

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 2/9/2026

Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395
Passcode: TownMeet

Approved 2-17-2026

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Brian Murphy, Heather Donahue, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Brian Fuller, Dylan (via zoom), Patrick Terry,

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A Personnel Matters, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 6:06pm
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve a pay increase and an updated job description for the general maintenance person to \$22 per hour, that position currently held by Jeff Holmes. Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
2. Announcements:
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the minutes from 2-2-2026 and put them on record, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman mentioned that on 2-26 at 6pm there is a CPR course at the Montville Fire Station. Interested individuals should contact John or Rebecca York
 - Stop the Bleed: 3-25 in Montville.
 - Jim Waterman asked about the check that was missing. Laura Greeley is waiting for Vernice to respond to her inquiry.
 - An active shooter class at Summer Camp is being organized.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
 - A/P warrant: \$66333.16
 - Payroll: \$11956.69

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for 2-9-2026 in the amount of \$66,333.16, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for the week of 2-9-2026 in the amount of \$11956.69, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved.**
 - Camden National Account: \$679,050.68
 - Checks received:
 - USPS: \$884.17
5. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
- #6 truck is broken. It appears to be the engine or the head gasket. Options for repairs are being assessed.
 - #8 is being prepared as a backup.
 - They will be continuing the search for a second employee at Public Works.
 - Electricity at the Post Office.
 - A bulb needed to be replaced. All of the lights are on one circuit. They will be getting an estimate on adding a second circuit. Laura Greeley suggested getting a second bid. Lissa Widoff will send Rene Ouellet other names for electricians.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 2025 Tax reports were presented.
 - 2024 Tax reports, there are 24 outstanding accounts
 - 2023 Tax report, there are 11 accounts outstanding
 - Foreclosure notices are due by March 6th.
 - 2022 Taxes: there is 1 account due
 - This will be added to the foreclosure list
 - 2026 prepayments were presented
 - Personal Property: 2 accounts owed
 - Excise Tax: 2026 is lower than 2025 during the same time period
 - Laura Greeley asked for a list of building permits for next week. Lissa Widoff had created a summary sheet. Cindy Abbott will update the document for 2026.
 - Laura Greeley has not heard from the resident or Jackie regarding the abatement. Laura Greeley will wait to hear from Jackie.
 - Lissa Widoff questioned if it is worth having a Pilot conversation with Avian Haven. She is willing to have a conversation with them.
 - Peace Ridge asked for an abatement for 2025. Cindy Abbott noted that that was already done. Cindy Abbott will be sending that information to Peace Ridge regarding the 2025 abatement.

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to abate Map 4 Lot 6-1 in the amount \$1709.45, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve \$89 to be spent on a mailing for the decent decree to the citizens of Freedom, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Town Report:
 - Beth will get the folder of options together and forward them to the Select Board.
 - Haskel's regarding cleaning the furnace cleaning
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to have Cindy Abbot contact Haskel fuels to service the furnace at the fire department and town office not to exceed \$400, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Laura Greeley asked if Cindy Abbot would like to meet with her regarding the town report and articles that could be eliminated.
7. Correspondence:
- Maine Human Rights Commission: Laura Greeley has responded to their request for information. When the situation is decided she will share the information.
 - Lissa Widoff asked that acknowledgements be sent to all those who contributed to the Levi Temple fund.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Heather Donahue asked about the follow up regarding a pond on her property. Response by CEO was that there was no violation letter.
 - Brian Murphy asked about the fire hydrant status. Lissa Widoff stated that they are continuing discussions with the Lost Kitchen and it has been put in the budget.
 - Elaine Higgins asked if the repairs to the dam have been budgeted. The response that \$2000 has been put in the budget. Public works will continue to address the concerns.
 - End of year chart of accounts: Safety Equipment/ Ambulance payment. It was for the ambulance payment.
 - Fuel for the garbage truck was not separated. It has been separated and addressed.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Cindy Abbott spoke with Bill Kelly on Thursday. She is gathering paperwork on 137 and will send it to him.
 - Cindy Abbot sent an Email to Collin Clark with regard to why DEP has not responded to her.

