**Meeting Minutes**

**Freedom Board of Selectmen**

**Date: 2-6-2023**

**Approved 2/13/2023**

**In attendance:** Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins,Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Ellie MacMakin,

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda:  Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary’s Report: Ron Price made a motion to accept the minutes from 1/31/2023 as amended, Elaine seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
   * Last week there was an election of officers and there was no change.
   * Firehouse froze over the weekend.  No pipes were broken.
   * Jim Waterman will be doing radio checks with the county EMA.
   * Jim Waterman asked if the state can do anything about the collapsing culvert on the North Palermo Road.  Ron Price will contact the state and look into it.
   * No one reached out to Jim Waterman about a need for a warming center locally.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
   * There are no updates on the damper at the post office.  The ceiling is mudded in and looks ready for paint.  Steve Bennett will contact Haskell Oil tomorrow for an update.  There was an itemized bill on the warrant for the repairs.
   * The uniforms have been received. They were delivered on Friday ,the company had been informed that Friday was not the preferred drop off day.
   * Grader engine swap is underway.
   * Travis Price spoke with Seabrook Truck.  He will check on the progress of the repairs and he will get back to Travis Price.  Travis Price will request the records when the repairs are completed.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Cindy Abbott
   * A/P warrant $29,889.19, Payroll warrant: $7,993.49
   * As a result of the audit, the auditor is requesting that each department head should state what account they want every invoice coming out of and that they initial that.  Moving forward Cindy Abbot reported that the accountant has asked that the Select Board members do the same. Steve stated that the information should go to the treasurer and if there are questions she should refer to the select board.
   * Cindy Abbott will be participating in an all day training on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.  This training will be on Title 30-A.
   * Elaine Higgins made a motion that the A/P warrant $29,889.19 and Payroll warrant: $7,993.49 be paid, Steve Bennett seconded the motion and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Citizen’s Issues and Questions:
   * Lower Bridge Construction Project:  Brian Nichols is the project manager.  Ellenore MacMakin spoke with him.  She was informed that if the town approved it, traffic could continue straight on Pleasant Street  all the way to Montville and go up 220 and not use High Street, while the construction was taking place.  Ellenore will clarify why the state did not understand that they state owned that portion of Pleasant Street.
   * Ellenore MacMakin also raised concerns about the corner of the High Street that is a triangle.  She has suggested that it go back to a T and not a triangle.  She will propose this to the state as well.
   * Hadyniak Family:  made a request to the board (please see attached).  Tyler has requested that his name be removed.   Travis Price asked if the town has a current easement on the road and if research should occur to assure that there is not an easement.  The select board will review what the law says regarding an abandoned road.
   * Review Correspondence:
     + Belfast Soup Kitchen requests to be on our charitable donations
     + Unity area recycling closed on February 4th.
8. Town Officials Reports
   * Code Enforcement Officer
   * Health Official
   * School Board Director:  Ellie Hess
     + Ellie Hess:  She attended the Montville Select Board Meeting. A Freedom of Access Request was filed to acquire information to see how much it is costing to run area schools, from the Superintendent, for the 4 outlying schools. At this time it appears that it costs $19,100 per student.( Monroe, Brooks, Liberty and Troy Elementary Schools)
     + Ron Price asked about the covid funds and why they were not in the school budget.
     + Ellie Hess will be attending a school budget meeting tomorrow night.
     + Montville is proposing that Select Boards from Freedom, Montville and Liberty get together to discuss the education budget.
     + Ron Price asked how many of our students attend the Charter School in Unity.
   * General Assistance Officer:
     + Had 2 requests, one resolved and the other never returned the application to the office, so it was assumed she no longer wanted the help.
   * Plumbing Inspector
   * Solid Waste Director: virtual meeting tomorrow with MRC.
     + Ron Price called the managing director of PERC.  He reported that we are bound by our agreement with the MRC.
   * Animal Control Officer
9. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
   * Planning Board
   * Recreational Committee
     + Alyssa will be helping with the Winterfest on Saturday
   * Appeals Board
   * Charter Committee: Tuesday February 7, 2023 at 6pm
   * Historical Society:  Winterfest to be held this Saturday from 10-2pm on the cross property across from the town hall.
   * Cemetery Committee
   * Budget Committee: Wednesday February 8, 2023 at 6pm
   * CDAC Committee: February 15, 2023 (tentative)
10. Old Business
    * Ambulance Service:  Ron Price made a motion to accept the offer from Unity Ambulance Service to cover Freedom, Elaine Higgins seconded and all approved.
    * Ron Price wrote a letter to Delta Ambulance letting them know that we will no longer be utilizing their services.  Steve Bennett made a motion that Ron Price’s letter be signed and sent out, Elaine seconded and all approved.
11. New Business
    * Health Insurance Meeting : February 15 at 10 am to review the costs. Lauren Goudette
    * Elaine Higgins provided information on more benefits from Efficiency Maine and it appears that we have done most of what they are offering.
    * Steve Bennett would like to make a motion that a check for $500 be issued to the Smithton Cemetery Association from the fund balance,  Ron Price seconded it and all approved.
    * Steve Bennett made a motion that we authorize the expenditure of $10,000 for a non-attest agreement with RHR Smith to oversee our finances until May 1, 2023 and we would fund that through the ARPA funds, Elaine Higgins seconded it and all approved.
12. Date of Next Meeting: February 13, 2023 at 6pm
13. Adjourn: Ron Price made a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.