

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
December 28, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Phil Bloomstein, Meredith Coffin, April Turner, Nathan McCann, Alyssa Brugger, Anne-Marie Adamson, Dylan Turner and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 6pm.

FVFD: Jim Waterman asked Travis about the trees that came down during the storm along the N. Palermo Road, whether they will interfere with snow plowing? Travis said he can plow around it, but it is a safety issue. Jim reported the fire department responded to two fires. The first in Palermo, a maintenance garage was destroyed on Dec. 25 in the early morning. Later in the day the FVFD went to a fire in Unity at Turner Court. The mobile home is a total loss, no one was hurt. Jim asked if Select Board met with Knox selectman. Ron said he plans to contact them after the New Year.

Public Works: Travis has done a sketch of the addition to the Town Garage that includes the electrical work and information on what would be needed to hook the well up. Travis will contact Marks Electric to get an estimate on electrical work.

Travis has not been able to use up his accrued vacation time. He asked if the Select Board would instead pay him for those vacation hours he is unable to use. Travis anticipates it will be at least 40 hours. Elaine made a motion to pay Travis for the remaining vacation time hours he has on 12/31. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

In regards to prepping the site for the Town Garage addition, Travis stated he could start stripping ledge off, if the ground remains soft as of the first of the year. Then the blasting could get done as soon as he has the ledge stripped. Steve asked if he plans to do this work prior to the budget being passed. Steve said the budget needs to be passed by the town's people prior to any large work or expenditures being done. Select Board said that makes sense to start with site prep.

Steve made a motion to accept 12/21 Select Board minutes and put them on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: \$746.03 payroll replace two checks that were lost, \$8,082.67 Payroll Warrant. The AP warrant is in the amount of \$2,836.89. \$394,588.32 checkbook balance. Payroll will be done on Thursday this week. Steve asked about revenue summary of post office, whether the balance reflects expenditures that have been made for the post office? Alyssa explained that the post office line is not reflecting expenses. Alyssa stated that \$28,249.00 (Post Office revenue) - \$3,547.00 (expenses) = true balance in account. Steve accepts Treasurer's report as read. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy reminded everyone in order to avoid your name being written in the Town Report, pay your property tax by Dec. 31st. The Town Office will be open until noon on the 31st.

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Cindy sent Select Board a certified letter and an email from the Post Office regarding information that something needs to be fixed. Ron remembers a request to repair the leak in the roof. Ron remembers that Travis went up and fixed it. Steve said he would contact John Chapin to find out more. Travis reported on November 16th he repaired the roof and cleaned out the gutters.

Cindy reported that nomination papers have been turned in by Nathan McCann and April Turner. Steve Bennett still has his nomination papers out.

Cindy reported the Town received payment for the drop box on Nov. 25th in the amount of \$521.16 The reimbursement was for the full amount that the town paid.

Cindy sent email to Select Board, and she will post on the Town's facebook page, about a new library for people that they can sign up for. It is a new program. She will send to Amanda so it can be posted with the minutes.

Cindy reported that on Monday nights at the Town Office, it is very dark on the side of the building where the window is. Ron looked at light. There is power and an outside outlet, so another light could be mounted there to go on at dusk and go off at dawn. The light could be aimed at the window. Ron thinks this could happen very soon. Steve reported there is \$3,000 left in contracted service line that could pay for that installation. Ron will contact Jason about the light. Cindy asked what material should be put down on the ground right outside the window to reduce the potential to slip. Elaine suggested building a small platform with the slip tape adhered to it. Ron stated there is a crushed ledge product that could be installed as walkway from parking lot to the window. Travis suggested putting crown on it to shed water. There is crushed ledge at the town garage.

Town Report: Cindy stated that anyone submitting officer or committee reports for the Town Report, those need to be in at the latest by Feb. 8th. Those reports will be available to town's people by March 12th. Cindy asked the Select Board about what picture do we want on the town report, color and who the report will be dedicated to?

Cindy reminded the Select Board that someone needs to be chosen for the Spirit of America Tribute. This person does not need to be selected until the date is set for Town Meeting. The person selected will be presented this award at town meeting.

Steve asked how much property taxes are not paid to date? Cindy said the total for outstanding property tax is \$152,367.62. She compared this number to 2019 total unpaid property tax in the amount of \$175,363.93.

Citizen's Issues: None

Solid Waste: Phil Bloomstein reported the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) had end of the year meeting. They reviewed timeline of Fiberright plant closing. Since the plant closed, one quarter of the tonnage ends up at a landfill. MRC says they are on a path to open the facility

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again. MRC reported that they hoped to open the plant again late Spring/early winter. A few towns have asked about withdrawing from MRC to PERC. MRC has held tight that these towns have signed a contract and the towns would be under some financial obligations. Phil felt they would fight any towns trying to leave. Phil felt that it would not behoove the town to try to get out of the MRC but instead give them the opportunity to reopen by Spring. Elaine asked when the contract ends. Ron reported it was for 15 years. Tipping fees have increased from \$72/ton to \$74/ton. Freedom disposes roughly of 3 tons a week of garbage. Meredith stated MRC said now towns will not be penalized for disposing of lower tonnage being disposed of. Phil said that Mike Carroll from MRC has offered to meet with the Select Board. All three Select Board members said they would meet over Zoom with Mike Carroll. Phil will find out a few dates and let the Select Board know.

Meredith said the Unity Area Regional Recycling Center (UARRC) passed a budget, but the budget will be looked at again tomorrow night. The previously passed budget, the town would see an increase in annual fee.

CEO: Ron reported that Jacki Robbins is still recovering, but she is out doing some work in Freedom. Ron said the town received notification of some land that transferred in town. This will go in Jacki's box.

Planning Board: Discussion in regards to fee scale for commercial development. Select Board remembers that a fee scale was passed. Ron said this information would be in past minutes. Ron asked Cindy to contact Prentice if he has that schedule of fees, and if he doesn't have it, the Select Board needs to come up with a fee structure.

Freedom Historical Society: Ron said he has seen Marie Overlock working in the election hall on material that they are digitizing.

Recreation Committee: April reported that the town is currently doing a house decorating contest going on until January 1st. April said they are looking for more people to enter. Cindy said the drawings were done for the Christmas tree, stockings and two bicycles last Tuesday.

Budget Committee: Next meeting is Wednesday, January 6th at 6pm.

Old Business: Steve asked about property across from Keene Hall. Ron said he needs to email the owners of that property with information on how to get rid of the buildings on that property.

Elaine asked if Steve had a chance to talk with town's attorney. Steve has sent a list of the four questions but has not heard back from the attorney.

New Business: None

Steve made a motion to adjourn at 7:04pm.

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December 21, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, April Turner, Anne-Marie Adamson, Dylan Turner and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 5:58pm

FVFD: Jim Waterman delivered 35 boxes of food to Freedom residents from the Farmers to Family distribution. Jim also delivered an additional 21 boxes from Waldo Cap. Jim reported that the fire department decided at their business meeting to cancel any training for remaining Mondays in December because of Covid-19 surge. The fire dept. is on standby for any instances, they will respond. Jim connected with April Turner at the meeting in response to the churches offer to provide assistance to Freedom residents.

Public Works: Travis Price reported that the Town's employee who shoveled the sidewalks around the Town Office has resigned. There is someone interested, but Travis hasn't had a chance to speak with the person who is interested.

Travis brought up #7 on the winter road policy that states that no one may place obstacles such as rocks at the end of the driveway within 15 feet from the traveled surface of a road or in a plowed turn around. Travis would like to keep the distance at 15 feet. Travis said that the town would have that space to work in to keep the Town's roads clear, and that it is important to have in the town's policy. Elaine Higgins asked if there is a legal requirement that the town needs to move things out of that area. Travis said that it has happened that the town has had to take care of moving items that are adjacent to the road, but Travis hopes that he would not have to do that. Steve Bennett said you don't want anything within the 8 feet of the wing of the plow. Steve said the roads in Freedom are 3 rod roads. The Town has the right and obligation to maintain these roads. Steve feels like if the Town states that nothing can be within 15 feet, then it would result in taking out trees that line some properties, sign posts, light posts, mailboxes. Steve said that 8 feet is a reasonable, enforceable distance. Steve mentioned that in the past the town lawyer has been contacted about whether the Town could cut down some oak trees right along a roadway. The town lawyer said that the trees are considered ornamental and perhaps there would be a lawsuit. Travis thinks it is reasonable to keep the 15 feet wording in there. It might not be enforceable but trees do hang out over the roads that are within 15 feet of the road. Travis wants to make sure he can take care of these trees to help maintain the roads. Ron Price said this is in the "Winter Road Policy". Ron said #7 is in the policy to not put rocks along the roadways, it is a common sense thing, so that the plow doesn't hit anything. Ron does not think #7 is about trees. He thinks it is about keeping the roadways safe during winter plowing. Steve made a motion to make #7 Winter Roads Policy to read, do not place obstacles such as rocks at the end of the driveway within 8' from the traveled surface of a road or in a plowed turn around. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous. Travis expressed that he is disappointed in the Select Board vote, because he feels like it restricts what the Public Works Department can do.

Travis reported there will be no trash pickup in Montville on Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd. Montville doesn't have employees to work those days. Travis anticipates having to go to Montville empty after those two Saturdays, because there will be, most likely, a lot of trash.

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Steve brought up the mailbox policy. The Town's policy currently determines the height of mailbox to the road surface. However the next line is vague, stating place your mailbox back from the road so the mail carrier can reach it but not close enough so that it is struck by traffic. Steve wondered if the town needed a more clear policy rather than leaving it up to the discrepancy of the landowner. Steve asked if a policy would be helpful. Travis felt like that kind of policy would work for a paved road, but would be much harder to control with a dirt road. Nathan McCann said Belfast policy set the mailbox back at the far edge of the road shoulder.

Discussion was brought up about cars parked along town roads during winter, especially during a snowstorm. The question arose whether the town can have vehicles towed? Ron thinks that you don't want to write that you will tow vehicles and threaten town's people. Ron did acknowledge that there are repeat offenders. Steve said that the town does not want cars parked along the side of the road. Steve spoke with a family today that has had their car parked along the road numerous times. He heard them say they would not do it again. The Select Board needs to contact the lawyer first about having vehicles towed. Travis said that if the vehicle is blocking the road for others or blocking emergency vehicles, then we need to be able to tow it. Steve asked if there is a lot of abuse of people leaving their vehicles. Travis said there are a few. Steve will ask Attorney Kelly about that.

Treasurer's Report: Elaine made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$2,760.19 and the AP Warrant in the amount of \$5150.10 Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Alyssa will need to add Dirigo Grange by next Monday to have it done by end of the year.

Steve mentioned that in terms of the 2021 Town Budget he added a request from Southwest Waldo County Broadband Coalition for \$500 for next year. Steve also mentioned that he had not seen a request from Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County for a few years, and that the town has been funding Somerset and Kennebec County. Ron read a report from Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County highlighting the services they provided this year to Freedom residents. Steve said he would add the Waldo County one right above Somerset and bring this to the Budget Committee's next meeting. Elaine thought it would make the most sense to fund Waldo and Kennebec Counties.

Town Clerk: Cindy reported that the Town is under budget for amount of excise tax collected in 2020 and higher in homestead reimbursement. Elaine wondered if it would be good to contact other towns to find out how they are doing in regards to collecting excise taxes. In 2019 Freedom brought in \$178,937. To date for 2020, Freedom has collected \$131,937, which is down \$45,000.

Nomination Papers: April Turner and Nathan McCann have taken out their papers. Cindy said the papers must be turned in by January 12th. Cindy took out her papers today.

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Steve made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and place them on file. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Citizen's Issues: Steve reported an issue on Pleasant Street. There was a delivery truck unloading sheet rock to a second floor of a residence and traffic couldn't pass by. No cones out on either end.

Solid Waste: Ron brought up about the Town's contract with the Municipal Review Committee (MRC). Ron feels the Town needs to get out of the contract with MRC and go to PERC. Ron feels like the town needs to take some action. Elaine recommends that Select Board speak with the lawyer and find out what the recourse is to get out of the contract. Steve said he would talk with Attorney Kelly. Ron made a motion to authorize Steve to talk with the Town's attorney about these items and arrange a conference call if necessary. Elaine 2nd. Discussion - Steve said he'd first like to try to call the attorney first and bring a synopsis back to the Board and then decide if we need a conference call. Unanimous.

Recreation Committee: Cindy said tomorrow they will be drawing at 9am for Christmas Stockings, Grinch Tree and two bicycles.

Next Budget Committee Meeting: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6pm. Steve reported that the budget is almost done and that the Town is under budget for 2020.

Steve made a motion to adjourn at 7:28pm, Elaine 2nd.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
December 14, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Joe Freeman, Jim Waterman, Dylan Turner, Nathan McCann, April Turner, Palmer Pearson and Amanda Jamison

Meeting called to order at 6pm.

FVFD: Jim said this coming Friday he'll deliver 30 USDA food boxes to Freedom residents. On Saturday, Waldo Cap is delivering to Jim 21 boxes from the Neighbors Helping Neighbors program.

Jim is having a business meeting this evening at the fire department at 7pm.

Public Works: Travis reported that in total there was 7.5 tons of garbage this week from both Freedom and Montville trash runs. The department is going to go back to just having one pick up from each town and then go to the landfill. The garbage will be taken to the landfill on Mondays.

Travis reported that there are two different residents parking close to or in the road. This is very dangerous during storms when the Public Works department is plowing. Steve said he will talk with both of these residents about this.

Travis will meet with Paul Woodbury on 12/15. Paul is a local contractor that will give Travis an estimate on labor for the addition proposed for the Public Works garage.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa said the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$2,653.86. The AP Warrant is in the amount of \$75,659.23. The AP Warrant includes the November school payment. Ending checkbook balance is \$350,775.76.

Alyssa asked where she should account for the Beaver Ridge Wind donation? It was agreed to create a new line on the last page of the Select Board All Accounts. Elaine thought accounting for it this way makes it easier to keep track of it.

Humane Society question from last week, Alyssa reported that the first quarter check the town paid in 2020 was accounted for as a donation instead of the quarterly payment. Alyssa said the Town can be reimbursed or apply it to 2021. All Select Board members in favor of applying it to the first quarter payment of 2021.

Elaine made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$2,653.86 and pay the AP Warrant in the amount of \$75,659.23. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy sent an email to Select Board with the flyer that will be sent out to residents tomorrow. Mailing includes information about the Town Meeting, winter roads policy, Belfast soup kitchen, information about the recreation committee.

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Cindy sent the Select Board the information about the abatement for Palmer Pearson in the amount of \$275.60. Ron made a motion to accept the abatement, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Elaine asked Cindy if the Town Office found a good vacuum cleaner. Cindy said yes, and they have used it, and it works well.

Cindy said there needs to be a place to put sand or salt to do the walkways to the election hall. Travis suggested giving a key to Blake for the Voting Hall and keep the buckets in the Voting Hall. Cindy is going to check to see if there is an extra key to give to Blake. Steve made a motion to authorize Cindy to make more keys, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman said cutting those trees back was a lifesaver. He didn't lose power. Ron let Joe know that 55 gallon bags need to have two trash stickers on them on January 7th. Ron said there is a new resident 119 Palermo Rd that will need to have their trash picked up.

Steve talked about an article Ron sent him about a cargo ship from Ireland loaded with 3,000 pound bales of plastic, hit rough tides, spilled into Penobscot Bay. This ship was headed for PERC to dispose of this plastic. PERC incinerates the waste and turns it into electricity. Freedom is a member of the Municipal Review Committee (MRC) that shipped solid waste to Fiberight for a short time prior to Fiberight's closure. Now Freedom's waste goes to a landfill. Steve reported this is the first time in over three decades that the Town's waste has gone to a landfill. Steve thinks it is time to take action as a town to change contract with MRC, since MRC is not doing what they said they'd do when the Town signed the contract with MRC. Ron agreed that it is time to get out of contract with MRC and time to take action. Ron thinks a first step would be to contact other towns who are part of the Municipal Review Committee.

Citizen Issues:

Nathan McCann asked if information about the nomination papers will be on the upcoming mailing from the Town? Cindy said yes.

Steve reported that he received a call from a towns person to inquire about whether she would need a permit to do a candlelight walk by of someone's home on the Rollins Road? The person said there would be about ten to fifteen people singing and carrying candles. Steve didn't know of any permit needed or think there was a problem with this. Ron asked if this is going to happen after dark? Steve said he thought so and told the person that they needed to carry lights. The specific date of this was not known.

Steve received a call from someone from the Peace Ridge Sanctuary. They have bought 600 plus acres from Basil Barnes. Their intent is to create an equine center. Steve wanted to make the Select Board aware of this.

Correspondence: Ron did fill out the survey regarding the speed sign from DOT.

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Steve made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron reported that the town has received information from MMA in regards to masks and updated guidance about that masks are mandatory in any public space.

Recreation Committee: Cindy said there will be information in the mailing that people can vote on their favorite decorations in town.

Budget Committee: meeting on 12/16 at 6pm

Old Business: Recycling Trailer. Ron reported that Montville has had it over a month. They would like to keep using it. Ron made it clear with them that Freedom would need to start charging. Ron asked what to charge as a rental fee? It was suggested \$25/week. Travis asked who is in charge of the maintenance of the trailer? Ron said that they are. Joe asked do they pay all the repairs? Ron said yes.

Ron made a motion to charge Montville \$25 per week starting this week, and that the Town of Montville is responsible for all the maintenance, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

New Business: Ron said there has been a request from Blake, he would like to see the town invest in a snow blower. Ron has thought that the shoveling that is needed around the Town Office, would benefit from a snow blower. Ron thinks the snow blower could fit in the shed where the lawn mower is. Steve asked how much would it cost? Ron said it would cost \$950. Steve thinks the Budget Committee should take a look at the budget under Grounds and Building Maintenance lines. Elaine wondered about finding the money in the cleaning line for the Town Office. The SB decided to talk more about this on Wednesday, the 16th at the Budget Committee.

April Turner let the SB know that the Freedom Church is looking for referrals of people that might need assistance during the holidays. Ron suggested that April should contact Jim Waterman.

Motion to adjourn at 7:15pm, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
December 7, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Palmer Pearson, Dylan Turner, April Turner, Joe Freeman, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, Laura Greeley and Amanda Jamison

Meeting began at 6:02pm. Ron wanted to mark that today is Pearl Harbor today.

FVFD: Jim Waterman let people know that a Freedom Volunteer Firefighter tested positive for Covid-19. The fire department will be adhering to social distancing and masking.

Public Works: Travis said last week the solid waste tonnage for Freedom was 3.3 tons, which is more than most weeks. Joe had to go to the landfill after Freedom's trash run. Montville's trash disposal last week was low. Often when one week of trash is light the next is heavy. So if both towns ship together up to 7 tons, that is a lot for the truck. Travis let Alyssa know that is why there are two slips this week.

Travis stated that he would like to make sure some items are highlighted on the winter road policy mailing. Travis would like to add, "not plowing into the entrance of culverts". Ron said that guideline is highlighted in the mailing. Travis also wanted to make sure that the guideline "Do not park vehicles in the road" be more specific. The Select Board will add "especially during storms". Ron will write this up and get it to Cindy. Cindy said a mailing is going out to let people know about nominations coming up.

Travis reported that the storm on 12/5 was a rough storm that plowed hard. Public Works put in a lot of hours, and they did not have any major breakdowns.

Citizen's Issues: None received.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported that this week's Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$11,279.77. The AP Warrant is in the amount of \$4,512.82. The ending checkbook balance is in the amount of \$410,538.00.

