

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 12/5/2023**

*Approved 12-11-2023*

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Meredith Coffin (via zoom),

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman (not present)
  - o A joint Select Board/Fire Board Meeting on December 12th (Tuesday) at 6pm in Knox. The purpose is to agree upon an amount that they will expect from Knox over the next 3 years. Some discussion on Ambulance, solid waste and public works is anticipated.
  - o Ryan Willette made contact with Colby Robbins from Unity Ambulance, it was a productive conversation. Unity is a volunteer organization. They are going to be coming to Freedom soon to propose a payment style system for their services. They would like to have 2 full time employees.
5. Public Works Director Report:
  - o Ryan Willette reported:
    - A plow slid off the road and into a ditch. It was pulled out and is working. There appears to be a broken center bolt.
    - Truck 8 did well, needs a new power steering hose.
    - Working on vehicle repair.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott (not present)
  - o Payroll Warrant = \$9,207.54 A/P Warrant = \$63,828.62
  - o Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
  - o Camden National = \$ 248,262.42 as of 12-5-2023
  - o Thank you to Rene Oullet for donating his time as moderator.
  - o Farm Share: Should the Select Board take action on not receiving product for the \$1000 that the town spent for the program.
  - o Donation Request: Beaver Ridge Winds would like to make a donation to the town to be spent on fuel assistance. (see new business)
  - o 3 Requests for donations: Waldo County Bounty, Belfast Soup Kitchen, Mt. View BUM League.
  - o Abatement requests: (see new business)

- Received 2 checks:
  - MMA for \$10 for training refund
  - USPS: check for \$884.17
- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$9,207.54 and the A/P Warrant = \$63,828.62, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
  - Nomination papers are available and have to be returned by 1-12-2023,
    - Two people have taken paperwork: Elaine Higgins and Heather Donahue.
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - Article from Tanya Blanchard: Steve mentioned the article.
  - Laura Greeley mentioned that there was an article put out today about making the PUC comments public.
- 9. Review Correspondence
- 10. Town Officials Reports
  - Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
  - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
  - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
  - Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
  - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
  - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
  - Planning Board: Tuesday December 12th with the goal of finalizing the solar array ordinance.
    - Laura Greeley spoke with MMA and they are reviewing community benefit and will get back to her.
      - Laura Greeley feels uneasy having Chris and Dylan at the meeting making suggestions about our ordinance. Since they are interested parties and plan to submit an application for a solar array.
      - Tyler Hadyniak felt his email response to Laura Greeley was very thorough.
      - Laura Greeley asked if they had any other experts to talk about solar arrays.
      - Laura Greeley suggested Lance Stewart as a possible person to discuss solar arrays with. He wonders what the motive is for Chris and Dylan attending the meetings.
      - Tyler Hadyniak feels that it is a strong ordinance. Tyler asked Laura to let them know what opinions or recommendations that have been made that she is uncomfortable with.
      - Laura Greeley asked how do we know that all of the information they are giving is in the town's best

interest. Tyler asked that if anyone knows of another person with knowledge of solar arrays, to please let them know.

- Steve Bennett reviewed the power transmission line ordinance and looked for any errors in spelling and abbreviations, corrected the roman numerals, and he added page numbers to all the pages. Going through it he could not see any substantial changes that need to be made. There may be other necessary changes, it says in the ordinance that amendments can be generated by the planning board. Would the planning board like to look this over in one of their upcoming meetings? Tyler Hadyniak stated that the Select Board Members should make the corrections, he is willing to poll the other members but he is fairly sure that they feel the same. Steve would like a vote from the members of the planning board and a note stating the outcome. Steve would like to see the Planning Board address any changes that need to be made.
  - Ryan Willette would like the town to look at it and make changes then reconsider having the lawyer look at these documents.
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Bruger
  - Upcoming Christmas Craft Fair December 17th
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
  - Had a productive meeting. Steve Bennett would like authorization to review the town charter and ordinance with the town atty. Ryan Willette asked if there was a different municipal atty. Tyler Hadyniak attempted to clarify. Tyler asked if Bill Kelly reviewed the ordinance and the response was yes. Steve stated that we need a thorough review of the ordinance.
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: December 13th 6pm
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
  - The ads for the bids will be going out to the newspapers on 12-7. An invoice will be sent on January 1.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
  - December 19th at 6:00pm
- Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue

## 12. Old Business

- Brian Jones abatement: Jackie Robbins is recommending an abatement. All 62 acres are in tree growth. Abatement 732.62
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to abate him in the amount of \$732.62, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.

## 13. New Business

- Ryan Willette made a motion to \$142 for 2 ads placed in the Bangor Daily News, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Beaver Ridge Winds would like to make a donation to the town to be spent on fuel assistance. A special revenue fund would need to be created in the warrant and the money they donated would go for heating assistance. The applicant would have to apply for general assistance. Ryan Willette suggested that if they did not qualify for general assistance there could be other parameters to make the decision. A policy for this would need to be created.
  - Steve Bennett made a motion that they go into executive session for 1 MRSA 4059 (6) A at 7:23pm, seconded by Ryan Willette and all approved.
    - They came out of executive session at 8:25 and no decision was made.
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to have an executive session for personnel matters at 8 am Monday, 12-11-2023 and the town office would open at 10 am, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023. 6pm
15. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn, at 8:28 pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.