

**APPROVED MINUTES
FREEDOM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 5th 2015 REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 pm

PRESENT: Selectmen Ron Price (Chair), Steve Bennett, Ken Overlock. Also in attendance were Erna Keller, Clayton Larrabee, Jim Waterman and Cindy Abbott.

REVIEW MINUTES: Minutes from September 28th 2015 were reviewed. Steve/Ken, made motions, to accept with correction to budget comments and place on file; motions passed.

TREASURER:

Erna reported:
Payroll Warrant..... \$4074.67
A/P Warrant..... \$53,636.74
 A/P Warrant..... \$96.42
Ending checkbook balance.....\$ 678,406.86

- Payroll Warrant this week is \$4074.67 (clerk, treasurer, cleaning lady, selectmen, aco, ceo, lpi & road crew)
- A/P this week is \$53,636.74

	202.48	10/05/	85	00007	CMP
1798		15			
1799	572.75	10/05/	85	00016	PERC
		15			
1800	5.62	10/05/	85	00018	Traction Augusta
		15			
1801	183.94	10/05/	85	00035	O'CONNOR
		15			
1802	117.00	10/05/	85	00058	MMA
		15			
1803	48,437.00	10/05/	85	00060	MSAD # 3
		15			
1804	359.80	10/05/	85	00090	Heiman Fire Equipment
		15			
1805	2.00	10/05/	85	00113	WC REGISTRY
		15			
1806	90.00	10/05/	85	00240	Pine Point FTC
		15			
1807	100.00	10/05/	85	00541	Hilltop Store
		15			
1808	537.75	10/05/	85	00599	Standard Distributors
		15			
1809	78.40	10/05/	85	00605	Robert Hermon
		15			
	2,950.00	10/05/	85	00623	Derek Larrabee
		15			
1810					
Total	53,636.74				

- AP this week...replacement for lost check \$96.42 Dottie Chase
- Ken had few questions: Standard Distributors (oil for town garage)Hilltop money order Fees (I cash check at Hilltop, have on hand in safe to go daily to Post Office to pay for money orders from the cash of each day's work. Use money order to put thru check reader for daily deposits-instead of driving to bank) Mileage & Overtime for Bob Herman (Mileage to go get parts at O' Connors &? and overtime was putting up sand for winter... This comes out of winter roads)
- Ken/Steve to accept Payroll & AP warrants. All in favor
- Ending Checkbook balance.....\$678,406.86
- MMA convention is Wednesday & Thursday this week. Ron is going Wednesday.

- Rec would like to order for Halloween Party thru Oriental Trading- Can I use town credit card? **Ron/Ken motion to let treasurer use credit card to purchase for Halloween Party from Oriental Trading.**
- IRS- lien in 2005 (paid Dec 19th 2005) this wasn't released. Talked to Pam Myrick she was sending lien release to Registry of Deeds and will email us a copy.

Ken/Ron moved to accept and sign the payroll; motion passed.

Ken/Ron moved to sign the A/P warrant; motion passed.

TOWN CLERK:

- Cindy: Gerald Spaulding was in about his tax bill. There is still a building there that shouldn't be. He wants new tax bill but before I can do that it needs to be fixed in the Trio program.
- Ken: Jackie said she has fixed this problem, I will contact her
- Cindy: Post Office- Where the town posts warrants and town business has been filled with everyone's personal ads. Kayla has had Lisa remove everything but the towns and suggested that the town put a locked bulletin board there.
- Ron: Any pricing
- Cindy: I will have for next meeting along with the barcode scanner info. I have to contact Ryan about whether these are compatible with computer system.
- Cindy: I want to talk about hurt feelings, how I was treated and issues from past when Steve was in office. Also that the audits fell behind not because of me but that the auditor back then took advantage of the situation. Our new auditors came in did 3 years in few months compared to old auditors milking it.
- Steve: I was very frustrated 10 years ago with no audit. Then the auditor pointed out there should be separation in duties for accounts payable & receivable. It did take away from you but in the long run it was better for you.
- Discussion
- Ken: I think we are working together well and hope that issues that come up we can talk about. It is nice to see civil conversation like these happening.