Alyssa reported that checks were received from Knox reimbursement, November rent for the Post Office, LRAP funds and Black Hills.

Alyssa asked does the S.B. want her to do both the November and December school payment? Steve suggested paying just November payment next week. Ron and Elaine agreed.

Dec. 20 and 21st she'll be out of town. She will have the warrants done and leave them with Cindy or Erna. Alyssa will be back the 22nd. Alyssa will process payroll on Saturday, December 19th that week.

There is an expense of \$88.00 on warrant for working remote. This is a payment for Alyssa and Cindy to work remotely.

Steve made a motion to accept the AP Warrant in the amount of \$4,512.82 and the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$11,279.77. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Committee Reports:

Budget Committee – Steve reported that the committee had a good meeting last week. He said the last part of the budget to look at is the fire department budget. After that, the Committee will review the budget. Steve did see a bill from the Humane Society, and it looks like we are over

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budget. Alyssa will look into it. Amended minutes to reflect that Alyssa determined that the Town paid 5 quarterly payments instead of 4 in 2020. One of those payments will be applied to 2021, therefore, the Town will pay 3 quarterly payments in 2021.

Internet Committee - Elaine gave an update that the Internet Committee has a name, it is Southern Waldo County Broadband Coalition. The next meeting is Wednesday 12/9 at 6pm. The committee applied for a \$5,000 Connect ME grant that was awarded.

Recreation Committee - Alyssa reported that there will be a decorating contest and stocking decorating. The committee wants to add the information to the upcoming town mailing.

Trash Truck: Joe Freeman reported that last week he picked up a total of 320 bags of garbage from Freedom residents. Of those 320 bags, 237 were 30 gallon bags, 83 of them were 55 gallon bags. He had to go to the landfill that day b/c he picked up 3 ¾ tons of trash from Freedom. On Saturday after picking up Montville's trash he did not have to go to the landfill, because there was not that much trash from Montville that day, so he will go to the landfill after picking up Freedom's trash this coming Thursday.

Trash Stickers: Elaine brought up previous week's discussion on changing the pricing of throwing away 55 gallon trash bags with two \$1.50 trash stickers. Steve said this issue was discussed at the Budget Committee. He felt it was unanimous that the committee supported this idea of two stickers / 55 gallon bag. Discussion continued about returning to just allowing 30 gallon bags. Ron thought town's people would not like this. Laura suggested that the town should use a colored trash bag that has to be purchased at the Town Office. Ron doesn't want Joe picking up things that are too heavy for him and some of the 55 gallon trash bags are filled. Cindy said that when Sullivan's picked up the trash, used to have to put two stickers on a 55 gallon bag. Steve said why can't we change the pricing midstream? Why do we have to wait for the next Town Meeting, but instead change it January 1st? Nathan McCann said that Steve said that there was no shortfall in the budget. Nathan didn't understand why this is necessary if the cost of trash stickers is already covering the cost. Why does the price have to be raised? Steve said there was no shortfall in the budget, but that doesn't mean that our budget is way over the top. Steve continued to say that Freedom's contract with Montville has the potential of unforeseen expenses to keep the equipment running. Steve thought it is a matter of fairness. Nathan said if this is about fairness, shouldn't the town get to decide on this? Nathan continued that this is a difficult time during Covid and some people have lost their jobs, why charge townspeople more? Laura said she agrees with Nathan. Laura said that during the Budget Committee last week she did not feel it was unanimous to change the pricing on trash. She added that Tim Biggs had said that we charge to dispose of trash to encourage recycling. Ron said every penny that the town brings in goes toward paying the Town's expenses. If it makes a little money, we can use it to pave a road or some other expense. Currently we don't have enough money in our general fund to carry us over until money comes in, so the town has to take out a Tan to borrow money, which incurs interest that the Town has to pay.

It was reported that Montville is still using the Town's recycling trailer.

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Old Business: Steve asked if anyone got a chance to look at shed on Greeley Road? Elaine and Ron had not. Ron said this has been mentioned to Jacki Robbins, and she will take a look.

Laura mentioned about the subdivision on Greeley Road. Ron said Jacki has been there three or four times and they have met all the requirements required by our building code.

April Turner raised the question if there is a weight lifting requirement for town employees? Ron said there are no statute limits in our town policy. We are subject to the State of Maine Bureau of Labor standards. Ron said that if Joe Freeman gets to a point where he is by himself and a bag of garbage is too heavy, he should not pick it up. Ron trusts that Joe knows that.

Cindy: She sent emails to Jacki about abatement for Palmer Pearson for tonight's meeting. Jacki has not gotten to it yet. Cindy does have Supplemental for Palmer Pearson – it's the homestead on the property. Ron said that the SB decided if he didn't qualify for it, then he should be supplemented for it. Ron made a motion to put a supplemental tax bill for Palmer Pearson for the homestead exemption he got that he wasn't qualified for. Steve 2nd.

Unanimous.

Palmer Pearson asked about the abatement for a building that was moved off the property. Cindy said that was approved by Jacki for the small building that had been taken off the property. Cindy said Jacki needs to send that abatement to Cindy, but haven't received anything from Jacki yet. Ron said that Jacki would come back and look at Palmer's other tax question concerning how the big building on his property is assessed. Ron said Jacki has not had a chance to look at it. She needs to look at it before an abatement can happen. Cindy said once she receives the abatement forms from Jacki, Alyssa would send him a check to refund him.

Cindy has nomination papers ready and asked what the Select Board plans to do about the Town Meeting. Ron said he needs to call MMA for clarification. He thinks the Town can have secret election like always but delay the town meeting until we can have a meeting in a venue where we can stay safe like the sand/salt shed. Steve agrees with Ron. Steve asked about what do you do about a budget if you can't have a town meeting until a later date? Elaine said the Governor said the towns could go on what they did the previous year. Cindy said a call needs to be made to MMA, so that the Town can notify the town's people what the plan is at this point. Ron said he would call tomorrow and report back tomorrow in an email. Cindy said that nomination papers need to be ready by Monday, December 14th.

Cindy asked the Select Board about the plan for doing business during the winter months. She reported that one person slipped on snow coming to the window today. Ron said that the person that shovels should take care of this. Ron thought we should have a bucket of sand out where the lawnmower is. Cindy wanted to know what the plan is about opening the office back up. Ron said currently there is no plan to open the Town Office up for walk-ins. Laura said what about installing plexiglass and only allow one person at a time. Laura said there are plenty of precautions and orders from the Governor that we could follow. It was left that there is no plan to open the Town Office at this time.

Steve made motion to accept minutes as amended. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

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Trash Sticker: Ron made a motion to change price of disposing of a 55 gallon bag to 2 stickers at \$1.50 each effective January 7th, 2021. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. Elaine 2nd.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 30, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Dylan Turner, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Jason Young, April Turner, Palmer Pearson and Amanda Jamison

Meeting began at 6:05pm

Public Works: Travis says he won't be able to use up his vacation time unless he takes two days off a week. Elaine said that is why she put in the motion last week that you'd take the vacation at your discretion. Steve said yes, he can take it, as long as Travis is there when we need you like a snow day. Ron said he didn't have a problem with it.

Employee Insurance: For 2021, there are three employees interested in receiving the town's health benefits. Travis turned in paperwork to get health insurance again and will add vision coverage. Damion has been employed for over a year and is now eligible for health insurance. He will utilize the health insurance and dental coverage. Travis and Damion's policies will begin on December 1st. The Town pays a percentage of the health insurance, vision and dental not funded by the town. Cindy will also utilize the health insurance benefit. Her policy will begin January 1, 2021.

Ron introduced Jason Young, the owner of the Bangs and Knights building. Ron received a call from Jason earlier in the day. Jason said he saw the sign on the building saying that no one can enter the building. He was concerned about that and wanted to gain access. Elaine asked what are your plans for the building? Jason said he was originally contracted to take the building down. As of now, he doesn't know if he will take the building down, maybe it will come to that. Jason said he needs to talk with a structural engineer but they come at a price. He would like to keep the building intact. He said Jacki Robbins mentioned the debilitated footings. Steve feels that the building on the left as you face the buildings from the street is not safe to enter, and he does not want anyone to go into it and urged Jason that he needs to do something about the building. Ron said the CEO, Jacki Robbins, has inspected the building. She has deemed it unsafe. Ron suggested that he should follow up with a structural engineer and work along with Jacki and come up with a plan.

FVFD – Jim was just at an accident at the Stevens Road. No injuries but a damaged car. Jim mentioned he would like to resolve gas account at Freedom General Store. Elaine said that after researching this, there are missing receipts. Elaine sent Freedom General a letter that until the town receives the receipts, Elaine considers the account closed. Steve has heard also that this is a general account for the town. Jim said the town account for the trucks was a different account. This, now closed account was just for fire department for gas and oil. Travis wondered if Jim wanted to coordinate if there is tree work to do with the current storm? Jim said if any trees down that don't include electricity, then the fire department will take care of it.

Citizen's Issues: Nathan had thoughts about the discussion in regards to the trash stickers. Nathan thought this would be great to bring this entire issue to the town, so the town could decide.

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Palmer Pearson asked about his tax bill. When do they come out, because he has not received his? Cindy said that they came out in the summer and were due Oct. 1st. Cindy explained that the mailing address she has to send the tax bill is an address in Massachusetts. Cindy explained that the office does not automatically change an address to the local address. In order to change the address, she needs to receive a written change of address from the property owner. Palmer expressed that he would not like have to pay the interest on the tax bill, since he never received it. Cindy said that State law says that is the landowners responsibility to pay their bill. Cindy said that he needs to send an email, so that it is in writing, to the office so that the address can be changed with Cindy and Jacki. The other issue Palmer brought up was the amount of tax on his property. He asked Jacki about why the previous owner paid \$3000 and now he pays over \$6000. Palmer explained that Jacki said she had not realized there is a large building on the property for previous tax bills. Therefore, the assessment went up. He said the building is an open shell building. Wondering why it is being assessed at that amount? Cindy offered to meet Palmer at the Town Office to figure out about the tax bill and address change. Steve suggested Palmer speak to Jacki to talk about the building, if you feel like it is assessed wrong. Then you can file an abatement, if necessary.

Steve made a motion to accept the Select Board minutes from 11/23/20 as written. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa said the Payroll Warrant is in the amount of \$7345.86 and the AP Warrant is in the amount of \$133,199.37. This amount includes the final Tan Payment. The ending checkbook balance is \$382,516.21.

Alyssa reported that the town received two checks, one from MRC and the other from State of Maine Revenue Sharing.

Alyssa said that currently the figures being used for the School and County bills are from the 2019 Town Report. Alyssa understood this was not the way the Select Board wanted these figures reported in the Select Board All Accounts but instead wanted the actual bills. Ron made a motion that the Select Board All Accounts reflect the current bills for the fiscal year for the School and County Bills, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to approve \$7,345.86 payroll warrant and the \$133,199.37 AP warrant, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Cindy reported that from 2018 taxes, there is one to abate. It is accounts 769 and 452. The land was in one name and the trailer in another, therefore two accounts. When the land was sold, the new owner put the trailer and land on the same account. Therefore, 452 is the current account for both the land and the trailer and account 769 is no longer active. Sean Murry and Sarah Potter currently own it. There was a duplicate bill for the just the trailer itself. Ron made a motion to sign the abatements which will delete Account 769. Abate the principal and the interest and the cost is written off. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

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Cindy said there is a supplemental for Driftwood which is Palmer Pearson's property. He was not entitled to homestead exemption. Jacki will have abatement to me in a few days for a small shed on his property. Cindy said she is willing to sit with Palmer tomorrow at 1pm to show him all his taxes. Ron suggested let's hold off on any supplemental until he is agreeable with where we are at.

Taxes: Cindy stated Sean Gilley check is in the mail and that there is one other account that the Select Board needs to talk about tonight. Then all the taxes will be taken care of.

Local registrations: Cindy will update the Town's facebook page with current deadline dates to register vehicles per the Governor's updated mandate.

Cindy reminded the Select Board to begin to think about who they want to honor for the Spirit of America tribute for 2020. Cindy wondered if the Board wanted to nominate an individual or a group. Cindy said they need to come up with that by no later than the end of January 2021. Elaine suggested that each board member come up with a name or two for the Spirit of America. Then get together for a workshop to discuss the names and decide.

Elaine made a motion to go into Executive Session MRSA 405(6)E legal consultation Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to restart the 45 day foreclosure notice for tax issues. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Old Business: Steve went down on the Sanford Hill Lane. Just when you start up the hill, the lane is gated. Steve wasn't sure but the owners may be in their right, the way the road was closed in 1945. This road was discontinued. Most roads are discontinued for maintenance but remain available for the public. Ron asked if there have been any complaints? Steve said no.

New Business: Marie Overlock would like to have a key to the election hall
Ron made a motion to give her a key to the election hall so she can work on digitizing. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn at 8:22pm Ron, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 23, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Phil Bloomstein, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, Joe Freeman and Amanda Jamison

Public Works: Travis wondered if Damion could use a week's vacation time and 24 hour of sick time. He has worked for over a year. Travis and Damon both worked on Veteran's Day. Travis added eight hours in for his week's pay b/c he worked Veteran's Day. How to record it? Bill it to Sick time, Holidays, Annual Leave/Vacation Time? Alyssa recorded it as 8 hours of sick time. Paid Damion for 37.5 hours.

Policy says that a holiday can be used another day. If they worked a holiday, those hours should be taken another day. They need to be used by the end of the year. Ron said both Travis and Damion have one paid holiday banked and need to take it prior to the end of the year. Travis asked if he could take one day a week off until the end of the year to use up his vacation time. Travis stated that the equipment is in good shape and if they have to come in, they will come in. Travis would try to take a day off a week that was convenient with the weather and the scheduling. Elaine made a motion that Travis and Damion take their earned vacation time until the end of the year. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Travis got pricing for 20 feet, 4' plastic culverts at \$1,735 and 5' plastic culverts at \$2338 each. This was a quote from Viking. For the job that these culverts are needed for, the length is 40', so the town would need to purchase two. Steve asked what the cost would be to rent an excavator, Travis said not necessary, if he is just putting one culvert in, he could do it himself with the Town's equipment. Total \$4,600 in budget for culverts to cover Raven Road. Travis thought an additional \$1,000 in budget for 15' driveway culverts would cover four culverts. So instead put in total \$5,700 in budget for culverts.

The whole job for Raven Rd. is \$7,500 including labor, culvert and rip rap.

Travis is trying to not spend any more for the rest of the year except for wages. He will need to buy salt.

FVFD; Jim dropped off bill for the N95 masks. \$545.00 total for N95 masks. On Friday Jim delivered 18 baskets of the Farmer to Family baskets to Freedom residents. Neighbor Warming Neighbor baskets, Jim delivered 4 to residents. Jim asked what day will be the fire department be discussed at the Budget Committee meeting? Steve wasn't quite sure. Jim asked for a head's up with a few weeks lead time to know when he'd need to meet the Budget Committee.

Citizen's Concerns: Phil Bloomstein asked about the recycling center's budget for next year. How does that process go? Is it presented to the budget committee? Ron said that the recycling center has figured out what the bill is for the Town and brings it to town and we pay it. Phil said if the tentative budget increases it would be an increase of \$1,100 for the year. This increase is mostly reflected in the wages. Phil asked the S.B. what they thought of the increase? Phil wondered if he or Meredith should attend a budget meeting? Steve said at least one of you

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should attend. Phil said the recycling center is meeting again soon to look at its budget with the possibility of reducing that increase amount. Phil wanted to let the S.B know what is up with Recycling Center budget.

MRC: Phil wondered if we have any deadlines with MRC? Some of this garbage is going to the landfill. Phil wondered if the town wanted to put pressure on MRC to switch over to Perc? If so, to let Phil know, so that garbage is not going into a landfill. The Town has a 15 year contract with MRC to represent us to take care of our solid waste. Phil asked how long do we give MRC to see if they come up with something with Fiberight? A full member meeting with MRC is coming up in December. Phil can bring up that the town may want to switch to Perc because they should be doing something different. Ron mentioned that MRC and Perc have some sort of agreement between the two of them. Ron didn't think it would be easy to just switch. Ron agreed that it would be good to apply pressure on MRC.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported that the Payroll Warrant in the amount of 6,330.50 and AP Warrant in the amount of \$14,705.45 included large bill from fire department. Therefore \$496,773 is the ending checkbook balance.

Steve asked if we should make another Tan Payment and another School Payment? Still owe School Payment for November and December. Ron said we should make a Tan Payment next week. Ron said if we pay \$100,000 to Tan, that is as low as he wants to see the General Fund go. The total payoff for the Tan Payment was thought to be \$129,000. If we pay \$129,000, then Tan would be paid off. Ron would like to see the Tan payment on our Select Board All Accounts schedule.

School Commitment should be changed in the accounts. It is a different amount.

County Commitment should be changed in the accounts. It is a different amount.
Steve said on All Accounts the Tan Bond, there is a name change from repayment to bond.
Alyssa will check on this tomorrow.

Ron made motion to accept Payroll Warrant \$6330.50 and AP Warrant of \$14,705.45 Steve 2nd.
Unanimous.

Town Clerk: Cindy reported that The Town has collected \$49,114.78 less in excise tax to date compared with last year. Steve wondered if Cindy is expecting more people to pay their excise taxes soon? Elaine suggested Cindy look into what the Governor's mandate is in regards to excise tax. Is there now a due date? And if so put that on the Town's facebook page so people start paying. Cindy wasn't sure that she could say that. Elaine said she would look into if there is an exact date that those excise taxes need to be paid.

Jacki Robbins had a couple abatements. Cindy will leave those out for them to sign in the morning. Cindy wondered what they wanted to do with those? Ron said that since Jacki has signed the abatements, they must be correct. But Ron will check with Jacki first.

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Ron made a motion if Jacki approves and gives him the right answers, they sign them. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Steve wondered if anyone has heard from the landowner that had the survey done that says he owns 25 acres instead of 50. Cindy said the landowner would bring in the survey, if the S.B. would like to see the survey.

2018 taxes: Cindy reported that ten accounts are owed by November 30th, otherwise they become Town property on Dec. 1st. Cindy has talked with 7 of them. Elaine left notices in the door of the other three. Cindy does have some of them coming this week to pay.

Cindy reported that if the Town Meeting is held in March, as is typically done, that would mean this year there would be Election of Officers on March 12 and Town Meeting on March 13th. Therefore, nominations papers will be available Dec. 12th which is a Saturday – so they'll be available the following Monday morning the 14th.

Steve asked about how would we schedule a Town Meeting? Where would we meet? Ron said we can have an election of officers and postpone the town meeting to a later date until it is comfortable to meet outside. Steve asked is that legal? It is called a bifurcation town meeting. Ron said he would like to run that by Kelly or MMA to make sure. Elaine wondered if we could go through all the warrants while people come to elect officers. Ron said he thought we should still have the secret ballot vote in March and have the town meeting later in the year.

Cindy sent an email about another town and how they opened their town office. There was an electronic device to open the door. Right now the Town Office door is kept locked. Cindy has to go and unlock it. Cindy said this electronic device with an intercom was installed for \$650 by a locksmith so that Town Clerk could remotely unlock it and let one person in at a time and then it locks behind them. Ron suggested finding out who installed this and contact the Town's locksmith to find out what something like this would cost to install.

