

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
March 15, 2021

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Travis Price, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, Dyann Anderson, Anne-Marie Adamson, Tim Biggs and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 5:57pm.

FVFD: Jim Waterman said the Fire Department had a busy week: two EMS assists, smoke alarm at Freedom General Store and participated with Troy in extinguishing a fire. Jim reported he is going to get a toilet from Lowe's. The fire department will install the new one at the fire department. Jim asked if the Select Board has thought more about the inline filter for Town Office and Fire Department water to help cut down on coloration of water. Jim said the emergency response for Freedom dam needs to be reviewed and renewed every two years. He asked if the Select Board recommends any changes? The Select Board did not have any changes to make. Jim said he will review the document and call the dam inspector and update the call list. Jim said the emergency management plan for the town needs to be updated every two years. Jim will review it, but does not anticipate any changes need to be made. Jim will make up a signature page for the Select Board to sign and date. Kim Holmes will distribute the 45 boxes this Friday.

Public Works: Travis Price said Truck # 4 is inspected. The ledge next to garage has been stripped off. Travis is trying to contact someone from Maine Drilling. Mitchell Road opened back up because of the freezing temperatures. Tire from garbage truck is at Central Tire to get worked on after finding a screw in it. Travis received a quote for electrical from Jason Marks for \$9,500 for addition for Town garage.

Citizens Issues: Tim Biggs asked Travis about Mitchell Road.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa Brugger reported that the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$5,040.48 and the A/P Warrant is in the amount of \$4,997.35. The ending checkbook balance is \$254,779.12. Elaine said the school payment should be put on next week's warrant. Elaine made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,040.48 and the A/P Warrant in the amount of \$4,997.35. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Travis Price asked whether the money received for the cutting edges and towing reimbursement could go in Public Works account? Ron said even if the money is put into Capital Reserve account, the Select Board can authorize transfer of this money into another account for Public Works. Ron thinks this would be the same for the insurance payment for the towing. Ron said the Select Board can make a motion to move that money and vote on it. Steve made a motion to move the money from the cutting edges and the towing reimbursement to the Public Works line. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve congratulated Dyann Anderson on winning the Treasurer's position.

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Solid Waste: Phil sent an email that Mike Carrol from MRC can meet with the Select Board Thursday, March 18th at 3:30.

Old Business: Steve reported that he met briefly with Prentice about setting up a couple of hearings and articles for a special town meeting, one to amend the commercial development review ordinance and the second to amend the planning board ordinance. Steve drafted a warrant for a special town meeting. Steve suggested having the special town meeting the same day as the annual town meeting.

Steve added a proposal about an article about creating a Town Charter. There is a process under State Law to do this. The first step is a vote to authorize a committee to form and draft a town charter. The second step would be to present draft Town Charter and have it come up for a vote. Steve explained having a Town Charter would enable the town to apply for grants and low interest loans from USDA. Nathan McCann said a small town like Freedom doesn't need a Town Charter. Nathan also thinks that taking out a loan for the town is a bad idea. Nathan asked if Steve could call him this week to discuss the Town Charter.

Steve also suggested that the Skidgell lot should be surveyed. Steve said there are a few issues there, that doing a survey would address. Steve is going to get the group together that was created to clean up the Skidgell Lot to meet, to brainstorm ideas for development for the Skidgell Lot.

Historical Society: Steve thought it is worth looking into what it would entail to get the old townhouse placed on the National Historic Register. Ron said that once a building is listed on the national historic registry, if improvements are made, they usually need to be done to historic requirements. Select Board wanted Steve to talk with Paul Flynn about specifically what that would mean for the building long term to be placed on the National Historic Register.

Steve mentioned a policy that needs to be written in regards to the Historical Society and the items that the group is cataloging. Elaine suggested the Select Board be provided with an inventory list.

Recreation Committee: Cindy said they will be doing an Easter drawing.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy reported that Dyann Anderson has been sworn in as Treasurer and has a set of keys. Cindy swore in Alyssa as a Deputy Treasurer. Cindy thanked the Select Board for dedicating the town report to her. Ron said a few people have asked about opening up the town office for one person to be inside at a time. Ron said he would entertain this idea more, once he knew that everyone in the office that wants a Covid-19 vaccination has had one. Cindy asked if a plexiglass barrier would be installed?

Budget Committee: Steve said the committee should meet in April. Review the budget, year to date, and discuss whether the town needs another tan note.

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Steve called MMA today after the Select Board meeting about property and casualty insurance. Steve has not heard back from MMA. Ron expressed that he wants the audit done. If the fixed assets are holding this up, he wants to get this taken care of.

New Business:

Steve nominated Ron to Chair the Select Board, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron said the Select Board needs to approve policies that are in place. Steve asked if there could be a workshop to read through those together to review them. Elaine suggested that the Select Board review them tomorrow and place it on the warrant for next Monday to approve them.

Ron made a motion at 7:15pm to recess the meeting this evening and resume tomorrow morning in Executive Session, Personnel Matters 1 MRSA 405(6)A, Steve 2nd, Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Jamison