

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
February 1, 2021

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

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

FVFD: Jim Waterman said the phone number changed to 661-3300 for Waldo County residents to register for a Covid-19 vaccine. People can also register using the Maine Health website.
<https://www.mainehealth.org/Coronavirus-COVID-19/Vaccine>

The fire department has had several calls, mostly chimney fires. USDA food boxes will be distributed Friday, Feb. 5th and Feb. 19th. Jim will call residents that have received boxes in the past to find out if they would like boxes.

Public Works: No report tonight, Travis is resting before the snow storm.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa Brugger reported that the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$6,052.21 and the A/P Warrant is in the amount of \$7,484.35. The ending checkbook balance is \$324,880.67. Alyssa said the town received State of Maine revenue sharing check in the amount of \$7,325.87.

Steve made a motion to accept Treasurer's report and accept A/P warrant in the amount of \$7,484.35 and the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$6,052.21. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron asked what is happening with the audit? Alyssa has sent them all the files they need and contacted them last week and today, but she has not heard from them.

Elaine asked whether the insurance company paid bill for towing? Steve has called MMA risk management twice and emailed and has not heard back. Cindy said that an incident report needs to be filed with the insurance company. Ron said that has not been done. Cindy said the incident report can be filled out online. Cindy would need specifics in order to fill out the report. Ron said Alyssa should put that bill on warrant next week. Ron also said a school payment should be on next warrant.

Citizens Issues: none

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy mentioned abatement from Jacki Robbins. Joseph Campo has a 3.71 acre main lot and a 1 acre back lot. The abatement is for the back lot being taxed as 3.71 acres. Cindy said town doesn't have to include abatement in warrant yet. Taxes are due on these lots. Cindy can figure out what is due minus the amount for the abatement and figure out the difference due to him for next week's warrant.

Town report – Cindy said the cover is mint green but a photo needs to be decided on for the cover. She suggested something that is Covid related, because it would reflect history. Cindy said a suggestion for the cover is a picture of someone from town using the side window. Cindy asked who will town report be dedicated to? It will be printed by the end of February. Absentee ballots need to be ready Wednesday Feb. 10th. Steve said he is working on writing an article for the referendum to get approval to spend money if we can't have town meeting until May. All three Select Board members would rather hold the meeting in May at the salt and sand shed.

Cindy reported that she will be in a training on Wednesday. Kristi will cover the office from 2pm to 3pm, there will be a half an hour, 1:30pm to 2pm, that the window will be closed. Elaine asked if Cindy could put this on website.

Cindy said the furnace made a new sound, like rattling in Town Office. Furnace has been serviced within the last year. Ron said he would come to town office and look at the furnace.

Update on installing wire to the election hall for better wifi signal, Steve will call Bruce and have Bruce get the wire to run to the election hall.

Town Official Reports: Ron noted that Freedom's School Board representative's term is up this year. Ron will call Ellie to find out if she plans to run again? Cindy said she should be getting packet from school in regards to how to run for that position. Cindy mentioned that she needs the School Board report for the town report.

Planning Board: Steve reported the Planning Board recommends changes to commercial development fees. The Planning Board would like to amend the ordinance. One suggestion is to have a nonrefundable, flat application fee of \$250. In addition, there would be a service charge fee, decided on by the Planning Board, that would depend on scope of the project and the town's involvement in testing, legal fees etc... This fee structure would be refundable if it is not all spent. The business would pay for information that the Planning Board may need depending on type of business proposal, such as water sample, soil samples, etc...In addition this fee could cover legal research, if needed. Steve said that having this type of fee, the Planning Board could determine what up front research would be needed and charge that to the applicant. Steve said, there could be a hearing on the amendment and hold the vote after the Town Meeting. Elaine suggested that the Select Board meet with Prentice Grassi to fully understand this before there is a special hearing.

Historical Society: Ron said the check for the Historical Society should be on next week's warrant. Steve did call Tyler and told him what the issues were for getting insurance on the historical building for the wedding and that alcohol wouldn't be allowed. They said they wouldn't have the event.

Old Business: Ron spoke briefly with Galen Larrabee, Chairman of the Knox Board of Selectman, in regards to contract with Knox for providing fire protection. Ron said he would like to have Jim Waterman involved in this discussion and Galen indicated he would be available the second week of February.

Steve mentioned that the Select Board needs to have a meeting with Jacki. Ron will talk with Jacki tomorrow about potentially meeting on Friday and let everyone know.

New Business: Ron said there are virtual courses offered from the Maine Municipal Association that the Select Board should review for education purposes. Cindy said one course that each Select Board member must take is called "Freedom of Information."

Steve made a motion to accept minutes as presented, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 7:03pm.