Solid Waste: Joe Freeman reported that he picked up a total of 81, 55 gallon bags last week. Picked up 145, 30 gallon bags. Town made \$339.00 for this. Joe said if you charge double stickers on those 55 gallon bags, the town could make 82.50 more. Ron asked if the bags are heavy? Joe said, yes they are. He thinks people might be putting two or three 30 gallon bags in one 55 gallon bag. Cindy said we need to put out a mailing about election stuff, so we could include information about trash stickers. Cindy said the mailing would need to go out next week to let people know about election and nomination papers. This would depend on what you find out from Bill Kelly in regards to the election and Town Meeting. Joe is going to keep track of how many 30 gallon and 55 gallon bags get thrown out using one trash sticker for the next five weeks. Joe recommended that the Town of Montville should pay the tipping fee. Ron suggested we should go through the contract with Montville for the year and assess whether the contract works for the town or not. Ron suggested another option would be to say we no longer pick up 55 gallon bags. Elaine remembered that the town said it would not take 55 gallon bags, but people still used 55 gallon bags. The S.B. said they would like to make a decision next week. Joe said he would report again next week what the trash pickup is.

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New Business: Steve trying to reach someone at Revision.

Budget: Steve stated his biggest concern was that when the budget is done, we get a warrant that matches to a tee the Chart of Accounts. Steve talked with Alyssa about this. Alyssa wanted to make sure we are on the same page, that we can go back to Bernice for additional training. Alyssa stated that for end of year budget stuff and finalize things that she found, Alyssa would need to drive to Orrs Island to meet with Bernice. Alyssa wanted to get approval to use the money in the training line to get additional training from her. All three S.B. thought this was a good idea for Alyssa to get training. Steve said that in the Chart of Accounts, the changes are done for the Public Works lines.

Ron makes motion to grant Alyssa permission to utilize Bernice to get where we want to be with the chart of accounts and budget. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Cindy stated that the town office needs a decent vacuum cleaner. Cindy wondered if she could look on Black Friday for a vacuum cleaner. Elaine asked what is the budget? Alyssa said \$250 - \$300 for a new vacuum cleaner. Ron asked what line would this expenditure be taken out of? Cindy said the cleaning line. Steve said there is \$486 left but that is for labor. Steve said there is \$1,500 left in a cleaning line. Ron makes a motion to authorize people in charge of getting a vacuum cleaner up to \$400 to get a good vacuum cleaner. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Insurance Rep for town will be at the town office at noon tomorrow.

Motion to adjourn at 7:41pm

Upcoming Meetings:

Budget Committee, Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 6pm

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November 16, 2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Dylan Turner, Tammy MacTaggart, Joe Freeman, Ron Price, Nathan McCann, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins and Amanda Jamison

Ron called meeting to order at 6:10pm

Citizen's Concern: Tammy MacTaggart expressed concern that after visiting two Freedom businesses, she saw that employees and many customers did not wear masks to protect themselves and others from the Coronavirus. She had gone inside the Freedom Post Office and reported that the staff is not wearing masks, nor are some of the customers. She also had gone inside Freedom General and found the staff and some customers are not wearing masks. Tammy expressed concern that Freedom is a pass through town for many people from other counties. She is concerned with the lack of compliance with the Governor's mandates from local businesses. She felt that at the very least the employees should be wearing masks. She expressed that this is a public safety issue and wondered if anything could be done. Ron stated that a formal complaint could be filed with the USPS. Steve said he would call John Chapin the next day to talk about this. Ron stated there is no way on a local level to enforce the mask mandate, but the Town could put on their facebook page something about encouraging mask wearing and social distancing. Steve thanked Tammy for bringing this up and taking time to speak to the Select Board.

FVFD: Jim reported that 440, N95 masks would be delivered to the fire department sometime this week. Truck #2 is back. It cost \$11,232.98 to fix it, and Alyssa has the bill. Jim reported there will be another distribution of food on Friday, November 20th at Mt. View. Jim will be picking up a few boxes of food from this distribution for Freedom residents. Jim has been in touch with WCAP about the Thanksgiving boxes. Jim will deliver four of those boxes to Freedom residents.

Public Works: Travis reported that Truck #6 has been serviced. He is starting bed chain exchange on Truck #8. Travis is ditching between public work and Gerry Spaulding. He suggested to take this expense out of winter roads line, not the summer roads. Alyssa spoke about the bill from Eagle Rental for the excavator/grinder and that that would be taken out of winter roads line not the summer roads line.

Ron reported that the mirror by the Post Office is not lined up correctly. Travis will look at the mirror the next morning.

Travis reported that he did find a leak around chimney on Post Office building. He did fix it with tar and cleaned out the gutters and down pipes on the building. Travis reported that the chimney does need to be fixed correctly by building a cricket behind chimney to shed water off to the sides. Travis recommended that Mitchells could make something and install it. Steve said that Travis should inquire about that job at Mitchells and get a price for it. Elaine wondered if it is worth painting the ceiling of the P.O.? Ron suggested waiting to do this until the roof is fixed

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and then make sure there are no more leaks before painting the ceiling. Cindy mentioned that under the light it is very dirty. Ron said that area needs to be power washed. Travis said he will get the light looking better, and if there is a warm spell he can take the power washer to the P.O. building.

Select Board Minutes: A few changes were made to the November 9th minutes. Ron made a motion to accept amended minutes. Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Correspondence: Steve brought up Bill Kelly's email that he received in regards to Town foreclosed properties. Steve said he needed clarification on the email. In regards to the potential of foreclosed properties in Town, Steve asked about the property on Stevens Rd. Cindy said they usually pay the back taxes at the last minute. Steve wondered about the Bangs and Knight property. Cindy said they still have one more year of back taxes not paid before it would be foreclosed. Steve mentioned that property has two buildings on it. He is concerned about the foundation on one of the buildings, the one on the left, that has a problem with supports and potentially creates the potential for it to fall into the stream. Ron stated that after his meeting with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, it will be very costly to get rid of abandoned or derelict buildings. It will be next to impossible to be able to burn them down and extremely costly to haul the debris off site. Ron sent the owners of the Anderson property a list of contractors that might tear it down. Ron has not heard back from them. Ron needs to let them know that the DEP regulations have changed.

Community Solar Farm: Steve stated he learned from Tom Carter, who works at Revision Energy, that the solar farm going in in Knox will use all the capacity at CMP substation in Thorndike. That means that the potential of putting a solar farm on the Skidgell lot has greatly diminished. There is the possibility of putting Freedom on a list as a site for a future solar farm, but that would take years. If the Town wanted to build a solar farm for itself to offset Town costs, that is possible. Elaine asked what else could that land be used for? There are about 4-5 acres of land that are deemed to have a 95% solar rating, from the Revision Energy report. And the land is next to a town highway with 3-phase power. Steve said the next step would be convincing CMP to increase capacity of the substation. Steve is just not sure how to go about that.

Steve reported he checked on the property on Timberwood Lane. He checked on it because Cindy received a call from someone that said there is a gate. Steve did not see a gate. Ron said that there is a gate way down there, out by the gravel pits. Steve realized he did not go far enough.

Tax Collector/Town Clerk: Cindy asked what the Select Board would like to do with the awning outside the Town Office. She reported from last night's wind, the frame broke, but the awning did not rip. Steve added that soon snow will bring that awning down. Cindy asked if they planned to keep the awning up through the winter. Steve said that he imagined business would

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still be conducted from outside, so that people do not have to enter the Town Office. Ron said that the awning should be kept up for as long as possible, but once it comes down, that will be it for the awning. Cindy said people can call her from their car, so they don't have to stand outside in the cold. Ron wondered if it could be worked out to have just one person in the town office at a time and install plexiglass. Steve suggested that people could make appointments with Cindy and Steve felt fine with Cindy telling people that they need to come into the Town Office wearing a mask. Ron was concerned at the pressure that would put on Cindy to enforce that. It was stated that for now, leave the awning up and continue with people coming to the window to do business from outside the Town Office. Steve suggested that Cindy could make a recommendation to the Select Board on how best to proceed through the winter months.

Code Enforcement Officer: Jacki Robbins checked on A-frame on N. Palermo Rd. There is an outhouse and a bus type camper on the property. Jacki let the property owners know they need a permit for the outhouse.

Planning Board: They canceled their meeting this month. Ron said he would get in touch with Prentice about the properties that might come into foreclosure.

Recreation Committee: Cindy reported that someone had contacted her about creating a Holiday decorating event that townspeople could vote on for the best lights. This would be a no contact event. Cindy reported that the Veteran's Day event went well. Cindy also mentioned a Stocking event that would be promoted on facebook. She said there would not be a lot of contact with people for this event either. People can pick up the stockings through the window.

Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes emailed pictures of stones that need to be fixed with prices on each photo. It was reported that there is \$2,000 in the budget to fix the stones. Ron said he would contact Steve Holmes to let him know there is money in the budget.

Old Business:

November 17th at 6pm, Internet Meeting

Elaine will send letter to Ron and Steve to get their signatures to show they are in support of the Internet Meetings.

November 18th at 1pm, Select Board will meet in Executive Session, MRS 405(6)A to review Personnel Policies

November 18th at 6pm, Budget Committee Meeting

November 19th at 3:30pm, Conference Call with Terri Ann Holden to review and close out Skidgell Property grant

New Business: Joe Freeman reported that he is picking up a number of 55 gallon trash bags with the \$1.50 sticker on them. Joe recommended that to dispose of a 55 gallon trash bag, there should be a \$2.50 sticker. Cindy felt having two different stickers might be confusing. She suggested that a 55 gallon trash bag might need two \$1.50 stickers on them. Joe said the Town is

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losing money the way it is currently set up. Elaine needs to check if this change needs to be decided at the Town Meeting. Elaine suggested that instead of having two stickers, it might be time to raise the price of a garbage sticker. The price has not been raised since 2012, when it went from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per sticker. Ron said the Board needs to think about this. Ron asked Joe to get a count of how many 55 gallon trash bags are getting thrown out a week using the \$1.50 sticker. Joe said he would do that and report back.

Treasurer's Report: Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$3,148.25. There are three AP Warrants this week: \$12,106.23, \$14,100.00 for Mitchell Roofing – this check was written and spent some time ago, but needs to be recorded in Trio, \$16,993.00 for Cross Excavation. The ending checkbook balance is \$494,395.92.

Ron made a motion to accept Payroll Warrant, Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to accept AP Warrant in the amount of \$12,106.23, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to accept AP Warrant in the amount of \$14,100.00 for Mitchell Roofing Correction, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Ron made a motion to accept AP Warrant in the amount of \$16,993.00 for Cross excavation/Skidgell Property, Elaine 2nd, Unanimous.

Steve will call Brian tomorrow and let him know the check is on the way.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Steve 2nd. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

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November 9, 2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbot, Travis Price, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Waterman, Amanda Jamison and Nathan McCann

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

FVFD – Jim reported that Truck #2 is back in service tonight. Jim will be delivering Thanksgiving baskets, but that program will be run differently this year. Jim is figuring out how it will work. Jim reported on the Anderson house that Ron has processed the letter.

Steve received a letter from MMA that stated concern about eye wash station that is broken. Ron said that he ordered parts a month ago from N.H. Bragg and is still waiting to receive them. Ron looked into buying a new eye wash station, but it is expensive. Ron will get the eye wash station fixed.

Public Works – Travis said he will be meeting with Dave Bennett, where the Public Works department has been doing road work, to flush out culverts on Thursday morning. Elaine thanked Travis for all the work that has been done on the Skidgell lot. Steve asked if Travis has talked with Mr. Bagley? Travis said that he had not, but would go to Mr. Bagley's house this evening.

Ron made a motion to accept Select Board Minutes from November 2nd meeting. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous.

Ron reported that he is meeting Jacki Robbins next Monday to look at the property on N. Palermo Rd.

Citizen's Issues – Nathan McCann expressed that the Select Board is acting in an undemocratic way by requiring masks in Town buildings. He expressed his thoughts that the Coronavirus is no more serious than a common cold. He wanted to make sure his concerns would be recorded in the Select Board minutes.

Ron took a moment to congratulate Cindy and the Election Committee for a professionally run election. He commended them for taking on the responsibility of the election and for a job well done. It was reported that 464 ballots were cast in Freedom. Steve added that Cindy's leadership has been great. He appreciated that Cindy convinced the Select Board to install a drop box and that Cindy rose to the occasion. Elaine added that she owed Cindy an apology for thinking the drop box would not be used that much. Elaine said it was used and that the Select Board and town are lucky to have Cindy on the staff.

Ron asked if Elaine heard anything from MMA in regards to premiums for next year. Cindy said a letter arrived today from MMA and put it in Elaine's box.

Town Clerk – Cindy reported that the supplemental tax bill is in Ron's box. Ron said the Board will have to go in and sign it. Cindy reported that one property owner was given the Homestead exemption but has not lived there for a year. She asked the Select Board what they would like to

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do. The Select Board said that the property owner is not entitled to that exemption until that person has lived there for a year and that \$512.50 is owed to the Town.

Treasurer – Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,555.01. AP Warrant in the amount of \$156,395.33 includes the Tan Payment and the School Payment. \$534,141.01 is in checking.

Discussion about the Chart of Accounts. Select Board has desire to change the Chart of Accounts to make the Chart of Accounts easier to understand for everyone and to present to town's people. Alyssa said this takes time to make these changes, not something she can just do on December 31st to have ready for January 1st. Alyssa said that the changes she and Erna made to equipment lines are all tracked in the journal entries. Steve did not think these changes would be done until January 1st. Ron stated that he is not sure how many other accounts may want to be changed so that they are easier to read. These changes would not be figured out until the budgeting process is finished. Ron also stated though, that there is the reality that the changes take time for personnel to complete. Ron thought it would be good to get some help with this from someone from Trio. Elaine thought getting advice and help from Trio would be good too. Steve will call Trio and the Auditor to find out how much each would charge in order to get recommendations from them on how best to handle this.

Steve asked if the money came from the State? Alyssa reported no, not at time of finishing AP Warrant. Ron asked how much is coming? Alyssa said a little over \$15,000. Steve asked if Alyssa had sent the Town's liability coverage to Terri Ann? Alyssa said, no, she would do it tomorrow morning. Steve said he would call Terri Ann tomorrow morning to check on the final payment. It was confirmed that the final call to complete this grant will be on Thursday the 18th at 3:30pm.

Elaine made a motion to pay AP Warrant in the amount of \$156,395.33 and pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$5,555.01. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Solid Waste – Ron stated that Montville wants to use the recycling trailer again. Montville is exploring other options as well to transport their recycling. Ron said that the Board should be thinking about the whether the Town wants to rent out the trailer, if Montville approaches the Town.

Planning Board – Not meeting this month.

Historical Society – Ron reported they are having problems with their computer.

Recreation Committee – Cindy reported about the upcoming Veteran's Day Ceremony. It would be simple, outdoors, raise the flags, prayer and laying of the wreath. Elaine suggested trying to connect with younger Veterans in town.

Budget Committee – Next Meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 6pm. The major discussion will be Public Works.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 9, 2020

Old Business – Ron and Jim met with DEP at Anderson House. Ron clarified that any old building that needs to be done away with, DEP has tightened the restrictions on being able to burn them. It is now very hard to get permission to burn old buildings. And it is very expensive to get rid of them. Ron stated the Select Board should be aware that if the Town takes possession of land with old buildings, it will be hard to get rid of the building(s) and expensive. If the Town does not want to take possession of building, the Town needs to file a form with the registry of deeds that you have no interest in the property prior to the property being foreclosed, which happens after three years of not paying taxes.

Property on Greeley Road – Cindy said to let her talk with Trio so it gets turned over to the town.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 9, 2020

Banks and Knight buildings – Steve will call Bill Kelly to find out when the Town needed to file the form. The property will have three years of unpaid taxes on November 30th.

Ron said there will be a workshop in executive session on November 18th at 1pm to work on Personnel Policies.

Ron made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve 2nd. Meeting adjourned 7:39pm.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 2, 2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbot, Travis Price, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Waterman and Amanda Jamison

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

FVFD – Jim delivered boxes of food to some town's people from the Oct. 30th Farmers to Family food distribution event. Jim knows there will be another large food distribution. He is finding out the date.

DEP – Guidelines in regards to burning buildings. Jim needs to research about the specific building in town that is being talked about to burn to make sure it falls within the guidelines. Ron sent the homeowner a list of contractors that may burn it and relayed the message that Jim prefers that there be snow on the ground when and if it gets burned down. Jim recommends filling in the basement for safety reasons. Ron suggests that Jim call DEP to find out specifically what can be done with the building.

Truck #2 – Jim knows that the truck is half reassembled, hopefully truck will be back by the end of the week.

Property on N. Palermo Road – Jim reported seeing structures for the first time on that property. Ron will have Jackie go check on the land again.

Public Works – Travis said there is nothing new to report. Steve asked if he got to use the grinder. Travis said no that he had to work on getting the trucks ready for snow.

Treasurer's Report – Alyssa reported that Payroll this week was \$7,063.27. This is the beginning of the month, so everyone gets paid. She said the town is still waiting on Cross Payment to come through. She has not finished balancing the October checkbook, so the ending checkbook balance may change a little.

Ron made a motion to pay \$100,000 on the Tan next week. Elaine 2nd the motion. Steve asked if the town should pay it off? Ron said not now with the current balance in the checking. Alyssa said the town owes the October school payment as well. Steve said the town needs to pay both bills. Ron made a motion to amend the original motion to pay \$100,000 on the Tan and the School Payment. Elaine 2nd the amendment. Unanimous. Ron called for a vote on the amendment – Unanimous.

A/P Warrant discussion of \$460 expenditure regarding a property boundary issue on the Skidgell Property. Steve is not sure where the line is behind Freedom General. Travis reported that Mr. Bagley had his line surveyed. Steve asked Travis to ask Mr. Bagley if we could make a copy of his survey. Travis said yes, he'd talk with Mr. Bagley.

Elaine made a motion to pay Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$7,063.27 and the AP Warrant in the amount of \$4,824.52. Steve 2nd the motion. Unanimous.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 2, 2020

Citizen's Issues – none reported

Donations – Elaine is keeping track of donations. It was mentioned that Doug Van Horn has done it in the past, so it would be good for Elaine to connect with Doug. The town received a request from Maine Public Broadcasting for a \$200 donation.

Covid-19 and meeting in person discussion – Ron suggested moving into the other building to meet, it is a larger meeting space to spread out more. The downsides are though that the building would need to be heated more. Travis suggested that there could be airflow in the building while people are meeting by cracking a back window and put double fan in another window. Steve suggested that instead of meeting in person, the meetings could go back to Zoom for the time being. Ron said that the number of people meeting for a Select Board meeting is not too bad, but during a Budget Committee meeting there are more people. If meetings were moved to the other building, there would need to be a better wifi connection in order for the meetings to use Zoom, so town's people can connect via Zoom.

Steve made a motion to go to Executive Session, Personnel Matters 1 MRSA 405(6)A

Elaine 2nd motion.

6:50pm resumed meeting

Steve made a motion to go to full Zoom meetings next Monday. Elaine 2nd motion.

Unanimous.

Town Clerk – Cindy asked to have Ron on standby to set up the generator in case the buildings lost power the next morning during the election. Travis said he is available at 6:30am as long as he is not out plowing the roads. Cindy also asked to get a hold of Jim in case power goes out, because the town would not have running water and the facilities. The generator would need to be set up at the fire department so the Town Office can have running water.

Cindy reported that 235 Absentee Ballots had been requested and 227 had been returned to date. Steve asked if any poll watchers had signed up. Cindy reported no, not at this time. Cindy said she will be the Warden tomorrow. The town has 5 voting booths. Precautions for sanitation include handing sanitized pen to voter and cleaning booth after each voter uses a booth. Ron noted that Christy has put in a lot of time and wanted to make sure there is still money in the budget to pay that position. Cindy said yes, that she had not been needed earlier in the year, so she did not work. Cindy reported there are 571 registered voters as of three weeks ago in Freedom.

