



Town of Thorndike

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Selectman's Meeting

August 5, 2020

In attendance: R. Nelson, J. Ard, M. Mayer, Z. Bond-Leary, A. Hamblet, R. Cunningham, D. Berry, J. Wadick, T. Veazie, S. Bristol, H. Sorensen, G. Falzetta, J. Trafton, W. Trafton, L. Cranouski, T. Price

Meeting opened by R. Nelson at 6:30pm

Minutes from July 15, 2020 reviewed. R. Nelson makes a motion to accept. M. Mayer seconds. Motion passes 2-0.

Fire Department :

Covid-19 test, can we cover a Fire Department employees test from on the job exposure?

R. Cunningham : employee was not following procedures properly if they were exposed. J. Ard replies : After speaking with the employee, we believe this was no fault of the employee. G. Falzetta : Are you voting for all Covid-19/Fire Department expenses. J. Ard replies : No. Just this particular incident.

M. Mayer makes a motion to pay for the test out of Fire Department Funds. J. Ard seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

T. Veazie : The fire department is still working on inventory and administration.

Old Business:

Salt and Sand Shed : J. Ard introduces Travis Price from Freedom, Maine to share his experience, method, and roadblocks for building Freedom's Salt and Sand Shed in 2016.

T. Price : Freedom went with a pre-engineered building from Calhoun from Canada. Notes that Knox has similar structure, but with a drainage issue. Mr. Price states that that issue is easily remedied.

Structure specs :

- \$220,000 (Total, DEP paid for half as part of the grant program that ended in 2016.)
- \$80,000 on the pad, etc.
- \$20,000 on the cement blocks
- The rest on labor and equipment.
- 4 men worked for 7 days on the structure.

J. Trafton asks how it is holding up after 4 years? Mr. Price explains that the structure is hold up very well after trouble shooting some initial minor issues.

J. Ard remarks that the team from Iron Horse sent someone out as well to help. Mr. Price notes that this person was the one in charge the precision math.

J. Ard asks if Freedom ever hired an engineering firm? Mr. Price states that Freedom did hire a firm out of Southern Maine. They did not do anything/prepare anything, and after they recommended tearing out the pad that was already in

place and do an additional \$80,000 worth of work the town fired them, kept the pad, and reused the blocks (with the addition of others) and the Calhoun design turned out better than expected.

L. Cranouski : Has anyone put out a request for bids yet? G. Falzetta states that he is the chairman of the salt and sand shed committee and that the way Freedom did their shed is illegal and goes against state regulations. Mr. Falzetta questions the way Freedom did the build and the way the town completed the build.

T. Price states that Freedom did everything in the correct way and that all I's were dotted and T's were crossed. Offers up the Town of Freedom's paperwork for inspection.

G. Falzetta questions who the Architectural Engineer was that signed off on the final product. Mr. Price states that the Architectural Engineer from Iron Iron Horse signed off.

T. Veazie states that in his experience with the military they used similar, taller blocks and they had a tendency to tip over. He questions if pouring cement would be a better option? J. Ard replies that we did the ground work to over compensate for issues like that and that we have poured a 5" pad while Freedom's works great at only 3".

G. Falzetta states that the selectmen (as the town) will incur all liability for any accidents if Thorndike does it the way Freedom did. He then reiterates that the way Freedom did it is illegal.

M. Mayer : Requests that voices be lowered and reminds the room the T. Price is there only to share his experience and answer questions.

T. Veazie also requests that voices be lowered and attitudes be improved.

J. Ard reminds the room that we brought an Architectural Engineer to the last meeting to review his options, and that T. Price is here to provide even more information.

W. Trafton questions why G. Falzetta keeps saying that Freedom did their shed illegally when the state and the Iron Horse engineer sign off and the state paid for half after the work was inspected and complete?

T. Price states that Freedom went through all the same steps that G. Falzetta is questioning through Iron Horse and that the Town of Freedom did not "wing it". G. Falzetta replies back with "Good show."

J. Trafton thanks T. Price for sharing his experience. Asks to clarify the Salt and Sand Shed committee's charter? Is it to present the town with a variety of options?

G. Falzetta states that it is not to determine the method of the build or provide any protection of liability.

J. Trafton : When we pick our option the town needs to be informed of all of the options and choose from there, not just given one option.

J. Ard clarifies that Peter Coughlin was involved and active through the entire project in Freedom. T. Price confirms so.

J. Ard states that in his opinion that if there are multiple options, especially one that could potentially save the town \$200,000 , then we should explore them.

G. Falzetta states : Not so, if there is a potential for the town to be sued. We need to weigh that savings against court costs, doctors' fees, lawyers, etc.

T. Price : It hasn't happened.

G. Falzetta : Replies... "riiiiiight..."

further conversation indistinguishable

T. Price questions why G. Falzetta is questioning the integrity of the Town of Freedom?

T. Price thanks the room for their time and leaves.

Ard and Mayer agree that the town needs options and that we should call Calhoun for current pricing.

J. Trafton : Agrees that the town needs the options, and although we don't have a Travis Price that works for us, this sounds like a viable option. We need to remember that we will have that additional cost.