FIRE DEPT:

- Jim asked if town has received report yet
- Steve: I will contact MMA insurance to ask about reports and if they have increased the insurance for town garage yet.
- Jim: We have arranged an exchange with another town on a SCBA that we don't use. We had a Scotts Flow test and 2 have been rejected.
- Would like to use \$1200 from Capital account for replacement & buy new boots that we need.
- **Ron/Ken** motion to allow to be taken from Capital Account. All in favor
- **Hunter's Breakfast is November 14th 2015**
- Jim: Discontinued roads- How is this going, is there any info I need for 911 purposes?
- Lewin Lane is now a 911 lane, this use to be a long driveway but now has other landowners building there.
- Ken: So discontinued roads that are without houses (or just one house) on them should be entered into 911 to make it easier in case of fire
- Jim: Yes, there is a lot that still need to be done. There are classes online but they are during the day when I work. If someone was interested in taking class then they could be available to help out during the day.
- Steve: Timberwood Lane, Russell Road... Is there anything specific needed to be done
- Jim: Identify the road, measure and where or if it intersects with another road needs to be noted.
- Ken: Someone mentioned that Hardwood Lane is still a town road.
- **Steve:** We can check on this status
- Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are available
- Cindy: I have contacted people from last year; selectmen have removed some and added a few more. Paperwork has been sent out.
- Jim: **Community Service** for anyone who is interested in helping out during this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **Ken/Steve** motion for executive session for Legal Consultation 1MRSA 405 (6) E @ 8:35 pm
- Returned @ 8:45 pm No decisions made
- **Ron/Ken** made motion to let individual for poverty abatement know that they don't qualify.

ASSESSOR'S:

- Abatement:
- Gerald Spaulding for \$68.01 for building removal
- **Ron/Ken** motion to pay and have Jackie remove from Trio program
- **Cindy:** There are 2 others but I would like them tabled until next meeting. I will have a report for you with abatements and supplements.
- **Tabled**

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Putting up 2000 yds sand plus the 600 we had on hand
- Thorndike & Knox is putting up 4000 yds
- Steve: Channel on Sibley Road needs to be addressed; the water runs right into his basement.
- Ron: I think if we add a speed bump this would take care of water and the speeders going by
- Discussion
- Ken: Can this be done this year?
- Ron: I think we can get this done and the speed bump would be my choice

DAM COMMITTEE:

- Clayton: We will be starting brush cutting tomorrow
- Ken: Offered his boat if Clayton needs to place silk fence on backside.
- Clayton: Thanked Ken but thinks after trees are cut and road are built he should be able to do with his backhoe.
- Ron: We have a contract here for selectmen to look over
- Selectmen discussed and made changes, Cindy typed up new contract. (Removed last paragraph, added for a fee no less than \$25,000 and if necessary up to \$29,800. Work will be done up to engineering specs submitted from AE Hodsdon)
- Clayton: The only thing missing is penalty clause and guaranteed work that will be done
- Selectmen agreed that Clayton was hired because he was trusted and knows that work will be done to specs.
- **Steve/Ron** motion to accept and sign Sandy Pond Earthen Dam Agreement with Clayton Larrabee as contractor.
- Selectmen approved & signed along with contractor Clayton Larrabee
- Contract attached to minutes, copy given to Clayton and original to be kept in selectmen files.
- Steve: Any future contracts for town over \$5000 should be put out to bid.