Town Officials – Ron reported that Montville took Freedom's recycling trailer. Travis reported that there is a lot of cardboard in Montville's recycling. There is a lot of recycling from Montville at this time, since their truck has been broken down for a few weeks. Replacement fenders were installed by Travis on the recycling trailer.

Planning Board – Prentice will send minutes to the Select Board.

Budget Committee – Will meet via Zoom on Thursday, Nov. 5th at 6pm.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 2, 2020

General Assistance – Ron reported that the Select Board needs to vote on the General Assistance Ordinance. This is the guideline that the town follows when someone comes to the town and applies for General Assistance. Ron made a motion to accept the General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A-H, October 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2021. Steve accepted the motion. Elaine 2nd. Unanimous. The Select Board signed the ordinance on November 2, 2020.

Travis reported that he received a thank you from Dale Hoskins. Steve spoke with Vicki Kupferman at Mt. View and filled out the form for each child that volunteered cleaning up the Skidgell Property.

Steve reported that the town did not get another deposit today to finish that project. Terri Ann told Steve that the money should be in account by today. Steve will call Brian tomorrow to follow up. The town has been waiting for this money for two months.

Ron looked at the ceiling in the Post Office. Travis is going to look at it. Steve reported that John Chapin said USPS would also look at the ceiling.

Travis recommended there be a written policy for the Secretary to the Board position.

Mailboxes in Freedom – Steve reported that Joe said the Post office is responsible for mailbox posts. Joe has forms to put in the mailboxes to let people know. Travis recommends that Freedom's mailbox policy should be amended to include that mailbox posts should be plum and vertical and any further problems with the post and mailbox is the responsibility of the Post Office.

Steve made a motion to accept the amended minutes of the October 26, 2020 Select Board meeting. Ron 2nd. Unanimous.

Budget and Trio – Steve would like the Chart of Accounts to line up with Trio more than they have in the past. He noted looking at the Chart of Accounts and the Trio report that they don't line up, so it makes it hard to keep track of the details. Steve is moving the Worker's Compensation line under Employee Costs. Steve wondered if the line, Supplies and General Expenses needs to be broken out more? Ron said no. Steve suggested adding Tax Maps under Contracted Services. Ron noted that there was nothing budgeted for the postage meter, but it cost \$800 this year. He suggested budgeting \$900 for it next year. Steve changed name from MMA to Property and Casualty Insurance so people know what it means. There are no suggested changes in the Public Safety Lines.

Public Works – Question whether the Contracted Services amount cover all those costs? Payments include the truck body and excavator payments of \$17,730/year, which is a 5 year lease. Steve is grouping truck expenses under one line for each truck. The town also has an equipment trailer, that hauls the excavator and a utility trailer.

Summer Roads – Steve wondered about breaking out more detail under Contracted Services to include grating/mowing. Road Work is \$25,000, this includes everything but paving.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
November 2, 2020

Steve noted that historically the budget has tried to reflect expenses and revenue generated so the town's people could see what money was also being brought in. It was suggested that instead the town should take out the revenue lines and just have a tax budget. What ends up at end of budget sheet is just total town budget from taxes. And then explain about where revenue excess goes. Steve's goal is to simplify budget. Ron thought that it is confusing to mix up revenue and expenses. He added that just the tax budget should be presented to show what needs to be raised from taxes. Elaine thought that including the revenue will be too much information to give to people and people will interpret it differently. Ron likes the way Steve did the budget in past Town Reports. Elaine agreed to keep format from last year's town report. But that the order of the Chart of Accounts could be changed to have the School bill and the County bill come at the end.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm
Ron 1st, Elaine 2nd.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
October 26, 2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbot, Travis Price, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Waterman and Amanda Jamison

FVFD:

Food Security –

Jim reported on the USDA food distribution that took place at Mt. View on 10/24. They will be doing another food distribution event on 10/30 giving away boxes of food. There is no income eligibility requirement.

Jim is willing to help distribute boxes of food to Freedom from Waldo CAPs Neighbor Warming Neighbor program that takes place in November.

Jim also mentioned that Freedom residents can go to Jackson Food Pantry.

Contact with residents – Jim made contact with two Freedom residents. He dropped off a box of food and checked on the residents.

Jim reported that the Interstate Fire Extinguisher Company is coming in November. No update on the truck.

Public Works:

Montville recycling – Travis reported that Montville's recycling truck is not working. Freedom's trash truck ended up picking up Montville's recycling. There was an extra ton and a half on the trash truck from Montville's recycling. Ron doesn't think Montville plans to keep putting recycling in garbage. Ron suggested determining how much they are shipping, and if it is beyond what the town of Freedom negotiated with Montville to haul, perhaps the contract needs to be renegotiated. Ron will talk with Montville Select Board to find out what is going on.

Travis asked if the Select Board would approve overtime pay in order to get the plows on the trucks in anticipation of snow coming. Overtime may be needed since the Public Works department is currently renting mulching equipment and an excavator doing other work that needs to get done ditching the roads. Overtime pay was approved.

Travis reported that a bed chain was ordered for Truck #8 at \$1,150 from Ben Reynolds.

Travis reported that the bill for the excavator rental should be coming out of the winter budget line.

Steve spoke about the 3 or 4 mailboxes that are leaning backwards on the Greeley Road. Steve talked with John from the Post Office and found out that the Post Office is responsible for the posts to keep them upright and straight. Freedom's Public Works Department has already gone and fixed the ruts in the shoulder of the road twice. Steve said he would also speak with Joe at the Post Office to clarify whose responsibility this is.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
October 26, 2020

Steve spoke with John about the possibility of increasing hours at the Freedom Post Office. Steve reported that John said that is not possible because revenue is decreasing. Steve reported about the water stains on ceiling and that someone from Freedom would go look at it.

Steve reported that when the lease was renegotiated with USPS, it will increase to \$12/foot next year. The lease states that the USPS pays for all expenses in regards to operating the building and the Town of Freedom pays for repairs to the building. Steve reported that from leasing the building to the USPS, Freedom will get around \$9,400 after an approximate \$1,200 in expenses for one year.

Citizens' Issues: Steve and Elaine reported that they worked with four local teenagers in cleaning up the Skidgell Property. They all worked one Saturday from 9:30am – 12:30pm, and that the kids did a fantastic job. They worked the entire time and got so much done. Elaine will write a letter of appreciation to the children.

Treasurer's Report: Alyssa reported the payroll amount of \$5222.35 and the AP amount of \$21,515.08. Included in the AP amount is the \$16,992.67 check for DECD. The check needs to be voided at this time until town receives reimbursement check from DECD. Also the total grant amount of \$214,000, the town needs to submit \$8.00 more in receipts. Then the town can have a final meeting with DECD and then close out the grant.

Steve makes a motion to approve payroll warrant and the AP warrant. Ron seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Secretary position: Discussion to include in the position description the responsibilities to set up Zoom. Steve makes a motion to amend 2020 wage sheet to say "Select Board Secretary" and to amend wages from \$12/hour to \$15/hour. Elaine seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Steve seconds the motion. Unanimous.

Town Official Reports:

Planning Board – Elaine reported that she emailed Prentice and let him know the Planning Board minutes need to be sent to Select Board after their meetings.

Recreation Committee – Hosting a Drive Thru Trick or Treat on Friday the 30th from 3:30pm – 5pm.

Budget Committee – Next meeting is 10/28 at 7pm

Old Business:

Ron talked about the account summary and chart of accounts needing to align better. Need a work session with Select Board and Treasurer. Cindy suggests that Erna be there too.

Town of Freedom Select Board Minutes
October 26, 2020

Cindy asked for permission for the Recreation Committee to use the town's credit card to purchase candy for 10/30 event. Ron makes motion for Rec. Committee to use credit card to purchase candy for Trunk or Treat. Elaine seconds it. Unanimous.

Cindy has been working on absentee ballots. 203 requested so far, 166 returned.
Cindy mentioned a Freedom of Access Training for Select Board. \$35.00/person to participate.

Cindy mentioned she completed a training on the Trio program. This will help her to respond quickly to the different requests from town's people throughout the day having multiple windows open to operate the computer program faster.

New Business:

Elaine spoke about the need to have the Town's website reflect current Town Office hours. Those need to be updated.

Elaine wondered about a "Welcome" packet for new residents? Cindy gives Town Report to new residents. Ron suggested that would be nice if Elaine wanted to write something.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Select Board
9/14/2020

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Nathan McCann, Dylan Turner, AnnMarie Adamson, Cindy Abbott, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, and Jim Watermen.

Public Works: Travis reports ditching on Mitchell continues, moving to Rollins then to Beaver Ridge, dig safe sent in at 4pm. Ron and Travis reviewed insurance/liability. Jim gave list of 30 dead end roads, discussion of whether many of these needed the signs or not- depending upon private, or visibly not great roads, etc. Discussion will continue as to what to do next week.

Travis asks to go into Executive session Legal 1 MRSA 405 (6) E, Ron makes motion, Elaine Seconds Unanimous. 6:35-6:57pm no decision made.

Ron makes motion for Steve to talk with Kelly regarding a legal issue as soon as possible, Elaine seconds, unanimous.

Select Board Workshop: 9/22/20 at 6pm and meeting with Jackie 9/23/20.

Treasurer Report: Ron makes a motion to make August School payment, Elaine seconds. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to pay \$100,000 on TAN, Elaine seconds, unanimous.

Steve makes a motion to pay payroll \$3,500 and AP \$18,962.52, Ron seconds, unanimous.

Town Clerk: Absentee ballots, should we get a drop box?? Cindy will check on absentee box.

Parks and Rec: Would they host a meal for volunteers after Skidgell lot clean up?

Steve makes motion to approve a drive thru trunk or treat, Elaine seconds, unanimous.

Fire Department: Jim reports on 10/17 there will be a drive up chicken dinner, and on 11/4 a hunters breakfast, covid guidelines will be followed. Select Board will monitor pandemic and make their final judgement two weeks prior to event.

Citizen issues: Nathan McCann asks for better clarification regarding Marilyn's attendance last week, is there a regulation or Mill's statement regarding only Zoom?

Ron responds that Marilyn was with Elaine because they had a Planning board meeting following Select Board meeting, so instead of keeping her in car they had her come in. 5 million people have tested positive, quite possibly could be more, for that reason he does not want it open to public yet, he sympathizes with internet issues. Ron wants it to be fair and first come first serve is not the answer. Ron feels like this is how it will be for a while.

Nathan questions where this comes from, legislation? Mill's mandate?

Ron replies he is doing what he thinks is safest for town and family.

Steve inputs that MMA is doing everything by Zoom.

Nathan replies that the numbers are not accurate about how many have tested positive, and that the probability of getting seriously ill is minute.

Steve replies in disagreement about numbers and states that the CDC says 5 million tested positive with 200,000 deaths, that's 4% mortality rate. Maine is the oldest state by average, he does not want to take any chances.

Select Board
9/14/2020

Steve agrees he does not like wearing masks, Zoom, etc but it's a tough time and we have to make tough decisions. We, the Select Board, don't do it for the money.

Nathan comments as if the Select Board does not care.

In reaction to Nathan's comment Steve does not understand, the Select Board does care.

Nathan replies that he would again like clarification regarding what law or mandate they are following.

Elaine says Maine is in a state of Emergency, something like the wedding up north is a concern.

Nathan replies he will no longer be reporting on the Select Board meetings.

Old Business: Ron makes a motion for Skidgell Lot mailer, Elaine seconds, unanimous.

Elaine makes a motion to adjourn, Ron seconds, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Select Board Meeting
9/7/2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Marilyn Perry, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Dylan Turner, Jim Watermen, Nathan McCann, and Cindy Abbott.

Fire Department: Jim reports Risk Management info sent in. Safety grant submitted for another airpack. Truck 4 went to Reliant Equipment in Vassalboro for repairs.

Public Works: Travis was unaware of meeting change. Steve would like to break up the paving on Penney Hills into 3 parts, it would be around \$170,000 total. Ron has couple more repaving jobs the town should be thinking about.

Treasurer: Alyssa reports AP and Payroll approved this morning, Ron makes motion to approve Treasurer report, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Citizen Issues: Trevor Ripley would like a "Dead End" sign put at the intersection of Greeley/Rollins road. Select Board sees no problem with this, but will wait and get a list of dead end roads from Jim before deciding. Ron makes motion to receive list from Jim before making a decision on signs, Elaine seconds, unanimous.

Tax Collector: Besides abatements from this morning, nothing else to report.

Old Business: Skidgell lot has been cleaned up, a team of citizens have formed a committee to discuss future ideas for site. Elaine would like a group of volunteers to go through and clean up any debris the excavator missed, Steve will reach out to Vicki Kupferman to see if she can find some high school students that would be interested.

Dylan asks how close to tonnage were we? Rough estimate is 1700, quote was for 2000. 57 truck loads, not counting steel, which will be deducted from totals.

Town looking into survey/title work for next to Skidgell lot, would like to work towards solar array.

Curra farm sent letter of what towns people received, would like to try this again next year.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion, unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Select Board
8/24/2020

Present: Travis Price, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Alyssa Brugger, Dylan Turner, Nathan McCann, Ann Marie Adamson.

Meeting started at 6:06pm

Fire Chief: Nothing to report, still working on gathering paperwork from auxiliary. Select Board will be reviewing FVFD by- laws.

Public Works: Contacted Kelly from Mitchell Roofing about garage roof payment, still waiting on bill. John Cronoswki will start sand in about 2 weeks, Travis is hopeful he will be done on Beaver Ridge by that point.

Travis has concerns over Keen Hall job, they have a parking lot that was not discussed, which is a few inches higher than the road, with no culvert. Have not been able to reach Brandon, he will try contacting Myrick.

Hauled gravel down to connect two slabs for Skidgell lot. Travis worked with Waste Management 134 yards at \$4 yard of gravel. \$536 labor, not counting fuel/truck. Figures lot will need gravel anyway.

Ron makes motion to use rest of \$3,000 to apply gravel/labor from post office, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous. No longer needed 8/31/20.

Citizen wants to build a trash receptacle for rentals, would this be allowed. Whatever route is taken it will not be in the way this winter.

Citizen issues: Freedom General overdue bill, no concrete receipts to backup statement, Elaine will talk to Carrie and let her know town will not pay.

Laura Greeley is asking why we can't meet in person yet; Select Board says she can park in town office lot and use town internet if her does not work at home. Still staying remote.

Treasurer Report: Steve makes motion to approve AP and Payroll warrants, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Old Business:

Cash handling policy agreed for now, Steve will finalize wording.

Meeting scheduled with tax maps and Jackie.

New Business: Joe Richardson wants town to remove trailer on his lot.

Ron makes motion to contact Bill Kelley regarding foreclosure issue, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Budget Committee meeting on 9/9 @ 7pm.

Montville trash truck for \$2,500, town will wait until town meeting to discuss purchasing from trash stickers.

8/17/2020 minutes, Steve makes motion to approve minutes, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Select Board
8/24/2020

ADP, wait until March, Select Board does not want to spend money in that area right now.

Executive session personnel issue MRSA 405 6A. 8:35pm

Steve makes a motion to raise cleaning position to \$15 an hour. Ron seconds motion.
Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 8:40pm

Select Board
8/17/20

Present: Travis Price, Ron Price, Steve Bennet, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Nathan McCann, Dylan Turner.

Meeting started at 4:15pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen nothing to report.

Public Works Director Travis asks if we have heard from budget committee regarding getting finances for extra fill? The budget committee agreed to allocate winter road work to summer work for fill, this will help in the future for paving and upkeep.

Rn makes a motion to apply winter budget to Penney Hill portion of Smithton, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Skidgell lot update: Total of 8 rats collected over the last month. Atlantic company did testing and only asbestos found was along one pipe, which will be removed Thursday and correctly disposed of. No asbestos found anywhere else- plaster, roofing, shingles, etc. The project will now resume as originally planned. Two contracts are being prepared, one for the town one for the state. Takes about two weeks to setup through treasurer. Site prep will start tomorrow with a road in and silt fencing in-between stream. Received contract for town during meeting, Select Board reviewed and upon signing debris will be moved starting Wednesday.

Ron makes a motion to sign contract tonight for removal of debris, Elaine seconds. Unanimous. Steve makes motion for Ron to be witness of signature, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Old Business: Montville Trash Truck, not inspectable, would need a lot of work. Travis believes it would cost between \$6,000-\$10,000 for repairs. Ron will ask Montville how much they want for it and discussion will continue after price quote.

Montville will pay quarterly for trash pickup.

Clothing found in Skidgell lot boxes, Nathan will take anything that is salvageable.

Treasurer's report presented by Alyssa, Blake will be reimbursed for traps. Ron makes a motion to pay Payroll and AP warrant, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Town Clerk report presented by Cindy, wondering where the tax maps are. Cindy received an inappropriate email from a citizen, Ron wants to follow up with a letter from town saying such things will not be tolerated.

Courtney Abbott has an interview tomorrow for town office cleaning.

Sign for boat landing rules ordered.

Notes: Steve makes motion to approve August 8th notes, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Ron makes motion to approve August 10th notes as amended, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

New business: Health trust to review/policy.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm

Select Board Meeting
8/10/2020

Present: Cindy Abbott, Ron Price, Steve Bennet, Jim Watermen, Travis Price, Alyssa Brugger, Courtney Abbott, Nathan McCann, Ann Marie Adamson, Dylan Turner.

Fire Chief a check for Maine Cost Recovery should be coming in mail. Select Board has asked to see an official bank statement for Fire Department, they have not seen one in three years. Jim assures he will bring one as soon he can.

Public Works Director Travis presents total spent on summer roads is \$15,108.00. Public works would like to increase shoulders after ditching, called around for quotes, best proposal so far is \$5,347.50 trucking per ton not hour. Having supplies dropped would help save on cost. Select Board is uncertain about URIP funds. Ron would like to finalize project no matter what happens with URIP funds, Steve will write an email to Budget Committee to see if they can take \$5,000 from winter roads.

Treasures Report presented by Alyssa. Ron makes a motion to approve Payroll and AP warrant, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron will write an abandoned property letter to Chris and Marissa Fisher regarding the property 67 Belfast Rd, Steve makes a motion, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Cindy presents she is catching up on BMV reports, cleaner coming in on Tuesdays? Courtney is interested in position; Select Board will reach out for interview. Ron makes a motion to purchase a carpet cleaner, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Select Board would like to meet up with Jackie regarding updating the tax map.

Skidgell Lot update, Frank Perry an environmental contractor from Atlantic out of Auburn, field boss., licensed for inspection sampling and mitigation. They met last Thursday to analyze asbestos. Will be sending workers up this week to completely remove pipe/asbestos and test it/ Also took sample of roofing and siding. Testing/sampling done this week. Mitigation will happen if needed. If all goes accordingly everything should be completed and on track as originally planned.

Old Busines: Signs at boat landing to say: Owned/Maintained by town, pick up after pets, no swimming at boat landing, no diving off dock, no liter, no moving rocks.

Executive session MRSA 405 (6) E 8:00pm – 8:08pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Select Board Meeting
8/3/2020

Present: Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, Elaine Higgins, Nathan McCann, Brian Jones, Ann Marie Adamson, Alyssa Brugger.

Fire Chief Jim Watermen reports controlled burn on Skidgell lot went well. Nothing else to report.

Public Works Director Travis presents a large bill for steering box coming in, payment for steering box to pull from repair and maintenance and supplies. Garage roof is done, \$14,800 total. Going well on Smithton, ditching rest of week. Tammy McTaggart called an and complimented the ditching work.

