

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
February 16, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Nathan McCann and Amanda Jamison

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

FVFD: No report

Public Works: It was noted that Travis is probably busy, since the Town is in the midst of a snowstorm. Ron noted that he was out on the roads today, and that the Public Works department had done a nice job with the roads.

Citizen's Issues: Steve showed the Town of Freedom's incorporation papers. Ron said this should be hung up in the Town Hall. Nathan McCann asked Steve to send him the document.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported that Payroll Warrant is \$3,610.65 and the A/P Warrant is \$3,279.36. The ending checkbook balance is \$259,696.52. Alyssa will put check for the Historical Society on the warrant next week. Ron said the Select Board needs to come up with the right amount, so that Alyssa can include the check in the warrant next week.

Elaine made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for the payroll warrant for \$3,610.65 and the A/P Warrant for \$3,279.36, Steve 2nd, Unanimous.

Elaine made a motion to accept minutes as presented and put them on file, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve asked if anyone had any changes to make to a letter he sent to the Select Board. Ron said he would like language added to resume depreciation schedule added on the first line.

Town Clerk: Steve asked about a letter from Jody Martin in regards to Cindy doing motor vehicle registrations for other towns. Cindy said she has been doing them for a number of years prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. She said that she doesn't get paid to do other town's motor vehicle registrations, but they take the time to do them and time to prepare the motor vehicle reports for the State. Ron noted that the Town of Freedom is most likely open more than other towns and rather than refusing to register cars for people that do not live in Freedom, the Town should pay Cindy for this work. It was suggested that Cindy get to keep the registration fees of \$6.00 for a reregistration and \$7 for a new registration. Cindy said that she would need to check in with Alyssa how to report this income for tax purposes, and find out how the Town reports it. Cindy will check with other clerks to see how they do this. Elaine suggested that Cindy gather information on the questions they have about income tax and then revisit this next week.

Cindy noted the letter from Governor Mills in regards to licensing dogs. People have until June 2, 2021 to license their dog without a late fee. Cindy will talk with Peter Nerber, ACO about getting people up to date with licensing dogs.

Cindy said the absentee ballot is on the Town's webpage. Townspeople can call Cindy to get an absentee ballot sent to them. She noted each person must individually call. People are not able to request one for someone else.

Ron mentioned he heard the rattling in the furnace. He asked for and received permission from Elaine and Steve to call Haskell's to have someone look at the furnace in the Town Office.

Cindy said she had the photocopier serviced and more work needs to be done next week. This is covered under the maintenance agreement.

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Town Official Reports:

Ron reported that the Select Board met with Jacki Robbins, CEO and gave her several things to do. Ron said we need to get a report from her on what she has done.

Ron mentioned an email from Dale Rowley. In the email information was made available on how Towns should be paying the Emergency Management Director and information on the need for a Town warming center in case power is lost.

School Board Rep: Ron reported that Ellie Hess will run again. Ellie mentioned that the Superintendent said that the gym will be available, free of charge for Town's to use for their Town Meetings. All Select Board agreed this was a good idea. Elaine will call Superintendent, Charlie Brown, to find out about using the gym. Steve read email from Charlie Brown about using the gym and/or the cafeteria. Nathan noted that he is opposed to having the Town Meeting at the school if masks are going to be required. Ron said that anywhere the town has the meeting, masks will be required. That is the protocol and the requirements of the State.

Solid Waste: Steve Bennett mentioned an article from the Bangor Daily News, "Firm Trying to Buy Hamden Plant". A Pennsylvania company, Delta Thermo, would like to buy it. This article mentions that the company may be combining sewage sludge, mix it with garbage and then burning the waste to produce electricity. Ron said that the Select Board should speak with the Town's solid waste representatives. Ron said that Phil Bloomstein indicated that he can set up a meeting with MRC, Mike Carroll. Ron will get in touch with Phil to let him know that the Select Board would like to meet with Mike Carroll.

Committee Reports

Planning Board: Steve said he would contact the Planning Board to schedule a meeting with them after the Town elections are complete.

Historical Society: Ron said that they need to figure out how much money we owe them and put that check on the next warrant.

Old Business: Ron received a letter from the US Census Bureau in regards to the Boundary Annexation Survey. As far as Ron knows there are no changes to the Town's boundary. He will contact the US Census Bureau. Ron noted that town's do get together sometimes to have survey of town boundaries.

New Business: none

Elaine made a motion to adjourn at 7:15pm. Unanimous.