

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes - October 3, 2022

Select Board and officials present: Elaine Higgings, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Eleanor MacMakin.

Citizens Present: Pam and Bob Herman, Jennifer Doyle, Brandon Suitor, Jarred Fonger and Briana Littlefield.

Present on zoom: Tyler Hydiniak.

Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd: unanimous:

To accept the amended minutes for September 26, 2022.

Public Works: Travis reviewed the Winter Road policy amended by Elaine to take safety measures, i.e. towing of vehicles when blocking the snow plow. Discussion to send letters of notice to repeat offenders but Ron concluded that if people ignore the regular town notice then a letter isn't going to make a difference.

Motion by Elaine, Ron 2nd: unanimous:

Accept the policy as written by Steve.

Travis reported on the truck purchase from Seabrook truck center. Public Works will lease the vehicle from Gorham Leasing. The cost includes \$63,000 for the truck, \$42,800 for the body and \$8,500 for the plow for a total of \$114,000.

Travis updated the Board about the job description for Public Works Assistant. He and Ryan will be off next week. Ron said the truck will get picked up at the end of the week from Seabrook Truck Center.

Further discussion on the Public Works Director job description will be postponed for 2 weeks to meet everyone's schedule.

Citizens Issues:

Pam and Bob Herman disputed the property tax late payment interest. The town office was closed September 29 and they were paying cash and wanted a receipt.

Motion by Ron, Elaine 2nd: unanimous:

The town will pay the \$0.31 interest and the property tax will be included in the paid list on the annual report.

Jim invited Brianna to speak and Ron agreed to switch the agenda to discuss citizen issues.

She said she was there to advocate for Brandon Suitor who was present with a companion.

Brandon then requested an executive session on legal matters.

Ron ended discussion for an executive session 1.MRSA.405(6)(E) at 6:55 pm.

Discussion resumed at 7:50 pm and Ron reported that no decision was made. The Select Board outlined a program for him to resolve his problems.

FVFD: None

Treasurer's Report: Cindy reported this week the payroll warrant in the amount of \$7,840.63 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$12,086.74. The ending checkbook balance is \$762,449.09.

Motion by Steve, Elaine 2nd, unanimous: To accept the treasurer's report and pay the Payroll warrant in the amount of \$7,840.63 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$12,086.74 (split in 2 warrants).

Cindy reported 3 thank you letters for donations; Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County; Main Public Radio and Waldo County Pet Food Pantry.

Cindy requested the Select Board approve paying the copier bill online; and collect the mail October 12 and 13 in her absence;

In addition she will order pathogen clean up kits in preparation for the bounce house purchased this week.

Kristy will be here Tuesday the 4th and Cindy will be off the 5th and 6th.

Motion by Steve, Elaine 2nd: unanimous:

Authorize Cindy to pay the copier invoice monthly online and purchase pathogen clean up kits.

Recreation Committee:

The bounce house was purchased and Cindy has a plan for safety and the supervision at the upcoming Halloween event.

Steve reported on revenue and cash flow recommending to pay the Tax anticipation note.

Motion by Steve, Ron 2nd: unanimous:

In two weeks pay the Town Tax anticipation note.

Old Business:

Discussion about Public Works capital reserve account for the Truck payment to Gorham Leasing. Also discussed dates for Winter road wage change and Summer road wage change. The respective dates are October 1 and September 31.

Correspondence:

Steve received 3 letters from; the State of Maine Revenue Service for 2023 State Valuation; the MRC; New Peace Ridge request for tax abatement. He will draft a reply for Peace Ridge.

New Business:

Discussion about financial statements that seem 2 years behind between the State valuation and the Town valuation. A meeting is scheduled with Karen from RHR Smith in two weeks.

Meeting adjourned by Ron at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Eleanor MacMakin