Citizens issues: Mailbox issue on Greeley road. Steve checked it out, nothing he noticed wrong. Mailbox was leaning to far towards road was the original issue. Tammy McTaggart had a sick bat, contacted game warden. She had tried getting ahold of ACO, no response. Steve will look into this.

Old News: Boundary agreement is finished, next project is to work on the back line from Knox and Unity.

Peter Crocket from Department came Wednesday around 9 and looked at asbestos. Couple feet for both pieces. Pieces will need to be tested to see if they are friable. Maybe roofing and plaster, they will test to make sure. Waste Management has setup a meeting for testing, sampling, and mitigation.

Steve makes a motion to use emergency funds to cover costs, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Fiberite, nothing new, they have declared bankruptcy. Should town stick with MRC? Decision for town meeting.

Ron contacted Beaver Ridge Wind regarding tax bill, waiting for a response.

Treasurers Report presented by Alyssa, Steve makes a motion to approve Payroll and AP warrants, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to approve 7/27 minutes as amended, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Code Enforcement Officer Jackie will be drafting a letter for house in disrepair. Written two letters reading old store/Irish Moose, not received a response. Next step is lawyer sends letter.

Planning Board needs to set a fee for commercial building permits, Select Board thinks under 100k @ \$250.00, 100k-250k @ \$350.00, 250k-500k @ \$500, 500k-1million @ \$750, 1million + @ \$1,000.00.

Ron makes a motion to approve commercial building permit fees, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

The Lost Kitchen has put in plans to build three mini buildings.

Select Board Meeting
8/3/2020

New Business: MMA asking for votes, needs to be done by 8/21.

Select Board would like to update our tax maps.

Montville trash truck, Travis will look at it and see if it's worth fixing up for a backup.

Ron makes a motion to adjourn, Steve seconds, Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Select Board 7/27/2020

Present: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Travis Price, Nathan McCann, Dylan Turner, Ann Marie Adamson.

Meeting started at 6:10pm

Fire Chief Jim Waterman not present. Death on North Palermo and an accident on Oak Lane. Another accident on 137, two car accident.

Public Works Director Travis Price presents Trash Truck installed a new hose on truck and it blew o ring/hose off. Travis believes the steering column is going. Has contacted a place for a rebuild. It's going to be about 6-700\$, hopefully coming in tomorrow and Public Works will work on it Wednesday morning. The truck is loaded. Garage roof has been started. Ditching on Goosepecker is continuing. Work on truck 6 this week, cap on truck bed to stop debris from getting in between bed. Noises around town that Montville would like to rent mulcher, town has not officially asked and Travis is not in favor of renting it out. Talk of working on Smithton next year, rough cost \$185,000 since nothing was done this year due to COVID-19. Will be meeting Blake this week about rat problem tomorrow at 5pm. Steve went to Agway to look at rat poison to help with problem.

Treasurers Report presented by Alyssa Brugger payroll is \$8,712.84, plus Cindy's 8/3 pay check Steve makes a motion to approve both payrolls in the amount of \$8,712.84 and \$487.83. Ron seconds motion. Unanimous. Ron makes motion to pay AP warrant \$4,019.87, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk out of town for the next two weeks.

Nothing to report from Planning Board, Budget Committee, Parks and Rec, or Historical.

No citizen concerns to report.

Old Business: Steve is sending out the second notice for Skidgell lot. Evaluation completed for lot, Peter Crocket received an anonymous complaint about the asbestos, had a conference call with Charlie Springer, and Charlie explained all he did was to survey the DEP and EPA study. The TRC study stated no contaminants, Crocket has yet to read it. It is Peter Crocket Decision to have a professional go in and collect Samples. Steve asks how long will this take and how much will this cost. Getting someone in there should be quick, the cost around\$5-600, plus how many samples taken and that need to be tested. Confusion over why Peter Crocket cannot attest to how much was there when he was the one originally to go in and sample. Town believes there was about a foot found. Ron will give Jerry a copy of his agreement so something can get setup so it can get signed.

Signage needed for boat landing-no swimming and no overnight storage for boats. Money will come out of recreation fund.

Possibly make a kayak/canoe rack in the future halfway between boat landing and dock.

Received notice today about sitting it on global warming and transportation concerns.

Select Board 7/27/2020

No new business.

Approving notes: 7/6/20, 7/13/20, 7/20/20 - Ron makes motion to approve all three minutes, Steve seconds motion.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Select Board 7/20/20

Present: Jim Waterman, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Dylan Turner, Cindy Abbott, Nathan McCann, and Ann Marie Adamson.

Fire Chief Jim Waterman presents dry vac test still needs to be done, still waiting on estimate to fix a door. Assisted a call in Unity the other day.

Public Works Director presents waste removal weights: Freedom 664lbs, Montville 4840lbs, total 11480lbs.

Brush pile and offers from outside people- town liability, anyone who is interested needs to get insurance and it needs to be cleaned up by Labor Day.

Regarding the rat clean up, can not be a volunteer, needs to be an employee of the town. Just in case something happens the town is covered. Possibly the Animal Control Officer, however that is unlikely. Look into trappers and see if they have liability insurance. Ron can reach out to someone and update town next week. Can not be a volunteer because the location is considered a hazard location.

Public works is still ditching on Goosepecker.

Citizen concerns: Laura Greeley asking about having Select Board meeting in the election hall. Because of social distancing spacing, and health concerns for now the Select Board will continue to have the meetings hybrid.

Dylan Turner asked how many people are attending the internet meeting tomorrow? Elaine is not sure, has no solid answers. Everyone will be wearing masks or Zooming in. This contradicts the Select Board meeting and not opening. Steve responds we could do meetings outdoors, a lot of internet issues in town.

If Select Board opens it would be first come first serve which would not be fair, election hall does not have great connection, and the Select Board does not feel comfortable allowing everyone in.

Post Office account still needs to be corrected- Alyssa is working with Trio to fix their system and to show correct amount which should be \$24,942.00.

Simple IRA contributions need to be put in weekly, not every month.

Boynton letter- needs to be sent out.

Peter Crawford received a call last week with the town not dealing with the asbestos.

Remediation of asbestos kicks in when there is 3-5 feet of asbestos. Peter was not sure if that was the amount found- he was the one who found it, he thinks it may be enough to enforce the law, however he is not sure. Waste Management is a licensed disposal, however they are not licensed for remediation of asbestos. Peter will call TRC solutions regarding their previous report on the Skidgell lot, he will review this and will hopefully have an answer this week or next.

Ron thinks trying to hold this whole process up for the town without having solid facts does not make any sense.

Treasurers Report presented by Alyssa Brugger payroll is \$6,135.58, AP 8,607.03, ending checkbook is \$340,611.20.

Select Board 7/20/20

Steve makes a motion to approve the Payroll for \$6,135.58 and AP \$8,607.03, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Jackie sent a list of building permits from 2019- to present. Ron shared it with the Select Board.

Executive Session 1 MRSA (6) A 7:20pm- 7:57pm

Town Clerk presents tax map clarification, there is a decrease in one property for unknown reasons.

Posting food pantry locations outside of the town office.

Trailer moving out of town this week.

Issue regarding Town Clerk check- Alyssa will double check with Erna tomorrow and reissue check tomorrow.

Discussion of Cindy doing out of town vehicle registrations and keeping the clerk fee.
Reviewing last years amount of out of town vehicle registrations. Cindy would like to discuss it again in a few weeks.

The Select Board thinks other town Selectmen should reach out if they need assistance with registrations and Cindy would like compensation from other towns.

Steve makes a motion that other Select Board's need to reach out to our town to ask for assistance with vehicle registration, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to adjourn, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Select Board
7/13/2020

Present: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Laura Greeley, Travis Price, Jim Watermen, Dylan Turner, Meredith Coffin, Courtney Abbott, Tammy MacTaggart, Nathan McCann, Annmarie Adamson, Blake T.

Fire chief Jim Watermen hose testing and ladder testing done. Hard suction was all done with a vacuum. Lost a few feet from the large diameter hose. A Concern was raised over the Anderson house. Jim has been unable to reach any of the owners. Possibly have code enforcement officer notify them that it is a hazard and they need to deal with it. Possibly take off roof and have a control burn.

Steve makes a motion to contact Jacki to send a certified letter on behalf of the town that the Property - house only- needs to be properly dealt with. Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Public works director Travis Price Han's Schmidt is interested in taking firewood out of brush pile left over from the storm cleanup. He has his w-9 and all required paperwork as well as all equipment necessary. Once the pile is thinned out the fire department is willing to burn the remainder of the pile. Possibly make up a liability release form from our insurance company. Ditching on Goosepecker going well, lots of material that needed to be moved. Travis will be saving one of the trailers from the Skidgel Lot to store hay and staging for security. No start date yet for Waste Management and the Skidgell lot.

Daimen Ingraham's name is not on homestead application but is looking for an abatement. Can they apply reimbursement now, or do they wait until next year? Since we have already committed taxes unsure what to do, they can discuss further. Upon further discussion application will not be accepted this year but will be accepted next year.

Select Board wanted to thank the public works for setting up for the special meeting this Saturday.

Citizen issues: There is concern over rats regarding Skidgell lot. Steve spoke with Waste Management regarding issue. After spending hours down there he has not seen very many. Travis has also not seen much for activity regarding rats. A local business uses poison to deter rats. Waste management suggested putting out Have a Heart traps and see how many we catch. If there are a lot then we know we have an issue, if we don't catch many then no concerns.

Who will monitor traps, possibly the animal control officer?

Is there another way to determine if there is a rat's nest?

Laura Greeley has concerns over previous rat issues. In her opinion it is the responsibility of town to take care of issue because getting rid of the rats was the main reason for buying the property. Steve says that was not the main reason for purchasing the property. The town bought it because it was a public eyesore, and needed to be cleaned up. Getting rid of the rats is of course important, but not the main reason. The State does not hand out \$124,000 to get rid of rats. Steve is concerned about it, as he stated Saturday. Only idea he has right now is to set up traps and has a couple live traps that the town could use. If there is no food there perhaps the problem has moved on.

Select Board
7/13/2020

Blake comments that people want to clean up the lot, but just want more assurance that there is some help with rat traps. If town is willing to purchase traps for \$500 he will personally take care of traps and disposal. Afterward the town will have traps back. Elaine suggests using Steve Bennett's traps first and seeing what happens.

Conversation regarding who should take the burden of traps, etc continued for a while. Tammy Mactaggert has about 10 Have a Heart traps the town can borrow to see what happens, Blake will monitor traps.

Ron makes a motion to borrow Steve and Tammy's traps and monitor for 30 days and see if the town needs to take further steps. Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Steve will call MMA regarding Blake being down there checking traps as a volunteer.

Minutes:

June 15th Ron makes motion to accept, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

June 22nd Steve makes a motion to accept, Elaine seconds. Unanimous.

June 29th waiting for correction.

July 7th Ron makes motion to correct with amendment, Elaine seconds.

Treasurers report presented by Alyssa Brugger, payroll warrant \$6,419.41, AP is \$9,095.95. Ending checkbook balance is \$307,770.11.

Alyssa will double check post office carry over account for revenue.

Ron makes motion to accept AP and payroll this week, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Cindy Abbott presents abatement for Jim Watermen, Ron makes motion to approve abatement, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

A second abatement regarding two properties on Goosepecker and Glidden roads need to be signed regarding a mix up.

There was also concern over a tiny house and whether or not it was being taxed.

117 absentee ballots already in. Voting will be from 8:00am-8:00pm tomorrow. Kristy will be in tomorrow so the town office will be open. Cindy has setup the election hall so there is an entrance and exit and 6 foot spacing.

Office hours will be changing to Monday through Thursday and closed Friday. Kristy would still do the first Saturday. So the new hours would be Monday 9-6, Tuesday through Thursday would be 9:00-3:30. First Saturday of every month would stay the same.

Ron makes a motion to change policy to reflect new hours, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Cindy is wondering about out of town excise taxes. There are 2 or 3 towns that do not have a town clerk or that have new clerks. The Select Board isn't opposed to the idea, they will leave it up to Cindy until the neighboring towns are back on their feet. Cindy asked if she could keep and split some of the clerk fees to compensate for some of the hours she and Alyssa will put in. They get \$6 for new registrations and \$7 for re-registrations. Elaine would like to have a spreadsheet and an exact number for next week's meeting before making a decision. The other members agreed.

Select Board
7/13/2020

Steve sees a lot of building going on around town. Steve is in favor of it, but would like to know more about what's going on. A question was raised as to where the permit checklist for each project should go- Cindy thinks it should go in front of the folders for each project. This will be asked of Jacki and she should be able to give us a report. Steve would like to have a meeting with Jacki to discuss all this.

Map 11 lot 69 not in books but on map.

There is a disabled veteran who has asked about waiving excise taxes. Cindy has explained to this individual already. Excise taxes can be waived for a disabled veteran, but only if the veteran is blind or has lost a limb. Cindy will call this individual again.

Dirigo grange has contacted the Board and would like their donation from town. This will be on next week's AP warrant.

Discussion over the Boynton lot on Stevens Road, house in disrepair and is falling down, they will discuss what can be done with Jacki.

Steve spoke with the Haskells regarding getting water out of pond, Haskell feels he did not do any damage to the ramp. Haskell knows there are others that go and pump water out of it. It is an unusual pond with a large water shed that completely flushes itself 1.5 times a year. The Board has spoken to Haskell regarding getting a longer hose.

Policy Book: need to finalize two more policies, total is now 31. Still need a cash-handling policy and an employee policy. Other possible policies are a code of ethics for town employees. drug testing policy, certificate of occupancy, dangerous building policy, and a policy regarding access to public records.

The Select Board will need to double check policies on the website.

Montville trash pick-up agreement finalized, would like to start this Saturday. Select Board signed contract starting this Saturday the 18th for 52 weeks.

Executive session MRSA Ron makes motion to go into executive session, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Executive session ended at 8:56

Meeting adjourned at 8:57

Select Board Meeting

7/6/2020

Present: Travis Price, Jim Watermen, Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Alyssa Brugger. Steve Bennet absent due to an advisory meeting for Skidgell Lot/ Dec grant program.

Meeting called to order at 5:57pm.

Fire Chief Jim Watermen letting Treasurer know bill coming in mail for Ravens garage for Truck 3.

Prepping for Saturday's public meeting/special town meeting.

Still finalizing Freedom General bill, hopefully will be finished this week.

Public Works staging returned from citizen. Bond payment has been corrected meaning the Public Works is at 50% for budget. Had another driveway application turned in. Working on Goosepecker Ridge Road. Minor repair on excavator.

Questioning what supplies needed for Saturday's special town meeting. Select Board would like a few chairs just in case and a table or two for Cindy and Select Board. Board decided to use the sand shed instead of the garage. Brian Jones will be moderating.

Ron makes a motion to approve payroll for \$6,388.21, and AP for \$2,216.06 and second AP for tax liens for \$1,083.00. Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Myrick Cross asks permission to use road signs for construction on Keen Hall. Travis was wondering how long, can work something out. Myrick assures they will consult with Travis so everything goes smoothly.

No town reports/committees to report this week.

Old Business: Ron makes motion to finalizing town abuttal with lawyer, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Having meetings in person is still questionable, not sure what to do. Possibly have just select board meet at office and Zoom for everyone else.

Adjust office hours so clerk can be closed Friday for paperwork. But not decided on so as of now no change.

When will we start out of town vehicle registrations?

Ending remote access for town office. Was talked about but no decision was made.

New website. How can we update the website, or do we need a new one?

Issues with zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm

Select Board Executive Session
6/10/2020

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Erna Keller, Steve Bennett

Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6)A) Personnel Matters

Session started at 8:10am

Session ended at 9:35am

Policy's were brought in from Monday nights discussion, minus the 4 discussed that need to be finalized.

Ron makes a motion to sign the 26 policy's, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to award bid to Waste Management for \$214,000 to clean up Skidgell's Lot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55am

Select Board Meeting
6/1/20

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Dylan Turner, Kim Holmes, Jim Watermen, Travis Price, Cindy Abbott, and Brian Jones.

Select Board secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen presents fire truck 3 back in service after starter work and primer motor in truck 1 worked on both at Burleigh's.

Public Works Director Travis Price submitted an invoice to Thorndike for Cold Patch, couple more days of fluid filming with trucks, before moving on to garbage truck.

Citizens issues/questions- none.

Meeting minutes from last week will be sent out for Select Board signature.

Treasurer report presented by Alyssa Steve makes a motion to approve AP warrant for \$9,142.55, excluding White Sign bill until further review. Ron seconds. Unanimous. Steve makes motion to approve to approve payroll \$8,261.09, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Warrants will be signed tomorrow morning.

Town Clerk Cindy Abbott finished the lien letters and will be arriving tomorrow.

Town Official Reports:

Budget committee meeting Wednesday at 7pm, agenda is: Review of budget hold, tax ratios, Skidgell lot clean up

Steve makes a motion to award the bid to Waste Management for Skidgell lot clean up pending the receiving of grant money from the state Department of Economic and Community development, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Cemeteries: two quotes, both over \$6,000. Alyssa will tour cemeteries and send in another quote, she would be using her own equipment.

Old Business: LED streetlights have been installed.

Audit is all set to be signed and finished up, Ron makes a motion for Alyssa to sign off on finalizing Audit, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

TAN check is in the mail, should be deposited tomorrow. Ron makes motion to pay 5 months of school payments and the road bond. Steve seconds, unanimous.

Select Board
6/1/20

New Business: Steve drafted a letter about voting this July.

Recess meeting and reconvene tomorrow morning at 8am to sign warrants and review concerns.

Ron makes a motion to have an executive session meeting Friday morning at 9am for a personnel matter at the town, MRSA 405 (6) A.

Ron adjourns at 8:21pm

Select Board
5/18/2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, Cindy Abbott, Dylan Turner, Steve Bennett, Jim Watermen, Ron Price, Travis Price, Nathan McCann, Brian Jones, Carrie Bennett

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm

Select Boar Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Fire Chief Jim Waterman presents there is a control burn tonight at 6:30, Central Maine Cost Recovery check for \$600.00. Has an appointment tomorrow with FireTech to hook up item that interacts with air compressor. Travis Price has another possible control burn on Stevens Road. Currently we cannot burn because we are in condition 4.

Public Works Director Travis Price presents cold patching done today; believes he has gotten everything covered. Has not rolled a few roads because to rent \$500 roller and \$500 work fee not worth it. Lisa and mowing/ access to storage shed. Alyssa will give her set of storage shed keys from her ring. Ron thinks a new set of locks and keys should be installed in all storage sheds. Once the keys/locks are changed Lisa will have one for mowing shed. Get one key that fits both end, Lisa will have her own key.

Hauled 14.63 tons to landfill from Spring Cleaning. The tipping fee is \$85.12, plus labor is at least \$2,600- budget is \$3,000 with one week to go.

One complaint regarding a missed tv getting picked up- it was handled.

Carrie Bennett would like to hire town to do some patching for Freedom General parking lot. Ron has concerns that opening this up would cause issues with townsfolk. Travis thinks this would eliminate cost of town purchasing patching.

Elaine makes a motion to use 2 tons of cold patch on Freedom General driveway and money goes back into Public Works. Steve seconds. Ron declines.

Travis did some patching at Post Office and will check out Raven Road tomorrow.

Ron had questions regarding the General Ledger and Revenue and checkbook, Alyssa will check issues and get back to Select Board. Steve makes a motion to approve Payroll at \$3,041.88 and AP for \$12,225.65. Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Still waiting for cemetery maintenance quotes, work will not get done before Memorial Day. Travis can open all cemetery roads before then.

Steve makes a motion to move the Select Board meeting to Tuesday the 26th in respect for Memorial Day.

Town Clerk Cindy Abbott in response to a previous conversation regarding her excise report: It was due to a correction from the state. Cindy had a slow day, lots of phone calls.

Budget Committee is meeting June 3rd at 7pm via Zoom.

Freedom Parks and Rec fielding questions regarding the August parade. They would like to make a final decision the end of June.

Select Board
5/18/2020

Appeals Board appointed Dylan Turner
Laura Greely has been appointed Budget Committee

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6) E Ron makes motion to go into executive session, Elaine seconds. Executive session ended ay 7:35pm.

Ron makes a motion to adjourn at 7:37pm

Select Board Minutes
5/11/2020

Select Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Present: Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, AnnMarie Adamson, Laura Greeley, Jim Watermen, and Nathan McCann.

Meeting started at 6:05pm

Treasurer's Report presented by Alyssa, Steve makes motion to approve payroll and A/P, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Review replacement of server computer/Treasurer's computer- Select Board agrees they need to replace it. Ryan sent a bill for replacement, Ron makes a motion to approve quote for computer replacement, taking it from repair and replacement from Office Supplies, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Fire Chief Jim Watermen presents they have a meeting tonight, they will have a business meeting and checking the trucks. They will be social distancing and wearing masks. Jim will be at the fire house until about 8:30.

Public Works director Travis Price has a W-9 form for treasurer, and two culvert applications for Town Clerk. There is a citizen complaint about road damage after a road was rolled/graded.

Travis would like Board to look at culvert application wording to make sure the person doing the sitework checks with Travis to make sure it is installed correctly, whether that is the actual landowner or not.

Once spring cleaning is done Travis plans on cleaning/painting Trash Truck. Still looking for someone to chip wood.

Steve talks about the town has a right and obligation for the placement of culverts even on discontinued or abandoned roads if they are upslope from a town way. Roads we maintain with tax dollars need to be a concern.

Jason from Complete Hydraulics called, the hose crimper is in, are we still purchasing? Select Board believes town should purchase because hydraulics on all our trucks is an issue and when we can work on our own machines it's good and cost saving. Travis will wait two weeks because he needs other work finished and would like a demonstration on how to use new tool.

Town Clerk has nothing to report unless someone has a question. She was busy today, but not as busy as last week. No one has been upset about having to use the window. Still refusing a couple people who are out of town residents. The board would like to see if there was another day that the office could be open- Thursday was thrown out as an option. Cindy has been working mostly full days on Thursdays anyway. Need more disinfectant for the town office. Cindy pops in Thursday do get mail and finish up reports and drop deposits for Treasurer. The Town Clerk and Treasurer will work on writing up policies for returned checks and money handling.

Select Board Minutes
5/11/2020

Boards: Fiberrite is not open, Public Works reminded board they are not going there anyway because of Spring Cleaning. No other board is active currently. Steve mentioned Unity Area Recycling is open as of tomorrow. We have paid the yearly bill for UARC.

No G/A's, no assessors report, planning board is not meeting, historical society is meeting tomorrow, parks and rec is trying to do more online.

There was a complaint about no smoking on the ballfield. Further discussion will take place Wednesday at the policy meeting.

Marcus Lowe and Steve Holmes will be going around looking at cemeteries to give quotes. There are a couple cemeteries that need trees cut up to make the roads passable. If trees are down in the cemetery whose responsibility is it? Town or cemetery committee? Cindy has the cemetery flags at town office.

Old Business: Montville, waiting for one final piece of information for two towns meeting. Steve has not heard anything back from Tony regarding Skidgell lot, still waiting on quote.

New Business: 3 applications for budget committee- Ron makes a motion to appoint Laura Greeley to Budget committee, Steve seconds motion, Unanimous.

One application for planning board, new hire for Garbage pickup.

Ron makes a motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Select Board
5/4/2020

Select Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Present: Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, Meredith Ripley, Jim Watermen, Nathan McCann, Brian Jones, and Erna Keller

Meeting started at 5:57pm

Citizen Issues or Concerns: Elaine Higgins is closing on property and needs an address. She will call the Fire Chief tomorrow to finalize concern.

The FVFD has received a grant. The FVFD needs additional PPE, and will be working on purchasing extra PPE which will last a long time.

Fire Chief \$55 a case of filters at \$1050.00, take out of Fire Department Capital Reserve account- Ron makes motion to approve purchase, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Nate Wade, representative for Fire Tech, has a unit that will attach to the air compressor and protect two bottles from being exploded instead of the makeshift filter the FVFD has currently. Jim will pick this up in Windsor tomorrow, the total cost is >\$400.00, which will be taken out of the Reserve account. Ron makes a motion for the fire department to purchase, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Public Works Director Travis Price presents sweeping of Freedom roads is complete, they have also started grading and rolling roads. While they were working, someone ran over one of Public Works signs- a lot of damage to sign.

Last week Travis took truck 6 to the garage (Harry J. Smith), because of a stuck pin- needed a press which the garage does not have. While all that was happening Travis stopped by Pike and purchased Cold Patch and will start that as soon as rolling is complete, hopefully next week. Town of Thorndike will share Cold Patch, same as last year, Freedom charges for material, trucking and loading.

Received a phone call from someone who lives on Davis Road- the citizen would like to develop some land there and wanted to know what to do. Travis said it went well, and he explained the culvert application, etc to the individual. Travis has another culvert application that is ongoing, there are issues from previous Select Board member approvals, Travis is working with this citizen to correct this.

Met with another citizen on Beaver Ridge Road to put in a culvert, they made a plan. Travis would like the person actually installing culvert to meet with Travis/Public works to make sure everything is installed correctly.

There are a couple other possible driveway projects starting.

Overhead door seals that ended up getting dinged up this winter with wings from plows. Travis had 3 or 4 replacement pieces stored in Rec Committee storage, during the clean out, someone from the Rec Committee threw them out. Travis would like the Parks and Rec committee to replace them. Rough replacement cost is \$100.

Alyssa Brugger, representing the Rec Committee, has agreed to cover the cost of lost items.

Select Board
5/4/2020

Mintues:

Steve makes motion to approve April 20, 2020 minutes, Elaine seconds.

Elaine makes motion to approve April 27, 2020 minutes, Steve seconds, Unanimous.

Treasurer Report presented by Alyssa Brugger payroll is \$5,5146.54, A/P is \$4,859.23, and ending checkbook is \$141,027.20. We received a Post Office rent check for the month of April, and Freedom Parks and Rec received a \$500 donation. The Simple IRA is completed and deductions started this week from anyone who signed up. The new TAN numbers have been submitted and we are waiting for a response. The audit was sent in today, they need one final letter of confirmation.

Steve makes motion to approve Payroll and A/P warrants, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Cindy Abbott was extremely busy today, she is still working on a graph that Steve requested for monthly finances over the last 4 years.

Cindy printed off the short form FEMA portal regarding coronavirus expenses. Ron also finished MEMA form 7 regarding the last snowstorm that had caused some damage.

New business: Ron has been in contact with a local farmer that has connections from around the nation, the program would ship hogs to Maine farmers to house and feed them until local butcher shops can process them. Product would then go to local food pantries.

There is concern over how this would go, lots of risk in transporting livestock that far. Who locally would be willing to put up some money to assist. The board will think this over in the next week.

Dale Rowely has a free online class next week for anyone interested.

Other Boards/Committees: None present.

Unity Area Recycling is opening back up, concerns over Freedom picking up recyclables again, Select Board doesn't believe it is worth it, they will discuss this in the future.

General Assistance meeting via Zoom at 3pm tomorrow, no new information from the town. Discussion of what to do with food donations from Unity Food pantry, Cindy had it next to the teller window today. They will try that again next week and see what happens.

Planning board will be having a Zoom meeting next week, Elaine will double check and be attending. Not sure what is happening with the board recently.

Parks and Rec will be having a meeting via Zoom tomorrow to discuss what's happening going forward.

Nothing on the appeals board.

Select Board
5/4/2020

Cemetery board, Steve and Marcus will be going around to the cemeteries to review what is needed. Cindy will be checking on flags for the town office, cemeteries, and roads to get ready for Memorial Day.

Donation request for South Freedom cemeteries sent in. Ron makes a motion to approve donation (\$500) for the town, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Budget Committee is meeting Wednesday at 6pm via Zoom. No applicants have been sent in yet. The plan is to bring up finances from last year and this year, and the budget hold. It is open to the public.

Old Business: TAN application is in, waiting to hear back. Marie Luigi (sp?) no progress on the lines on Skidgell property because she has not been able to get into the registry.

Job application sent in for the Spring Clean up assistant, Ron makes a motion to approve, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Steve has been working on the policies and has finished 14 or 15 done, another dozen that need to be done. The Select Board would like another work session to go over the policies, Wednesday the 13th at 9am via Zoom.

New Business: Ron tried to get information on the Montville trash situation that will be on hold for another week- Montville is gathering information for tonnage and how much they spent last year.

Ron executive session to discuss 1 MRSA 405 (6) D, legal matter, came out at 7:49pm

Ron makes a motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Select Board Meeting
4/27/2020

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, Jim Watermen, Brian Jones, Cindy Abbott, Nathan McCann, Frances Walker, and AnnMarie Adamson.

Meeting called to order at 5:57pm

The Fire Chief is unable to attend. Central Maine Cost Recovery has come into a situation when a motor vehicle accident does not make a claim with their insurance company, it is hard for Cost Recovery to repay the town when nothing has been filed. Town can continue to file and then the Cost Recovery will file against insurance. Jim would like to know what the town would like to do if the person has not filed. The Select Board feels the Fire Chief should keep claiming regardless.

Ron makes motion, Elaine Seconds. Unanimous.

Hose testing was scheduled for June, but the company that does testing is postponing until at least July, so the town decided to wait until another time.

FEMA grant for personal protective equipment, does not feel it is needed at this time.

Public Works Director Travis Price asks Jim if Ayer Ridge has a 911 location. Jim assures there is and lists the locations. The two will connect afterwards to confirm.

Bills from Todd Nelson regarding brush clean up regarding the last snowstorm.

The town has rented a sweeper to clean roads.

Travis is working on the Grizzley in the shop.

Who will be helping Joe for Spring Cleanup? Select Board will discuss this further.

Abatement concerns, property owner was not properly taxed in regard to their water frontage. It was discussed between Town Clerk, Code Enforcement Officer, and Select Board. The town decided Jackie can write a letter about how the town does not tax for personal property, the timeframe for abatement is past due and for these reasons they are going to deny the abatement.

Treasurer Report Alyssa Brugger Ron makes a motion to sign a letter for RHR to receive audit, Elaine seconds, Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to approve the Payroll, and Two A/P warrants.... Elaine Seconds motion. Unanimous.

Tow Clerk Cindy Abbott review Spring Clean up, what will be listed for approved items?? Checking in on review of town policies. Is the Unity Area Recycling Center open?

Cindy will write up a list of what can and cannot be put out. The plan is for two weeks from May 11th to May 23rd. Lee Walch?? would be willing to pick up steel as long as people would bring it to Public Works location. Oil cans, paint cans as long as empty and covers removed, sheet rock, shingles, construction debris no greater than two bags, and possibly 20" tires.

Town Clerk is asking if we are going to review policies tonight.

Select Board Meeting
4/27/2020

Other Boards: None present or nothing to report except a request for a subdivision from planning board. Cemetery committee is getting together to review cleanup for Memorial day.

Old Business: Abutter to the town lot. Simple IRA has been dropped off and will hopefully be set up for next week.

How many solar credit applications does town have total, Cindy believes we have at least 3 or 4 total.

No response from Erin French. Word is she has worked on the congestion problem and it seems to of lessened.

Town of Montville solid waste agreement, \$26,000. If we offer to do it for \$35,000 then we would make \$10,000 and they would save \$10,000. One year contract.

Banks and Night building, Jackie has been in building and talked to owner. She did not feel compelled to give a stop order.

Surveyor has not done anything on new town lot. Ron will call surveyor tomorrow and see what's going on.

Steve and Travis had a meeting with Waste Management regarding the cleanup of Skidgell Site. Spoke with the person who does these clean ups all the time, they estimate the site could be cleaned a week to two weeks.

Budget this year has about 114,000 on hold for now. 47,000 came out of public works, not counting the LRAP funds.

Budget class tomorrow at 2 via Zoom by MMA.

Oldest tax policy first- Ron makes motion to approve, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Policy review policy- Steve makes motion to approve, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Town Office Security and Key Policy, Ron makes motion to approve, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Town office hours, Elaine makes motion to approve, Steve seconds, unanimous

Town salt policy?

Retirement plan, Ron makes motion to approve, Steve seconds. Unanimous

Computer security

Ron makes motion for executive session, legal matter 1 MRSA 405. Ended 8:12pm

Ron makes a motion to adjourn at 8:14pm. Steve seconds. Unanimous

Select Board Meeting
4/20/20

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, Jim Watermen, Brian Jones, Cindy Abbott, Nathan McCann, AnnMarie Adamson, and Frances Walker,

Fire Chief Jim Waterman presents they are still socially distancing at the fire house because of the exposure-at least for another week. No fire permits given today due to the weather conditions which were a level 3. Emergency response management, checking into stores regarding hours selected for senior citizens, etc. Review of bills from the previous week before the Budget Workshop.

Public Works director Travis Price received a call regarding a culvert installation. Advised them they needed an application, Cindy will send them one either by email or in person tomorrow.

Public works will be grading and rolling dirt roads the first week in May.

Travis has a suggestion for spring cleanup, he thinks starting May 11th to May 23rd, that way it's a week before Memorial weekend.

Would like the town to send out a flyer explaining the dates and details and what can and can not be collected. The town will discuss further details with Joe as well so regular trash pick up does not get disrupted.

Ron makes a motion to make spring clean up from May 11th to May 23rd, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Clean up from the latest snow storm- Raven Road, Mitchell Road, and Deerhill Road, need to finish Rollins Road, Towns Road, Wentworth/Claytons road, need to finish Greeley. Todd Nelson has been contracted to assist with clean up. The Select Board would like to consider cleaning up state roads as well, there is concern over how long state will take to clean up.

Received an email regarding the state bid for salt- not sure it would be cheaper, usually it's more cost effective to go through KVcog.

Road posters can be taken down by the end of the week. Didn't want to pull them too soon for fear of road damage.

Ron makes motion to approve Todd Nelson for contract work, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Elaine makes motion for office to use remote access via My PC

Treasurer's report presented by Alyssa Brugger,

Elaine makes a motion to approve Payroll, A/P warrant, BMV, March, February, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk and Tax Collector Cindy Abbott presents a citizen's concern over the tax bill- Steve and Cindy resolved it. Some issues had nothing to do with town, the closing documents were wrong.

Cindy will be at the town office for an hour in the morning Tuesday and Thursday to finish up transactions due to the holiday today.

Has the board reviewed the policies? The board would like another week for

Select Board Meeting
4/20/20

review, Elaine has sent in a new policy for review, the board would like to sit and look through each one during a workshop.
Policy review workshop will be Wednesday 4/22 at 8am via Zoom.

Other boards: Planning board, historical society, Rec Committee, Budget Committee.
Elaine will need to be replaced for the Budget Committee.

Frances the local health officer is questioning the playground and whether opening it is a good idea. Frances will research signs that can be posted on the playground to help with social distancing guidelines. She has concerns over the lack of internet during the storm, what can be done to reserve communications during those times.

Budget Committee Wednesday May 6th at 6pm via Zoom.

Openings for Budget and Appeals board will go out next week with spring cleaning information.

Cemetery committee, Ron will contact Steve Holmes regarding upkeep of cemeteries.

Old Business: Steve met with Bryan Gordon from Waste Management in Norridgewock. Steve feels positive about their meeting regarding their involvement with Skidgell Property. The idea would be to either use the two Public Works employees or hire two people, and use three trailers from Waste Management to clean lot. This would be the most cost effective. Brian recommended contacting the town manager from Wilton regarding what they did with their cleanup of old canning factory a few years ago. Brian will be back this week with the employee who headed the cleanup of the canary as well for a better time frame of clean up.

The board would like to review the last few years of expense reports to see where the town can allocate funds for this project. The question has been posed to Travis if Public Works can handle the project themselves, and whether the project should come out of their funds or whether the town should vote to use the Post Office fund? This is all dependent upon if the town cannot get a cleanup grant. The only way for this project to happen is for the town to acquire grant and use additional money from town.

Travis would like to get his sand up first before tackling this project- which takes about two weeks.

Current idea would be to rent two excavators and at least one extra hand so there is no down time. Public Works and the Select Board will review and decide in the next week or so.

Simple IRA is all set up, Steve will deliver the information to Alyssa within the

Select Board Meeting
4/20/20

next week or so.

Steve contacted MMA regarding the updated P and C insurance.
Still trying to reach Erin French regarding her farmers market concerns over vehicle congestion. Cindy had spoken to her this past weekend and she was trying to do time slots to help with the problem.

New Business: The Treasurer will need a new computer because of the age and constant issues with updates. Select Board would like to get quotes and review from there. Review Post Office budget from previous years

Executive session 7:45-8:04pm

Ron makes motion to adjourn

Select Board
4/13/2020

In attendance: Cindy Abbott, Alyssa Brugger, Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Travis Price, Dylan Turner, and Brian Jones.

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen, not present, had a busy day assisting a fire in Montville and Palermo.

Jim is concerned at how long it took Pleasant Street to get back online- the street that houses emergency response. Would like to call CMP and see if this can be corrected.

Public Works Director Travis Price questions whose responsibility is it to take care of wood obstructing roadway, culverts, etc. Steve and the Select Board feel it might be easier to ask a local business to clean it up for wood chips. Travis feels this business would require payment as well as wood. Another idea was asking for volunteers; however the Select Board feels this would be too risky.

Select Board will call three local businesses' and price compare, then finalize their decision as to what to do with fallen wood.

Plugged culvert near Brian Jones house, it's used for a wood lot. Public Works

unclogged it, slight damage to the hot top, hoping to fix it before too much damage.

Waste Management will be calling Travis to set up an appointment to view the Skidgell Lot possibly this week or next.

Two culvert applications in the works, they should be contacting Travis soon.

Treasurer's Report presented by Alyssa Brugger; Payroll is \$3,231.47, A/P is \$1925.51, and second A/P warrant for out of town excise is 1029.87. Ending checkbook balance is \$119, 502.74.

Ron makes a motion to approve Payroll warrant and A/P warrants (excise as well), Elaine seconds. Unanimous.

Town Clerk Cindy Abbott reports that working remotely has gone smoothly. The phones switched to her line fine all weekend, as well as using the portal.

Updating, reviewing, and creating policies will be happening soon. Will policies need to be signed individually or a signed blanket policy (electronically) once they are all done.

Cindy will send current policies this week for review.

Town Official Reports: Nothing to report.

General Assistances: Nothing to report, one application sent out.

Committees: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Steve is concerned about the Post Office lease after the recent news about the President refusing to sign bills and threatening a veto of the Coronavirus Relief Act if funding to bail out the Post Office was included. The USPS has stated that without emergency funding it may have to shut down all post offices nationwide as early

Select Board
4/13/2020

as this summer. We signed a lease renewal agreement with the USPS two months ago but have not received a return agreement as promised. He is concerned that the town would lose an annual source of income of over \$10,000. The town would not only lose a source of income, but more importantly, all Americans, would lose a source of delivery, including medical supplies. Rural Americans would be particularly hard hit by this irresponsible act.

Farmers market at the Mill on Saturday was blocking traffic, making it difficult for CMP or medical personnel to access water if needed. If they could possibly move to the ballfield? Ron will get ahold of Ms. French to see if a solution can be found. A concerned citizen had a complaint last week regarding a local business and not following the social distancing protocol. Steve has spoken to the business owner and they have taken multiple precautions to ensure everyone's- staff and customer's comfort and safety.

Steve makes a motion to adjourn, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm

Freedom Select Board
4/6/2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Watermen, Cindy Abbott, Nathan McCann, Francis Walker, Ron Price, Travis Price, Dylan and Billie Jo Turner, Ann Marie Adamson, and Brian Jones.

Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm

Citizen concerns: There is concern that the general public cannot access the town office and meetings to express concerns. Ron feels the town is doing their best to reach everyone and make sure people are safe and getting what they need. The town has Zoom conferences open to the public, Jim Watermen has set up a call list, the phone lines are open for comments, the town has created a Facebook page and continues to work on making the needed improvements during this time of uncertainty. Another concern is the public boat landing, should the town shut it off for now? For now the feeling is to keep the boat launch open, for town will not put in the dock for swimming.

Another concern is local business' not complying with the social distancing guidelines. Perhaps someone could speak to them about setting up barriers, etc. Another concern is how will the town reach all towns people instantly if people needed to be notified immediately? If there was information that the whole town needed the county/state and news would take over.

Fire Chief Jim Watermen reports he had a long conversation with Dale Rowley and Olga Rumney from EMA. Cindy also has access to D4H live, shows food pantries, etc. Tonight the FVFD is doing a monthly truck check, and then dismissing.

Reusable masks are available for purchase, the link will be posted on the Town Facebook page.

Steve asked Jim while he was attending the meeting what part of the Fire Department budget could be placed on hold for a time. He asked Jim which areas he would think best? Jim will review his budget and get back to the Select Board. This question is being asked of all departments.

Public Works director Travis Price talked about what work he would suggest putting on hold for now. The Select Board believes putting a hold on the Smithton Road project to start. After that, there is labor and diesel fuel costs. Travis has done a lot of the equipment work since there has not been a lot of snow recently. If Smithton doesn't happen, there are other projects, painting the trash truck, minor work on roads, etc. Review of Public Works budget and where possible holds can take place if needed, prioritizing work that is primarily labor. Nothing has been solidified, there will be further discussion for how the town can prioritize the budget going forward.

Select Board will be having a workshop Wednesday, April 8th from 9:30 - 11:30 via Zoom. During this workshop they will discuss the TAN application, and prioritizing the budget. This will be open to the public, but no public comment.

Freedom Select Board
4/6/2020

Treasurers Report presented by Alyssa: Payroll Warrant is \$5,313.29, A/P Warrant is \$19,067.02, ending checkbook balance is \$143,098.16. Ron and Elaine will review warrants and sign them tomorrow.

Town Clerk presented by Cindy: Would like to review the office hours, business is low, no one came or called Saturday. Would like to look at using portals to do some business from home. Steve asked how not doing business from other towns has affected her hours. Cindy has noticed a drop off. Nothing decided, further discussion needed.

A citizen was upset about the trash along 137, after cleaning up an area the next day more trash had been thrown along the edge of the road. The citizen was wondering if anything could be done. Select Board believes there is nothing that can be done to prevent this.

Other Boards: Meredith Coffin is passing off all information to Phil. Jacki Robbins has been approached to look at a building in downtown Freedom to see if it needs to be declared unsafe.

Questions were asked about the following:

- 1-Is the RHR Audit back yet? No
- 2-Is the TAN Ap ready to go? Yes
- 3-Is the Property & Casualty pkg back from MMA yet? No

Brief discussions were held about the following:

- 1-Solar Credit Applications
- 2-Spring Cleanup
- 3-Town Retirement Plan
- 4-Bangs & Knight Store
- 5-Skidgel Lot

Executive session legal consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6) E started 7:58pm - 8:26pm

Ron makes a motion to approve A/P and Payroll warrant after reviewing Payroll amounts are correct, and have Elaine sign tomorrow. Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.
Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Freedom Select Board
3/30/2020

Present: Elaine Higgins, Steve Bennett, Alyssa Brugger, Jim Watermen, Cindy Abbott, Meredith Coffin, Nathan McCann, and Brian Jones.

Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:09pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen presents FVFD report, not much to report, meeting tonight to check trucks. They have hazmat suits just in case. Using a skeleton crew as much as possible. Had one call where a vehicle in Knox left the road, fell asleep behind the wheel. Jim has a safety concern for a building in downtown Freedom, "Irish Moose", he would like Jackie to do an inspection.

Meredith Coffin reports on Unity Area Recycle, the center is moving ahead with two grants from the DEP. One would be for a machine that crushes glass into sand, which would have multiple uses. The second is for scrap metal, which would require excavating and a wall built to house material.

Steve reports that the Skidgell property is still moving forward, lots of things in the works, Blake and Hazard lot in town, old location of Davis School, a neighbor has shown interest, there is a possible septic/well on lot. Needs to be put up for auction.

Steve has started the TAN process, if everything goes accordingly should be done by the end of April. Treasurer is collecting the appropriate records to send out.

Steve would like to hold a meeting soon about town employees signing up for a Simple IRA. This would have to be in person because of the paperwork required. Meeting in the Election hall tentatively scheduled for April 1st at 2pm.

Nathan McCann presents the Planning Board report, the board has approved the subdivision. They have cleaned up the subdivision ordinance, not sure when the board will meet again.

Cindy had a citizen question: "Are there any plans for any additional wind turbines in Freedom?" There are no plans for adding wind turbines at this time.

Elaine and Cindy attended a GA meeting today via Zoom. Both feel the meeting was worthwhile and learned today to separate applications that pertain to covid-19 for future audits.

Cindy turned away an out of town boat registration. The state is giving everyone until April 30th to get their boat registered because of covid-19 and some towns closing down.

Freedom Select Board
3/30/2020

Treasurers report presented by Alyssa, Payroll Warrant this week is \$8,264.18, A/P is \$2,044.16, and ending checkbook balance is \$133,094.38. Received a check from MMA for \$380.00, and from the Post Office for this month's rent and the missing October 2019 rent for \$1,323.00. Purchasing Acrobat PDF for electronic signatures, billed annually for \$155.88. This will allow Select Board to sign warrants during Zoom conferences, which would not delay the disbursement of checks.

Elaine makes a motion to approve the Payroll warrant, and the A/P warrant, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Executive session 7:20-7:40pm no decisions were made.

Elaine makes motion to accept meeting minutes with corrections, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Freedom Select Board
Town Notes 3/23/2020

Present via Zoom Video Conference: Alyssa Brugger, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Cindy Abbott, and Jim Watermen.

Select board Secretary Alyssa Brugger notes.

Meeting Called to order at 6:07pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen presents air testing will be done on April 2nd, according to state FVFD need a license for compressed air. \$10 license fee, then fire department will have distribution of air. Jim has volunteers helping with Unity food pantry. He remains in constant contact with EMA. "Check In" town list going well, there has been a phone tree developed. He will share this list with Select board. Jim and Select board will not use the election hall for a warming and charging station because it's not needed at this time.

Select board feels Article 20 repetitious, need to remove. Does not explain where the money comes from.

Ron makes a motion to be Chairmen, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Treasurers report this week, payroll is \$4,658.54, A/P warrant is \$10,531.41, ending checkbook is \$147,820.80. Ron is waiting to hear back from MMA regarding if board secretary can sign for board during video conferencing. Ron makes a motion to approve payroll warrant, and the A/P warrant, Elaine seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk/Town Collector Cindy Abbott was busy, teller window has been extremely helpful during this time. Using extreme caution and sterilization.

Discussion of whether or not to register vehicles from out of town, Select board feels uneasy about this during this time. They do not want to do vehicle registrations for non-residents at this time.

Committee/Boards: Parks and Rec. has canceled their Easter event, nothing else to report.

Elaine shared ideas for a spring clean up schedule. Ron shared last years idea, it worked well. Only issue is having to send a partially full truck on a Wednesday, so "regular" trash can be picked up Thursday. Seemed to work well, Select board agree to continue with last years plan. The budget line went up this year to consider tipping fees. Set date sometime the end of April- let roads solidify and figure out what will happen with covid-19.

Old Business: Property and casualty forms Steve renewed for next year, we received a letter from RHR, they need fixed asset letter and decision from board so they can update fixed asset note disclosure and net position of the town. Once they receive this, Property and casualty form complete.

Contract with CMP, Ron will work on it this week.

Steve would like to meet with anyone interested in Simple IRA, trying to figure out when and how to gather. Lots of paperwork, would need to be done in person.

Freedom Select Board
Town Notes 3/23/2020

What would Select board prefer: no tenure to start, or 1 or 2 years of service, and a \$5,000 income annually.

Steve makes motion no tenure, and annual \$5,000 income, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

TAN note, information is at town office, Steve will start paperwork.

Roughly \$44,000 a month to run town, not counting the \$54,000 for school payment.

Executive session 1MRSA 405(6)E 7:51pm to 7:59pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:59

Town Notes
3/16/2020

Present: Higgins, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Cindy Abbot, Jim Watermen, Joe Freeman, and Alyssa Brugger.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen still plans on meeting unless someone is sick, and then they will be excused for the time being. New primer for truck, \$2400 for replacement. Packing on truck 2 replaced, as well as some air leaks. Reviewing pump procedures tonight. Still gathering information for more cold-water retrieval equipment. No calls the previous week.

Central Maine Cost Recovery for 2020 is \$5,820.00, we have collected \$2,114.00.

Emergency Management regarding the Coronavirus, Jim has remained in contact with the state and will provide information as soon as he hears. He advises people stay home if they don't feel well and social distancing. Ron would like a list prepared of people who should be checked in during this time. Jim will go around and see if anyone else would like to join the current list of check ins.

What contact number should people use if things progress and the town shuts down?

Information packets located at town office, mailing the information is in the works.

Public Works director not able to attend.

Letter will be going out with emergency policy regarding current situation. Select board meetings will be moving to an online video conference platform, Town Office will be locked, and all business will take place via phone or through a walk-up window.

Ron makes a motion to have Alyssa and Jake look into a replacement window for office, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to appropriate \$49.50 for another mailing this week regarding coronavirus, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Previous Town Meetings notes, Steve makes motion to approve March 2nd meeting notes as amended and place on file, Ron Seconds. Unanimous.

Steve makes motion to approve March 9th meetings as amended and place on file, Elaine seconds. Unanimous.

Alyssa presents Treasurers Report, discussion of what to pay deputies: Steve makes a motion to raise Deputy Treasurer and Deputy Clerk to \$15.00 an hour, not to exceed \$5,000.00, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous. Discussion of reviewing Town Clerk job description and Registrar of Voters discussed, conversation tabled for now.

Payroll warrant this week is \$5,459.48, A/P this week is \$1,453.63, ending checkbook balance is \$138,594.96. Town received a check for \$500.00 for used truck body.

Ron makes a motion to accept Treasures Report with payroll and A/P, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Old Business: JLL associates for Post Office will cancel lost rent check from October and send a new one. Moving forward with loan to get town finances caught up, hopefully in the next year or so General Fund can increase and sustain itself.

Town Notes
3/16/2020

Steve discusses idea of Simple IRA; Anyone who makes \$5,000 allowed to participate- this will match 3% of peoples gross pay if they contribute at least 3%. Do we require years of experience, what is the minimum pay?

Steve makes a motion to formally adopt a Simple IRA for the employees of the town of Freedom. The eligibility requirements are no years of experience, and anticipated \$5,000 of income in any given year, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

New Business: Select board needs new GA officer, Steve recommends Elaine talk with Brian about taking over. Cindy will also help with transition.

Assistant Trash Collector position open, Tim Abbot is interested, Ron will reach out to him tomorrow.

Ron makes a motion to hire Tim, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk, nothing to report.

Rec. Committee canceled their Easter event.

No other boards present.

UARRC closed through March. Trash pick up possibly Thursday, probably going to FiberRite. Montville road situation, Elaine has made a rough draft, Select board made a few changes.

Final draft will be presented next week.

Montville trash situation, what would it cost us to do it every week?

Ron makes a motion to approve March 16th meeting notes, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Town Notes
3/9/2020

Present: Marilyn Perry, Nathan McCann, Elaine Higgins, Joe Freeman, Hilary Fleming, Steve Bennett, Brian Jones, Erna Keller, Ron Price, Laura Greeley, Frances Walker, and Travis Price.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:12pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen reports he has a business meeting tonight, contract for the town of Knox will be entering its last year this year from April 1st through March 31st. Total would be \$8,889.53 (?). Will negotiate new contract next year with at least one Selectmen and Fire Chief present for negotiations. New resident on Beaver Ridge Road with 15 acres, new house number 111. Discussion of who to talk to regarding road/building questions.

Public Works director Travis Price thinks the dirt roads are holding up well, frost is about 90% out. This winter Public Works held back on salt on those roads to help with this spring's road conditions.

Travis tried to lock down a price for Smithton road for the future repairs. Will require a grader, would like to repurpose some of the material to add to the shoulder of roads. Town will do work themselves, and then hire Pike to haul material to site.

Next year's plan for Penny Hill Road, Travis thinks we will need to pull away everything and replace base, etc. To replace with 2" of pavement is roughly estimated at \$100,000.

Treasurers Report by Erna Keller, payroll is \$5,022.89, A/P this week is \$6,377.75, ending checkbook balance is \$133,055.81. Received check from Central Maine Cost Recovery for \$738.00 for January 2020 collections.

New shredder needed for Cindy. Steve made a motion to purchase a new shredder, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Ron makes a motion to pay payroll warrant and A/P, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Citizen Issues and questions: Steve received a call from Restorative Justice Committee of Maine, the Selectmen are invited to a meeting next week in Belfast to hear about their new initiatives. Elaine will go to represent board.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector absent, Cindy left Sallyanne's sample.... Ron makes motion to make it wood with gold detail, Brian seconds. Unanimous.

Fiberite shut down due to technical issues, town will be making a trip to landfill this week.

General Assistance: Need to finish up an abatement- waiting on paperwork from Town Clerk.

Coronavirus: CDC lab in Augusta is only place to get test kit currently in State of Maine. Frances reports the state can handle 200 Coronavirus tests daily. As one 1pm today no one in Maine has tested positive, however things can change quickly.

Town Notes
3/9/2020

Planning Board: Meeting tomorrow.

Old Business: Spirit of America Tribute has been reviewed by Selectmen. Ron makes a motion to approve Spirit of America Tribute for Town Meeting, Brian seconds motion. Unanimous. Meeting with Montville board of Selectmen this Friday 3/ 13/2020 at 5pm regarding plowing. New Business: Are we ready for Town Meeting? Elaine will be picking up information from Prentis. Steve has a draft for Economic Development, he would like it to be reviewed by Selectmen.

Town mailbox needs to be adjusted so door doesn't blow open.

Steve and Ron thanked Brian for his years on the Select board.

MRSA 405 (6) E Legal Matter executive session starting at 7:28pm – 7:46pm
Ron makes a motion to adjourn, Brian seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Notes
3/2/2020

Present: Marilyn Perry, Elaine Higgins, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Brian Jones, Alyssa Brugger, Marc Boudreau, Phil Bloomstein, Joe Freeman, Travis Price, Meredith Coffin, David Bridges, Hillary Fleming, Nathan McCann, Steve Bennett, Laura Greeley, and Jim Watermen.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen presents FEMA paperwork for future elected officials. Jim addresses Town Report-First listed on page 67 under Contracted Services and then when listed again under Article 24 under the amount for 2019 is not the same, there is a \$700 dollar difference. There will be an answer by Town Meeting.

Request from Board of Selectmen to purchase cold water gear, take money out of Capitol Account total cost would be \$4130.50. Ron makes motion to approve purchase, Brian seconds motion. Unanimous.

Public Works Director Travis Price presents road repair/culvert work done on Penney Hills. Forest/Harvesting information is lacking, is it possible to have property owners name added on?

Treasurers report presented by Erna Kellar payroll is \$6619.30, A/P \$3024.28, ending checkbook balance is \$127,237.48. Would like to send out reminder letters for 2018 tax liens. Ron makes motion to send out letter, Brian seconds. Unanimous.

Trio training March 16th from 1-4:30, Alyssa is signed up, can cancel if needed.

Discussion about using RHR, confusion over the figures is still an issue. Town buildings should not depreciate.

Missing October's rent from Post Office, Steve and Erna will investigate this and get this resolved.

Brian makes motion to pay payroll and A/P warrant this week, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Citizen issues and questions: Marc Boudreau would like to finalize the Timber Wood Lane (Sibley Road) abutting his land, he would like to gate it at night. Selectmen feel it's a vote from the town. Steve states the town has an easement established and that the board can not make a final decision without a vote from the town.

Town Officials reports: Solid Waste Manager Phil Bloomstein creating a comprehensive plan for next year, would like to see what Montville does in that time. Meredith Coffin has been in contact with the UARRC. Meredith reports Michael Carey does not want current recycling centers to close, he will help create some ideas going forward. Selectmen are meeting with Montville Friday night regarding roads, they can possibly bring up recycling/trash ideas for future.

Ron has concerns regarding spring clean up material. Would it be possible to do a monthly round/trip to Norridgewock? Long discussion followed.

Town Notes
3/2/2020

Old Business: Blake and Hazard property town acquired for back taxes, starting the property selling procedure.

Brian makes motion to go into executive session Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6) E, 7:24pm

—

7:55pm no decisions were made.

Minutes: Brian makes motion to approve minutes, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58PM

Town Notes:
2/24/2020

Present: Joe Freeman, Marilyn Perry, Gwen Littlefield, Elaine Higgins, David Bridges, Nathan McCann, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Brian Jones, Alyssa Brugger, Laura Greeley and Jim Watermen.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.
Meeting Called to Order 6:02pm

Fire Chief Jim Watermen reports they assisted Montville with a car accident on 220, vehicle broke through the guardrail, ended upside down in stream. Could not locate driver, after extensive search in and out of water, driver gave himself up to police later in evening. Speed was a factor.

Public Works director is under the weather, citizens reported seeing loaded logging trucks on posted roads.

Town notes: Steve makes motion to approve notes for 1/3/20 and 1/20/20, Ron seconds.
Unanimous.

Treasurers Report: Payroll warrant is \$9,606.28 (Aflac \$187.80, 941 payment \$3,682.52- it's supposed to be \$920.63), A/P this week is \$6,022.80, ending checkbook balance is \$123,059.86. Received a check from MRC \$86.31, revenue sharing \$6556.98 and Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program \$873. One property for 2017 foreclosed on, property is on Greeley Road.
Town Clerk Report: Letter from UARRC now accepting #3-7 plastics.

A few citizens have asked about getting Spectrum in town, needs to be approved by Selectmen. Cindy will let concerned citizens know to contact Spectrum.

Waterville Humane Society contract renewal, Ron makes motion to sign 2020 contract for \$1208.00, Steve seconds. Unanimous.

Health Officer appointment, that will be after town meeting.

Abatements for 2019, only one for 2020 because it was clipped to the supplemental (math error) and it never got taken off until after the new year. It's all taken care of now.

Citizens Issues and Questions: Bill coming up on reimbursing municipalities to help in cost of getting rid of trash. Hearing is this Wednesday 2/26 at the Cross Building in Augusta. Why did they not meet on Presidents Day- we did not meet because warrant would not be available.

Town Official Reports: Nothing to report.

Town Boards Reports: Planning board is meeting next month, Parks and Rec. meeting soon to discuss Easter party.

Town Notes:
2/24/2020

Old Business: Conference call this Thursday with RHR at 5pm. Possibly meeting with Montville regarding plowing bill Thursday 3/5.

