this week. Select Board questioned \$4,631.00 expense in winter roads supplies and general expenses? Alyssa said she can print out a detailed report tomorrow to figure out if some of that amount should be allocated elsewhere. Steve made a motion to accept Treasurer's report, Payroll in the amount of \$7,175.79 and the A/P in the amount of \$11,752.08, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Citizen's Issues: Steve talked with Mr. Gorman about a fee for waste management. Steve reported this fee was waived last fall. Steve asked for a confirmation that this fee was waived.

Town Clerk: Cindy reported that Jacki Robbins has signed abatement for a building on Jonathan Shaw's land in the amount of \$243.74. Steve made a motion to sign the abatement tomorrow, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous. Cindy said that a check from the Town of Knox came in for the excise we did not receive in 2019 in the amount of \$588.68. The fourth quarter payment from Montville for solid waste in the amount of \$9,000 was received. The mailing will go out tomorrow.

FVFD: Jim Waterman asked if the Town has any ordinances that pertain to marijuana? The Select Board said no. Ron said that he has called the Town of Knox a couple times, in regards to contract with Freedom for fire protection, and he will try again tomorrow.

Steve said he is working an article to put in the warrant to be able to spend up to 5 months or 5/12 of the budget that what was approved last year as a stop gap measure until Town Meeting can be held.

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Citizen's Issues: Nathan asked about whether the Select Board would open the meetings with a prayer? Elaine said that there is no precedent for opening the meeting with a prayer. She would like to keep church and state separate. Ron said he would not be in favor of opening the meeting with a prayer.

Town Official Reports: none

Planning Board: Ron asked if a decision has been made in regards to the commercial permitting fees? Steve said he has not heard back from Prentice.

Historical Society: Ron brought up their request to improve wifi in the election hall. Ron spoke with electrician about running the wire. The electrician indicated he did not want that job. Travis suggested using Consolidated Communications to run the wire? Elaine thought it would be a good idea to get an estimate from Consolidated Communications. Ron said he would call Consolidated Communications. Steve suggested Bruce Stubbs may do that work, and that he would call him to find out if he'd be interested in the job, and if so, get an estimate.

Old Business: Steve made a motion to approve transferring the entire amount from the historical society reserve account in the amount of \$4,197.35 to the Historical Society, so that they can use that money to leverage grant money. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve sent a draft document to the Select Board on how to tax nonprofits. There is a five page statute on taxing nonprofits. Steve wants to run this by an attorney, because he thinks the town will have to work with nonprofits in the near future.

New Business: Ron said he spoke with Cindy regarding the timeline to have ballots ready. Cindy said ballots have to be available on February 10, 2021. Therefore, the Board needs to decide if there will be anything included with the ballot in regards to holding the Town Meeting. If so, give that to Cindy by the first week of February.

Elaine let Steve know that the last page of warrant has the wrong name.

Elaine made a motion to accept minutes for January 19, 2021 as presented Steve 2nd. Unanimous

Elaine made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.