Cemetery Committee:

- Cindy: We need a wood chipper at the Gould Cemetery.
- Ron: Wilson has one I will contact him and see if he is interested
- Cindy: Laura would like the brush pile moved... About 6 years ago the pile was there from a cleanup. I think she owned it back when Bubba Nelson did all the damage by driving skidder thru cemetery.
- She would like to use the Gould Cemetery for access to her property in the backside. Tim says there is a tote road below cemetery instead of driving thru middle of cemetery.
- Ron: I don't think by state law that they can use the cemetery access for that.
- Cindy: Erna and I went into registry and printed off the deeds but haven't had time to check them over.
- **Steve: If you don't mind me taking them, I will read them and see what I can find out.**

OLD BUSINESS:

- Ron: Steve did you get hold of Tom Stout about Post Office repairs?
- Steve: Yes
- Ron: Maybe we should include the bridge repairs we need done
- Ken: 2 projects might be more interesting to him

Discussion about referendum voting:

- Ken: Having a referendum vote would bring more voters. Go from 150 people voting at election then to town meeting having 60 people there. Don't know how to fix this. Voters have expressed that they would like to see a referendum vote instead of town meeting.
- Ron: I can understand that process. If you go to town meeting and a referendum vote, having what the budget committee has recommended then it is either yah or nay. Might have to go back with new budget and another vote. If there is a Hot Topic- people just might cut the whole budget because they aren't getting the information they need on a subject. They can't discuss, ask questions or amend when they don't like the article or what an amount to be less. It would just be a no...
- Steve: An example is Fort Kent school budget. They have been to 3 or 4 referendum votes for their budget.

The last one that was even less than last year's budget was still voted down.

- Having a town meeting is a tradition and the most democratic way. You get to listen to everyone else opinions. Stand up and discuss your opinions.
- Ken: I am not trying to take away the peoples vote; I am trying to get more citizens involved and able to vote.
- Steve: There are always articles that need to be discussed, like public works.
- Ken: How about if 250 people came out to vote- it would really show that they as tax payers are looking out for their interest.
- Ron: As selectmen we have the power to have a referendum vote on a major subject
- Ken: At town meeting have a referendum vote
- Ron: We can elect to have a referendum vote if we feel that something is that important. We have the selectmen, clerk, treasurer and tax collector by referendum.
- Clayton: In Knox we vote for selectmen the day of town meeting
- Ken: It is not a true reflection on how the town people feel when only a hand full makes the decisions.
- Discussion on how Knox and Thorndike holds there town meetings and votes.
- Jim: Referendum vote is around 1/3 of the people, at town meeting you have 10-15% show up but it allows them the opportunity to ask questions & get an explanation.
- Cindy: When there is a hot topic sometimes voters don't want everyone to see what they voted, so they won't vote by show of hands.
- Steve: So we can have ballots available at the door, have only the voters registered receive them that way they could vote on hot topics without anyone knowing.
- Cindy: Yes. This can be done and has been in the past
- Jim: People like traditions, the gathering of citizens, eating the meal at noon and being able to discuss the issues.
- Ken: Clayton has a good idea about voting from the floor. This would bring in more citizens.
- Clayton: Some towns don't have big enough buildings for this. Times are different now and kids are brought up much differently.
- Steve: I like the fact that we are having this discussion
- Cindy: They still come and get nomination papers, but if someone is nominated from the floor they can be added like a write in vote.
- Ken: I know a lot of people would rather have a referendum vote instead of town meeting. Times have changed people are busier.
- Cindy: I know after last vote on dam people was upset that they couldn't vote referendum, with absentee vote.
- Steve: Contacted Mildred asked for a copy of lien release- Peabody
- After letter from CEO- she has been looking at bids for contractors to tear down building.
- Ron- There is a big excavator & dozer there, looks like someone has already started.
- Steve: Mildred is looking to sell after clean up. I asked what she thought she would sell for and she replied depends on the cost of cleaning up the property.
- Myrick dropped off newspaper article Town of Wilton getting funding from state and federal money to clean up tannery.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul Flynn called Steve and would like to sphere head community investment.

Ken/Ron motion to adjourn meeting 8:45 pm

Next Regular meeting will be October 12th 2015 @ 6:00 pm

**Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary**