

**APPROVED MINUTES/FREEDOM BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 9th 2015 REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: 6:10 PM

PRESENT: Selectmen Ron Price (Chair), Clint Spaulding, Ken Overlock. Also in attendance was Erna (treasurer), Cindy Abbott (clerk), Prentis and Joseph Grassi, Christine Spaulding, Brian Jones, Steve Bennett, Jackie Robbins, Bob Gerrish, Dave Schofield (CEO & LPI), Tim Biggs and Jim Waterman

REVIEW MINUTES: Minutes from January 26th 2015 were reviewed. Ken/Ron, made motions, to accept as written and place on file; motions passed. Clint abstained

CITIZEN'S ISSUES:

Michelle Kenney came with information about AFLAC

Town gets a 60% cost reduction for group rates for any town employee or volunteer fire fighter. They have accident policies, pre existing conditions-cause and affect, indemnity policy, cancer & life insurance

- Policies cost around \$4-\$5 per week for individuals, they also have family policies
- This comes out of payroll before taxes which is also an additional savings
- Trio can set this up- they have alot of towns that let employees have this done thru payroll
- Grandfathered- If you go to another job then your policy will follow U and you won't lose any of your benefits
- Ron asked if the Town would have to do this thru our payroll department?
- Michelle answered Yes, It would be an automatic deduction each week after set up is done, with one invoice weekly online
- Fire Dept would be a seperate invoice and paid with what they call a portable invoice.
- We pay our claims the fastest of any . Submit your claim online (SMART PAY) and your refund is sent right out. If you have direct deposit it will be entered directly into your account usually the next day
- Erna now has this coverage at Hilltop
- Erna asked so can I switch to town coverage because it would be cheaper
- Michelle stated Yes, and it will save you money

CITIZEN'S ISSUES Continued:

- Brian Jones came to ask selectmen about the request for food ordinance for Growing Food in Freedom
- I am requesting not to have to do petition process with signatures since I missed the 60 day notice
- Can we piggy back this with the flood plain ordinance hearing ?
- Ken asked What is the big picture ?
- Brian stated it is unregulated on wood, saws, cars, personal items and it is the same Private exchange between neighbors
- As it stands right now you can't even purchase a pint of dilly beans from your neighbor
- We decide as a town in our community if we have selling options to neighbors in a face to face transaction

- Right now there are 12-13 communities that have passed this ordinance and they are hoping that more towns will join and force the state to readdress this issue by sending a message
- Prentis stated This ordinance really wouldn't do any harm
- Ron asked If this is not affecting our citizens then why add another ordinance that doesn't hold water...
- Farmer Brown in Blue Hill (State stepped in and said home rule doesn't out rule state)
- More discussion
- Ken/Ron made motion to accept hearing at the same time as Flood Plain Ordinance with info to be sent in the same mailing

TREASURER:

Erna reported:

Payroll Warrant..... \$5,245.36
 A/P Warrant..... \$416,807.79 - AE Hodsdon \$2376 and makes new total \$414,431.79

- Payroll Warrant this week is \$5,245.36 (this includes clerk, ACO, treasurer, cleaning lady, selectmen, LPI & CEO, road crew 14.75 OT)
- Payroll last week 1/31/2015 was \$3,846.17 (clerk, treasurer, cleaning lady & road crew 49 hrs OT)
- A/P this week is \$416,807.79 (Maritime Energy, Dogs, CMP, PERC, BMV, IF & W, RHR Smith, FVFD, Fire Tech, Waldo Registry, Gorham Leasing, Mileage-Erna, mileage & equipment use Travis, US Cellular, Bank of Maine-\$400,000 transferred from Key), Montville, Knox, Jackson, Kelly & Collins, AE Hodsdon, Key Bank-Jan 941, mileage- Bob)
- Ending Checkbook balance in Key bank\$ 96,933.86
- Checkbook balance in Bank of Maine.....\$11,197.45 deposited + \$400,000 after AP warrant
- We received a check from USPS for Jan rent \$630.00
- Draft-Audit 2014 – did you get a chance to look it over and do you have any questions
- A.E. Hodsdon (Sandy Pond Dam Rehabilitation) bill was \$2376 with site survey & plot, 2 preliminary designs Remainder of the bill is \$3500 for final design, \$2000 for permitting and \$3000 for Bidding & Construction Assistance which is a total of \$11,098.50 with still to pay \$8,500 (Tim Biggs says this is more than what was discussed, so far we have only rec'd one prelim design. Ron/Clint to ammend ap warrant by removing \$2376 for AE Hodsdon until next AP Warrant)
- Letter from Drummond & Drummond Tingley property-Our suggested price does not include 2013,2014 & 2015 if so we should be thinking about \$33,023.49
- I sent Monica & Wally a letter asking if little league is still using field and if they would be interested in helping out and meeting with the selectmen. NO RESPONSE
- Town still hasn't rec'd money from Historical on foreclosed property... What would you like done now...
- Ingraham Equipment slips- could someone look at to let me know which truck or account you want effected
- Correction to tm nights budget amount- FVFD \$26659 which was a \$633.00 increase... changes total to \$1,277,896

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

Ron/Clint moved to sign the A/P warrant with ammendment to subtract AE Hodsdon \$2376 and makes new total \$414,431.79; motion passed.

TOWN CLERK:

Cindy reported:

1. Reminder that the Town Meeting Warrant must be completed by February 28th 2015-this is the Selectmen's last meeting before the warrant needs to be posted. (Selectmen decided to meet Wednesday @ 4:00 for a workshop-need to update articles and remove articles that we don't need this year. Cindy will print off copies for us to go over and discuss)

Ron/Ken motion to meet on Feb 11th @ 4:00 with Erna and Cindy to go over warrant articles.

2. Town Report cover

3. Dedications

4. Town Committee reports -by the end of week

5. Absentee Ballots will be available February 11th 2015

6. BMV audit was cancelled due to weather and rescheduled for 2/23/2015

7. GA Report in front of selectmen.. Cindy has given out one application this week

8. Kathy Cunningham sent a message that Sherriff Trafton will be here on March 9th 2015

FIRE DEPT:

GENERAL ASSISTANCE:

Cindy has given out one application this week... Information was given to selectmen

ROAD COMMISSIONERS:

- Clint stated we have salt being delivered tomorrow
- 500 ton of sand but we might need 1000 if the storms continue the way they have
- Clint recommends 700-800 yards from Clayton Larrabee's Pit and would like to call Bo Spaulding to hire truck also to haul sand
- Ron/Ken made motion to authorize Clint to get the sand that the town needs and to hire Bo Spaulding

EXECUTIVE SESSION: none

ASSESSOR'S:

• Jacki Robbins was here to request permission from selectmen to follow up with Beaver Ridge Wind about the abatement they have submitted. Clint/Ken voted in favor to discuss... Ron abstained .

• Jacki stated during the meeting about the new blades Todd Presson said not to give this year because they was updating to make them quieter

• Jacki has called Mike Rogers from IRS to discuss and will be asking for the total cost of new blades and updates on towers

• There is also the income approach that can be used-state says if this isnt favorable then 3%

• Ken stated That sounds fine to him

- Ken asked What's the difference between homes valuation and the turbines? If a house is charged for a 2 story and has only one that is cause for an abatment
- Jacki explained and said that based on the value they can't go back .. They needed to have requested before the 185 days was up
- They have spent alot of money on upgrades to the towers and I would like to write them a letter to request a meeting to discuss these items. Worst case scenerio they are requesting 5 % state recommends 3%
- 270,000 then subtract what they have spent.. Then up to selectmen when info is in on what next to do
- Ken said I thought that they had made a statement at one point about not depreciating the towers
- Jacki stated that was discussed during the informational meeting before windmills was accepted by town, I will go back to see if there was ever any documentation stating this precedent.
- Ken asked Y freedom was the only one not depreciating them
- Jackie stated that the unorganized territory made a deal with the state on what they are worth and that they don't have to reveal this info.
- Brian stated that RHR Smith did a cost construction the first year because the town didn't have anything to assess them by
- Jackie said It's up to Freedom which way they want to go with this, each town is different. Any year that they put any money into them for upgrades then that takes away from any depreciation
- Steve Bennett said the State uses the income approach
- Jackie said that Muke Rogers recommends the 3% and if they have put any money into upgrades then there is NO depreciation
- Ken asked What is Vinal Haven's approach ?
- Jackie said she is not sure how they do it now, when they valued them from the start it was easy because the town owns them and had all of the information for cost plus there is a TIF fairly descent value
- Steve asked If there is a TIF for 20 years does the value stay the same
- Jackie replied Usually it is spelled out right from the beginning on what the depreciation would be yearly
- Steve stated That you can go to the FERC website to see how much is generated per quarter and what their production is
- Jackie-They have the burdon of proof on them
- Tim Biggs- They don't produce less per year do they?
- Steve said Yes the do.. It is all listed on the website
- Ken/Clint made motion for Jackie to write her letter and report back to selectboard

CEO/LPI:

David Schofield reported

1. Flood Plain Ordinance- FEMA actually controls this and if Town doesn't vote for new one than noone in town can get flood insurance
2. New maps are still not in but should be coming soon. As of July 6th 2015 the old ones are no longer any good and the new ones will take affect
3. Town needs to schedule a public hearing to discuss this matter and voice any concerns. The changes are between the dam and Unity
4. There is NO cost to the town

- Christine Spaulding stated The Town isn't eligible for any Haz Grants and No Federal money will be given to the town if the town doesn't accept the new ordinance
- Ron asked Do we vote before we get these maps
- Christine stated she has copies of these on a CD and can get them for the selectmen
- Dave stated That he has a projector that can be used to view them
- Ron - Can we schedule anytime
- Cindy we have 14 days posting by March 7th and 7 days before which would be Feb 28th.. So as long as you schedule hearing in that time frame
- Ron/Ken made motion to schedule hearing March 6th @ 6:00pm in Election Hall
- Cindy asked about a mailing to let residents know
- Ron/Ken motion to have Cindy send notice to residents about the hearing

PUBLIC WORKS:

HISTORICAL:

RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE:

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Cemetery Committee:

Budget Committee:

OLD BUSINESS:

- Gaz Report- Ron read the consent agreement and will give copy to Erna to add to the minutes
- Ken recused himself
- NO VOTE- Clint left early. Ron will bring up at next selectmen's meeting again
- TINGLEY PROPERTY 181 acres
- Bill Pickford estimate is \$500 acre a good offer would be over \$50,000
- As of right now town has over \$33,000 invested with back taxes, surveyor, lawyer and will have more once marketing cost are added on
- Should get more out of this property if you market as a Hunter's Paradise or Off the grid beautiful pc of property with American Chestnut trees. Property can be accessed from the Rollins Road.
- After checking the map the boundary is an Old Town Road
- Ken says a major part is hardwood
- Need to add an Article in town warrant to discuss what town wants to do with this property
- Meet February 15th for a work session on what to present to town

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mill project will be the Spirit of America (Ron will write)
 - Post Office Door & Floor Repairs- Ken has checked into this and will take care of
- Ken/Ron motion to adjourn meeting 8:20 pm

Next AP/Warrant signing meeting will be February 16th, 2015 @ 6:00 pm

Next Regular meeting will be February 23rd, 2015 @ 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ernestine Keller,
Secretary