- Assessor's Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - No applications in the last week.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Winterfest went well. Rec made \$174
 - Next meeting February 19th at 3:30pm
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cindy Abbott will reach out to Ben Feeney regarding a meeting.
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Thursday night is hopefully their last night.
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee: 2-21-26 meeting to gather public input at the grange.
 - They will remain vigilant in reviewing upcoming State regulations.

11. Old Business:

- Beaver Ridge Road Agreement: Laura Greeley has concerns with signing the agreement due to a sentence that she would like to be removed. She apologized that she did not notice the sentence sooner. She reported that she had looked back on the notes and it had been removed and then when the final copy arrived it was there again.
 - Bob Kanzler: reported that he has a statement from Tyler Hadyniak regarding it being a public easement.
 - Lissa Widoff is comfortable waiting for Atty Kelly's response prior to mailing it out to the citizens.
 - Patrick Terry asked how many drafts of the final agreement were created? Laura Greeley explained that while they were in mediation they could not share drafts beyond the select board.

- Richard Bickford stated that he feels that there is a problem with the Attorneys fees in the town budget.
- Elaine Higgins stated that in the early 80's they began with everyday direct mail.
- Bob Kanzler sent Laura Greeley a message this weekend about an accident he had on his snowmobile when he hit something on a public easement.
- Heather Donahue asked if the Consent Decree has been reviewed by the town's insurer.
- Rene Ouellet responded to Patrick Terry regarding how he personally thinks about topics. He said he is waiting to see what happens on the 28th. He wants the town to have input about where they want to go with the Beaver Ridge Road agreement. Laura Greeley reinforced that Rene asked Bill if it could be done in a referendum vote.
- Lissa Widoff said that she appreciates all the public input.
- Clerk Position:
 - Laura Greeley will forward a MMA email to Select Board Members.
 - It is stated in our charter that it can be an elected or appointed position. The Select Board Members will review the email from MMA and come to decision by next week.

12. New Business:

- Committee Appointments:
 - Lissa Widoff asked when they should make their appointments for the various committees. Rene Ouellet suggested that they do that after the town meeting.
 - **Lissa Widoff nominated Prentice Grassi to join the Recreation Committee, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff nominated Jule Levesque to be a member of the Recreation Committee, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Trio Contract:
 - Lissa Widoff presented the contract and its features.
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to sign the Trio Contract for the web-based services, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Permit Fees:
 - Lissa Widoff presented a chart she prepared with all of the current fees and those proposed. They have not yet been compared to other towns. Lissa Widoff will contact a few other towns with regard to their fees.

- Lissa Widoff continues to work on the tree growth information and will bring it to the workshop. Laura Greeley will work on her information as well.
 - Assessors Workshop prior to the Select Board Meeting on 2-17-2024, to look at open space, farm and tree growth.
 - Last year's audit: Has been completed. There are 2 copies on the desk. Laura Greeley suggested that they review the management report. Laura Greeley asked that the audit reports be sent to the select board in the future. She has requested 2 bond copies as well.
 - Lorraine Overlock: Laura Greeley sent her a message about the Cemetery.
 - Town Office Garden: request that vehicles not be driven over the garden as it makes it hard to grow new plants.
 - Bob from MMA to meet with Laura Greeley on Thursday.
 - Pre Audit Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday.
 - Port O Potties: Lissa will reach out to B and B one more time then go with Casella.
13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ RfK_AQhIZxfP1TeSYVKa8MsfCE-6J7YBWCIVk74aGpXoqIQjyg4oibMP9QLPPbo.BZvOppeMMnr2jLu](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/RfK_AQhIZxfP1TeSYVKa8MsfCE-6J7YBWCIVk74aGpXoqIQjyg4oibMP9QLPPbo.BZvOppeMMnr2jLu)

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