Received letter from Waldo County Assistant Clerk regarding payment.

Survey information received regarding Skidgell Lane.

Further discussion needed for discontinued road, which has two public cemeteries on it portion was discontinued in 1934. Possible compromise could be gating it at night.

TRC sent a write up regarding Skidgell, still need to figure what would be the better option: bury debris or cart away. KVCog is not offering funds as this time to have an engineer write up a plan.

Multiple veteran abatement requests.

Still interested in a hot water heater to be installed in town office, electric on demand, mostly for summer use.

MMA dues have been paid.

Workmen's compensation program could save between \$400-\$800 a year. There are a few steps if town wanted to sign up, develop policies and hold safety meetings- Brian will investigate this further.

Executive session legal consult 1 MRSA 405 (6) E Ron makes motion, Steve seconds.
Unanimous. 7:53pm- 8:18pm

Ron makes motion to approve past note, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm

Town Notes
2/18/2020

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:08pm.

Ron moved and Steve seconded a motion to appoint Phil Bloomstein as Solid Waste Director. Unanimous.

The Fire Chief reported a car accident on the Palermo Road near Wit's End lane. Jim also discussed the Friendly Wellness Program through the dispatch of the Waldo County Sheriff's office. Jim presented the end of the year financial statements of the Freedom Fire Department Inc., and the Auxiliary of the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department Inc. Discussion followed.

Brian moved and Steve seconded a motion to approve the payroll warrant of \$4,177.74 and the AP warrant of \$13, 197.79. Unanimous.

Meredith Coffin presented a solid waste report.

Steve moved and Ron seconded a motion to sign the warrant for annual town meeting and the Selectmen's report. Unanimous.

Steve reported that the Post Office lease agreement requires a copy of the Town's deed to the property.

Steve will work with the Town's attorney, Bill Kelly, to complete this.

Steve reported that Marie Lougee, the surveyor, is making progress with the Skidgel project.

Adjournment at 8:10pm.

Town Notes

Present: Brian Jones, Ron Price, Steve Bennett.

Ron called the meeting of 2/10/2020 to be resumed at 8:30am.

Steve moved and Brian seconded a motion for Ron to sign the draft of an excerpt from the Audited Financial Statement from RHR Smith. Unanimous.

A discussion followed concerning the G. Spaulding and Town Garage properties. Ron will discuss the culvert concern with G. Spaulding.

Discussion followed and a draft warrant for annual Town Meeting was developed.
Adjournment at 11:30am.

Town Notes
2/3/2020

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Steve Bennet, Ron Price, Brian Jones, Joe Freeman, Jim Waterman, Marilyn Perry, Laura Greeley, Meredith Coffin, Travis Price, Hillary Flemming, Gwen Littlefield, David Bridges.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.
Meeting called to order 6:08pm

Fire Chief Jim Waterman nothing to present, Jim now represents secretary and treasurer of Freedom Volunteer Firefighter Inc. He is not the president.

Public Works Director Travis Price needs new town ordinance for new weight limit posters. Couple people have asked what is needed to put in driveways, Travis directed them as to what they need for paperwork. There is a makeshift wood lot on Waning Road, no paperwork has been filed with town.

Standing offer on used truck bed for \$500. Steve makes motion to approve sale of used truck body and money to be placed into Public Works Capitol Reserve Account, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Purchased year supply of lube, looked around for best price.

Garbage truck blew a hydraulic hose this past week, purchased new hose and extra hose for future, truck is fixed and back on road. Possibly an issue with power steering, hasn't had power steering replaced since town purchased truck.

Assistant Solid Waste Director Meredith Coffin is resigning as director, wants someone to take over, she will happily assist new director.

Meredith spoke with Montville regarding future ideas for waste and recycling. She believes being part of a recycling center is a good idea moving forward.

Should this issue be put on the warrant? With proper information so towns people understand the consequences of either action, the Solid Waste Director believes this issue should not be put on warrant. Brian makes a motion to not have Solid Waste issue on warrant, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

What happens to the letter of intent filed with the Unity Regional Recycling Center from the town of Freedom? Unsure, possibly refile if no decision is made this year.

Continue talk about FiberLight versus Unity Regional Recycling Center.

Solid Waste Budget for this year is \$46,000, last year was \$48,000. Took in \$17,000 in trash stickers, plus rebates, so budget was around \$30,000.

Treasurers Report presented by Erna, Payroll Warrant: \$7,406.41, A/P \$13,944.73, ending checkbook balance \$114,022.58, please see treasure's report for further detail.

Aflac is automatically taken from Town Clerks check.

Steve makes motion to approve and pay Payroll and A/P warrant, Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Citizen issues and questions: Laura asks if Clint will be on ballot, Clint has officially withdrawn his paperwork. Laura questions what if people write in Clint's name more than Elaine's, what happens then? According to town's lawyer, Cindy is not legally allowed to swear him in. If this

Town Notes
2/3/2020

occurs there would need to be a discussion amongst lawyers. Laura feels if this had all happened sooner, perhaps someone else could of ran for Selectmen. If towns people have questions they can talk with Clint.

Town Clerk: Cindy needs a moderator for town meeting, Mike Thibodeau and Don Berry are options.

Cindy also double checking for the town mailing regarding election information for both state and local. Republic Caucus will be February 8th at Belfast HS and the Democratic Caucus will be March 8th here at town office- all this information will be included in town mailing.

Employee issue to be discussed in executive session.

Also add for Solid Waste Director and possibly a diagram for proper mailbox installation.

Erna will be the Deputy Registrar, signing in all registered voters and enrolling any unenrolled voters.

Budget Committee meeting Wednesday, February 5th at 6pm. This meeting should finalize items before town report.

Rec. Department made \$116.65 on Winterfest, sold extra food off for \$15.

Old Business: Steve received an update from TRC, should have report for cleanup plans at the end of this week. Still getting quotes from local businesses, and funding from state.

Brian is finalizing Selectmen's report, needs other selectmen to review.

Executive 405(6) Personnel Matter 7:32pm – 7:57pm.

RHR sent letter dealing with fixed assets, sent contract to Fixed Assets only, \$250 a year to do annually. There are multiple issues with report they have sent as an example. This is being stated as a necessity for future audits from company. For now, this will be put on hold.

Post office lease, still no answers, possibly an increase in our lease by 25-30%, still no physical copy of lease.

Ron makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm

Town Notes
1/27/20

Present: Travis Price, Bob Kanzler, Erna Keller, Gwen Littlefield, Meredith Coffin, Jim Watermen, Joe Freeman, Marilyn Perry, Nate McCann, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Brian Jones, Cindy Abbott, Alyssa Brugger, Laura Greeley, and Patty Duffy.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.
6:05pm meeting called to order.

Meredith discusses waste and recycling management, selectmen have her report for review, will discuss further next week.

Fire chief Jim Watermen contacted Fail Safe, they will be here May 27th or 28 for hose testing, possibly at Thorndike fire station. One accident in Knox to report, driver was fine.

Public Works presented by Travis, boundaries have been marked and pinned for Spaulding boundary.
Brian will finalize November 4th meeting notes.

Citizens issues: Laura Greeley wants to confirm that a resident running for Selectmen had received a letter saying they legally could not run. Selectmen declined to comment, letter was from town attorney.

Bob Kanzler has questions regarding truck body costing around \$32,000, town did not spend \$32,000. Confusion from whether it's on a lease or did town pay for it? How is it ok for town to make those decisions on an old truck without town vote, March 2019 town approved Selectmen to enter into leases. Public Works Director and Selectmen reviewed costs of new truck, versus repairing the truck town currently has. Truck has been mechanically sound for years, just needed truck body. This maintenance came out of truck maintenance line, four years remaining on lease. This is the main truck town uses. This amount was already in budget, it will not create a deficit.

Francis' Walker wants to discuss missing minutes. Contact information is swapped, next few weeks minutes will be updated.

Ron, how is website- Is it modern or is it hard to use? Updating website may cost money, current one we have had since 1997.

Question about tax ID, has it been removed or not.

Steve Bennett discusses his meeting with KVCOG discussing Skidgel lot and future for a solar array. See attached sheet for more information. Any ideas are welcomed for lot.

Treasurers report presented by Erna Keller, please see attached sheet for further information. Steve has a question regarding RHR audit, is it worth it? Would it be easier for future MMA audits? Ron questions if this is worth \$250? This company would be required to give a figure how much town is worth. Steve will call and discuss further next Monday.

Town Notes
1/27/20

Brian makes a motion to pay payroll and A/P warrant, Steve seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Clerk presents Republican caucus coming to Belfast February 8th, Erna will attend to sign in any unenrolled voters.

Cindy received two letters regarding private information from town Attorney.

Outstanding tax information reports presented: prepaid taxes, overdue taxes for 2017/2018/2019, and lien breakdown.

Citizens at Town Meeting set the rate for interest rate.

Cindy has been letting people know about homestead tax information.

Dog licenses are due this Friday.

Town official reports: GA poverty abatement request, meeting has been moved to Wednesday 2/5/20 at 6pm at town office. Brian shares a kind note from a residence for town assisting their neighbor with plumbing issues.

Rec. Committee, Winterfest scheduled for this Saturday. Town office will be a warming center, plus supply ice skates.

Budget committee, meeting coming up Wednesday 2/5/20 at 7pm at town office.

Old News: Montville plowing bill, Montville is discussing issues tonight at their meeting. Issue is Goosepecker Ridge, doesn't make sense for our town to plow. Possibly pay \$900 to compensate for Burnham Hill road. Further discussion once Montville responds.

Public Works garage roof replacement: \$13,200 to take off old roof, install new one.

Steve makes motion to accept written bid for new garage roof so work order can go in for this summer, Ron will request quote for painted garage roof, Brian seconds motion. Unanimous.

Final approval will take place at Town Meeting.

Historical Society assigned election hall key used by unassigned people from Historical Society. Need second key back.

Cindy needs to know what to put on the cover of the annual town report, map of Freedom. Who is writing dedication for inside of the book- Steve Bennett in remembrance for Sallyanne. Spirit of America award written up by Brian Jones.

Brian preparing Selectman's Annual Report: recall petition, Mitchell road, subsequent special town meeting, Town Meeting to restrict vehicle weights, rejected plan to have treasurer reported, vote on town meeting venue, solid waste-specifically Unity, valuation issue, policy review, tax anticipation note, Sandy Pond water quality, emergency spillway maintenance/repair, excavator lease/truck body lease, tax acquired properties this year, update on Skidgell property, Beaver Ridge and their request for depreciation schedule and abatement.

Steve Bennett received email from owner of Freedom Maker Space, awaiting planning board paperwork.

Brian makes motion for executive session 1 MRSA 405(6)A, Steve seconded motion.

Unanimous.

Town Notes
1/27/20

8:35pm – 9:14pm no decisions were made.

Ron makes motion to end meeting, Brian seconds. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14pm

Town Notes:
01/20/20

Present: Marilyn, Elaine Higgins, Steve Bennett, Ron Price, Brian Jones, Laura Greeley, Travis Price, Joe Freeman and Nathan McCann.

6:05pm meeting called to order.

Fire chief has nothing to report.

Public Works director nothing to report besides body payment- when is it scheduled to be paid? Check with Treasurer in morning.

Minutes will be approved next week.

Citizen issues: Water heater for town office, 20gal water tank for sink during summer (Lowe's)? On demand heater? What would it take to install either option? Elaine will get quotes for installation.

Post office renewal still in the works, waiting on letter of intent, returned calls, etc. Lease renewal will most likely increase towns lease payment by 25-30%. Only thing town pays for is maintenance.

Steve meeting with TRC Solutions (engineering firm) at KV Cog in Fairfield to clean up whole Skidgell (Sp?) site. If all goes well should be little money on town. Once clean up is complete talk with ReVision Energy for installing a solar field. Concerns over property boundaries need to be settled.

Laura brings up having a Candidate's Night- a chance to get to meet candidates. Put in Candidate's Night information in mailing for Town Meeting if Selectmen agree.

Treasures Report: Please see attached sheet.

Go to company that made machine and get pads from them? Confirm next week.
Keep Secretary and Deputy Treasurer at \$12 and hour, Ron makes motion, Brian seconds. Unanimous. Steve makes motion to approve Payroll Warrant and A/P, Brian seconds, Unanimous.

Town Reports: Planning Board, one subdivision brought to table (Beaver Hill and Greeley). Next Planning Boarding meeting the public will be allowed to attend and ask questions.

Historical Society moved their filing cabinet into the EMD office.

Budget Committee 95% done, couple things to finalize.

Rec. Committee working on Winterfest.

Town Notes:
01/20/20

Old Business: Still working on plowing road bill from Montville, trying to finalize that this week. Posted road signs, can't pick and choose weight limits for roads- can't go below 23,000lbs.m*Exemptions listed in ordinance*

Amend ordinance so town can decide weight limits for certain roads-possibly at this town meeting.

Ron makes motion to have Public Works director handle this, Brian seconds it, unanimous.

Mailbox letter regarding rules will be sent out next week after Selectmen's Meeting.

Brian reviews last weeks Solar Array seminar, brings up future questions regarding size, money, ordinances, and power limits.

MRC 2020 tipping fee \$73 a ton.

Town Report- cover, yearbook dedication, limit Rec. colored pages, etc.

Ron had discussion about website, meeting with current webmaster over February break?

New Business: MMA dues bill \$1,806, gone up from last year- an increase of 2.5%.

Mark Boudreau/Residence turned in a request to have Timber Wood Lane officially discontinued as a town road. Concern over two cemeteries that have access via that road.

Boudreau will be invited to next meeting to discuss this issue further.

Letter of resignation from Solid Waste Representative, Meredith is taking over temporarily.

Brian finalizing the 2019 Selectmen's Report.

Ron makes motion for Executive Session 1 MRSA 405 (6)F Confidential Records, Brian seconds,

unanimous. 7:07pm-7:40pm no decisions were made.

Census sent a town boundary validation map- sign and return if correct.

Discussion of reapplying town boundary blaze.

Future discussion: Taxes, budget, finalizing town warrant, update from special town meeting from December- Emergency Response.

Ron makes motion to adjourn meeting, Brian seconds, unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 8:08pm

Town Notes
1/13/2020

Present: Alyssa Brugger, Cindy Abbott, Erna Keller, Ron Price, Brian Jones, David Bridges, Travis Price, Nathan McCann, Elaine Higgins.

Selectmen Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.
6:05pm meeting called to order.

Jim Watermen nothing to report for FVFD.
Jim is going to check AFIB pads for expiration, need to purchase some, will review next week.

Travis presents Public Works: Heavy Loads Limited signs, Brian will tweak the sign (White Sign in Stillwater) and return updated sign next Monday. Selectmen want to be able to write in weight limits for certain roads. Sign will be cleaned up-less wording, adjustable weight limits, and include new town ordinance. Send out letter informing citizens roads will be posted.
New windshield in truck number 8, its been inspected.
Two trees hanging over Bryant Road taken care of.
Elaine looking into firewood donation, Ron would like whoever cleans up that they check with Public Works, so no damage is done to ditch or road.

Reviewing minutes: 12/16, 12/28, 12/30, and 1/6. Ron makes motion to approve notes, Brian seconds. Unanimous.

Erna presents Treasures Report: please see attached sheet.
Ron has concerns overpaying Unity Recycle right now, town will wait to pay until after Town Meeting in March. Adjust A/P, new balance \$16, 803.98.
Brian makes motion to approve and pay Payroll, and A/P for \$16, 803.98, Ron seconds.
Unanimous.

Gorham Leasing: Brian makes motion to go into leasing agreement with Gorham Leasing for new truck body for truck 6. Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

Cindy presents Town Clerk: Town vehicles run out in February, renew for next 10 years- no fees included. Resident wants to use one of the buildings for a baby shower, willing to rent. Brian makes motion to deny request and offer alternatives here in town. Ron seconds motion.
Unanimous.

Seacoast Security called when Freedom Historical Society forgot to punch in code to enter building. Ron will speak to members regarding who has access to building.

GA property abatement, property taxes paid by mortgage holder. Submit to state to see if reimbursement.

Nomination papers are due tomorrow, all that have been taken out have been returned.
Letter regarding mailboxes, and unacceptable waste to be included in mailing for town regarding elections, etc. Ron makes motion to sign and send mailing, Brian seconds motion.
Unanimous.

Ron makes motion for Erna to use town credit card to purchase two new AED pads for town office and Fire Department. Brian seconds motion. Unanimous.

Town Notes
1/13/2020

Planning board meeting tomorrow, reviewing subdivision ordinance for future questions.

Rec. Committee: Easter party approval April 5th 2-4pm for use of election hall, and town office for bathroom.

Old Business: Solar conference tomorrow in Fairfield.

Website- ongoing.

Montville plowing- ongoing.

What's on front of town report this year? And dedication?

Erin Weston- computer mapping, couldn't fit into our budget.

MRA/MMA how did new foreclosure law effect town, it did not.

Tipping fee for next year is \$73.55 a ton.

Workmen's comp. audit coming February 12'th at 11am.

MMA membership dues, \$1806.00, 2.5% increase from last year. Budget committee meeting Thursday at 7pm.

Brian calls for Executive session 1 MRSA 405 (6) E 7:28pm – 7:38pm.

New Business: Resident wants to close road across from Sibley Road. It was once was town maintained road, town has concern with legality, and access to a cemetery. Loggers have damaged road, desperate need for repair. Brian makes a motion to review next week. Ron seconds motion. Unanimous.

.gov site for town office-look into.

Ron makes motion, Brian seconds motion meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

Freedom Selectmen
1/6/2020

Present: Joe Freeman, Nathan Mccann, Travis Price, Ron Price, Brian Jones, Steve Bennett, Cindy Abbott, Erna Kellar, Elaine Higgins, Alyssa Brugger, and Ellie Haskell.

Board Secretary Alyssa Brugger taking notes.

Travis presents Public Work news, need new insurance cards in vehicles. Formally draft a letter to 2 residences on Rollins Road and 1 residence on Greeley Road not to plug culvert with plowing. This has been an ongoing issue. Steve makes motion to send letters, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Truck 6 inspected, Truck 8 ready for inspection, Truck 4 and 7 inspections in March. Residence called in to complain about public works employee, residence felt threatened. Discussion of creating a policy for mailbox height and distance from road to distribute to town.

Ellie Haskell School Board Representative, town website dated. New goals for the school board: create a 5-year strategic plan, create comprehensive board manual, value and resource-based model.

Building list: Walker and Liberty are number 10, Morse is 16 on list. Monroe and Troy not being considered at this time for rebuild. Projected costs, population, 8+ years. Mt. View complex built for possibility of an addition, consolidating to one location could save money.

Erna presents the Treasure's Report, please see attached sheet.

Travis is having issues with 2 WEX cards at Freedom General, need to talk with Freedom General. Brian makes motion to approve payroll and A/P warrant (\$20,276.02) this week, not pay the school this week, Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Reapprove the purchase of two new AED cards charged on Credit Card, Brian makes motion and Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Brian presents General Assistance information regarding lien's: If the property is in a mortgage lien, municipality will likely lose property to mortgage lien. For now, walk away from property unless issue occurs again, then move forward with lien.

Other Town news: Freedom Parks and Rec. hosting warming center for Winter Fest, will need the use of town office. Report after Parks and Rec. meeting.

Historical society asked for \$2,800, less than original price.

Old Business: Steve requests executive session Legal Consultation 1 MRSA 405 (6)E 7:49pm – 8:14pm, no decisions were made.

New Business: Marilyn coming home tomorrow.

Brian makes motion to adjourn, Steve seconds it. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.