W. Trafton reminds the room that T. Price said that including that worker was an option in the package with Calhoun and Iron Horse. Then questions the Salt and Sand Shed committee's charter. Should it only be for selecting an Architectural Engineer or is it also for selecting options?

J. Ard states that the committee will need to vote to clarify.

G. Falzetta says he will not participate in anything other than creating the framework by which and architectural engineer should be chosen.

H. Sorensen states that there needs to be a clear plan for the options and details. W. Trafton agrees and adds that this is why she joined the committee... so that all options could be explored and vetted.

A. Hamblet questions if there are any options yet?

G. Falzetta states : No, the committee is chartered to choose and architectural engineer.

Z. Bond questions if a secondary committee to explore the various options needs to be formed while working simultaneously with the current committee.

G. Falzetta explains that he is giving the Town of Thorndike the tools they will need to put out a Request For Bids for an architectural engineer... a) the tech specs, b) selection plan, c) government costs, etc.

Z. Bond states again, the people that are contacting the town office about this matter are looking for different options. She suggests that a broader scope be the committee's charter or that they split off into two committees.

G. Falzetta replies that there would need to be additional volunteers.

Z. Bond states that getting more people should not be a problem. The citizens are aware and concerned enough that they want to be a part of this process. The committee seemed too limited as it was.

L. Cranouski : Will options be available before moving forward. Is there a specific date that we will see the options by?

R. Nelson : It is necessary to get through this work prior to the frost out.

L. Cranouski asks if this information will be at the August 22 meeting? J. Ard replies that Article 39 will be on the warrant again, but he recommends tabling it until more information can be vetted.

A. Hamblet states that it sounds like the chair and committee have different understandings of their purpose.

H. Sorensen reminds the room that the confusion is coming from the selectmen thinking the committee would provide options and the committee thinking they were establishing a "grocery list" for selecting an A.E.

W. Trafton states that she did not understand that to be the purpose of the committee and would prefer to see a broader purpose.

D. Berry clarifies that G. Falzetta is saying in order to find an engineer the committee is putting together a check list (or grocery list) of needs. The selectmen will then take that list and choose an A.E. After the A.E. is chosen the committee can then focus on researching options.

Z. Bond questions if we aren't putting the cart before the horse by choosing the A.E first when there are options out there that do not involve needing to do that work?

J. Ard states that there are 2 options... our own A.E. and an A.E with a building firm. It is important to find what will please all involved as much as possible... the citizens, the state, DEP, and DOT.

Z. Bond reports that of the calls that she has received regarding the Salt and Sand Shed, people want to have an apples to apples comparison as soon as possible.

G. Falzetta states that he is developing the A.E. specs so the town can choose an A.E. The Salt and Sand Shed Committee was not empowered to do more.

H. Sorensen reviews the minutes of the meeting where the committee was established and feels that the committee was empowered to do more.

further conversation indistinguishable

G. Falzetta leaves the meeting abruptly.

Z. Bond asks if the two purposes cannot be worked on in tandem?

M. Mayer states that both goals can be achieved within the same committee.

H. Sorensen states that the minutes of the last selectmen's meeting and the charter of the salt and sand shed committee do not match up. There is a disconnect.

M. Mayer reminds everyone that the tabling the vote in August will be important.

H. Sorensen states that G. Falzetta has this particular set of expertise, but that he may have blinders on to the additional work that needs to be done.

Z. Bond voices concern over the behavior seen in tonight's meeting. She explains that yelling, storming out, and disrespectful actions should not be tolerated.

Snow Plow Bidding : The current company is looking for more employees before they can bid on the contract.

J. Ard states that there has been interest by other parties, but they have not bid yet.

J. Ard makes a motion to extend the bidding cut-off date to September 2nd, 2020. M. Mayer seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Cemetery Roads: The clerks do not have an updated cemetery budget, but will get that when the banking is in Amber Hamblet's name.

New Business :

New town letterhead. Z. Bond would like to formalize the letterhead and make it less reproducible.

D. Berry asks what the cost is? Z. Bond replies that there is no cost.

J. Ard requests that the P.O. Box be added to the version that they are looking at.

J. Ard makes a motion to approve the new letterhead. R. Nelson seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Town Clerk position : M. Mayer makes a motion to appoint Amber Hamblet as the new Thorndike Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Treasurer, and voter registrar. J. Ard seconds. R. Nelson abstains. Motion passes 2-0.

Bangor Savings Bank Accounts : J. Ard makes a motion to remove Kari Hunt from the account and have Amber Hamblet's name added. M. Mayer seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Clock Donation: Will the selectmen accept the donation of the grandfather clock to the Town of Thorndike? J. Ard motions to accept the donation. M. Mayer seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Other :

Boat and ATV registration are now available to Thorndike citizens. The new clerks are also processing re-registrations now.

Fire Department trailer : J. Ard reports that someone would like to purchase it. M. Mayer suggests checking with the Fire Department to make sure that it is not being used.

J. Ard states that he already has and that they have never used it.

J. Ard makes a motion to sell the trailer to Markus Lowe. M. Mayer seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

M. Mayer makes a motion to sign warrants. J. Ard seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Warrants signed.

M. Mayer makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. R. Nelson seconds. Motion passes 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm