

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 8/10/2026
Approved 8-17-26
Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395
Passcode: TownMeet

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulrier, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Steve Bennett, Joe Freeman, Bob Kanzler, Dylan Turner, Ben Feeney, Kevin Greeley, Kyle Price, Roy Mishou (via zoom), Bryan Murphy, Pamela Herman (via zoom), Tyler Hadyniak, Elaine Higgins, Barbara and Ron Littlefield, Donny Brown, Don Hager

Select Board Meeting

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - **Kory Boulrier made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E, legal consultation, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 4:30 pm and no decision was made.
 - **Kory Boulrier 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 6:08pm and no decision was made.
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the minutes from the 8-3-2026 meeting and put them on record, Kory Boulrier seconded and all approved.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Chicken BBQ, \$12 per person
 - A discussion occurred regarding traffic on 137 due to the parade on the 15th. It was noted that the road would need to be closed for the parade. Cindy Abbott will reach out to the State Police and let them know.
 - Searsmont Fire report: 22-page report on the Searsmont fire is available and Jim Waterman has a copy if anyone would like to see it.

- Lissa Widoff clarified that the reason for the pipe failure on the hydrant at The Lost Kitchen has not been determined yet as the diver has not yet been there to look at the filter.
- 4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
 - A/P Warrant: \$11654.54 for the fire station equipment lease
 - A/P Warrant: \$71177.17
 - Payroll Warrant: \$6544.42
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week 8-10-2026 of in the amount of \$11654.54 for the fire station equipment lease, Kory Boulter seconded and all agreed.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week 8-10-2026 of in the amount of \$71177.17, Kory Boulter seconded and all agreed.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for the week 8-10-2026 of in the amount of \$6544.42, Kory Boulter seconded and all agreed.**
 - Camden National Balance: \$300,958.74
 - Checks received: \$884.17
- 5. Public Works: Ryan Willette (not present)
 - Kory has not yet spoken with Ryan Willette regarding the grading of the dirt roads.
- 6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Tax bills will go out this week with a letter of explanation, property cards and valuation reports. Please give a select board member a call if you find an error. Jim Murphy will be coming after this to make necessary corrections. The Select Board Members will come in to assist Cindy with the preparations for mailing the tax bills with all the enclosed documents.
 - The mill rate was changed from 13.9 to 14.5.
 - Cash received reports were presented for July.
 - Real estate Taxes for 2025: 29 accounts outstanding for a total of approximately \$44,000. The 30-day notice will be applied around August 17th.
 - 24 taxes 18 bills outstanding. Report provided
 - 23-22 taxes: \$477.17/\$391.48 The select board needs to decide what they want to do with that account.
 - Excise report by month 26 and 25 for comparison. Lissa Widoff asked if the year-to-date comparison has been made.
 - Laura Greeley and Lissa Widoff will review what Jackie did before the end of this meeting and then Cindy can proceed with printing the reports.
- 7. Correspondence:

- Job application was received
- EMA responses
- Stolen Motorcycle: a police report was filed. Lissa Widoff spoke to the individual.
- File Cabinets are available from KVCOG

8. Citizens Issues:

- Joe Freeman asked about truck #6 and if anyone has heard anything yet. Kory Boulter said that he is respecting the process Ryan Willette is reporting.
- Ron Littlefield asked about the sand bids, Kory Boulter will follow-up with Ryan Willette.
- Steve Bennett asked about the homestead exemption. He reviewed the commitment forms from the last 3 years. Based on his review the town value came up by \$86 million. He asked how the town's value increased by \$26 million in 1 year. Laura Greeley stated that it is the state's value. The Select Board asked to see what Steve Bennett was referring to and asked where the data came from. He presented a spreadsheet he created. His question was why the homestead exemption was reduced. Laura Greeley clarified that it is the state that determines the homestead exemption. The Select Board goes by the state's value statements. Steve Bennett is concerned that we are above the state's valuation as a town. They will go back and check on what he is reporting.
 - Laura Greeley further clarified that when Jackie did the "across the board" increases, that what Jackie said was going to happen varied for people. That is what led Laura Greeley on the journey to discover how messed up the assessments were. Laura Greeley was curious how many across the board increases were completed over the last several years.
 - Steve Bennett stated that it had happened for about 3 years that he knew about it.
 - Laura Greeley clarified the plan moving forward with regard to valuing property and assuring that the valuations are equitable.
 - Lissa Widoff clarified as well. The goal is for fairness to everyone. They are attempting to be transparent. There is a shortage of assessors.
- Elaine Higgins: Stated that she feels chastised publicly for what has been said to her and about her from the public. Laura Greeley clarified that the Select Board did not vote to pay for a full survey. They voted to allow Patrick Terry's work to be presented to Atty Kelly. Lissa Widoff stated that they did not make a decision to continue to hire the surveyor to do more

work. The Select Board did not vote to approve the surveyor to complete a survey. Any money that was spent was within what had been budgeted. Elaine Higgins asked if they authorized the surveyor to continue his survey. They clarified that they allowed him to look at the information from Patrick Terry and Kyle Price. Elaine Higgins asked to receive an accounting of all the money paid to the lawyer about Beaver Ridge. Laura Greeley stated that she has already provided all of this information. Laura Greeley has asked Elaine Higgins to stop providing misinformation. Elaine Higgins reported that she provides positive articles and the editor chooses what to publish.

- Don Hager: stated that anyone who publishes information needs to have all of the information. He feels that the current Select Board is doing well with transparency.
- Donny Brown: submitted his application for Public Works.

9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
 - Patty Ashland will be on vacation some October /November weekends.
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
 - No new requests this week.
 - The training course is in September
- 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
 - Tuesday Aug 11, 2026
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Preparation for the Field Day/Parade
 - Final Plans are being done
 - Silent Auction, about 20 items
 - Volunteers: still needed
 - Color Guard: still need someone to do it.
 - Sams order needs to be placed for the supplies for the snack shack. Also 3 gas cards for the car show.

- **Lissa Widoff moved to approve Cindy's use of the Credit Card for appropriate supplies for the field day, Kory Boulrier seconded and all approved.**
 - Appeals Board: (chair to be determined).
 - They have set up their meeting for Thursday August 13, 2026
 - One appeal has been received.
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Wednesday Aug 12, 2026 6pm Executive Session, confidential regarding personnel
 - CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Comp Plan Committee:
 - They are continuing to work on the chapters.
 - Meeting on Thursday Aug 13, 2026
 - Survey to be sent will be reviewed
 - Historical Society:
 - August 16th there will be another book reading. Gary Hoyle (author)
11. Old Business:
- Tax Commitment: will be completed this week.
 - Policy workshop for Personnel policy: August 24th at 4pm
 - Website Updates/status: Progress was reviewed
 - Freedom Emergency Management Director search
 - Neighborhood watch:
 - Montville resident was down at the dock and were unable to launch their boat, due to lots of children sitting on the dock and cars parked in the no parking area
 - Police Report regarding a child being thrown into the water by an adult male who had allegedly been drinking.
 - DOC/boat landing parking: Lissa Widoff has not looked into this yet.
12. New Business:
- Contracting with an outside assessor to look at land issues next week.
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday August 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
14. Adjourn: Kory Boulrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 pm, Lissa Widoff seconded the motion and all approved.

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/H8ZGHGi3yoBZEWicO94xjaYQOtObGFnwOW_KFzfYZyR7Sf3oSfKIhe0_fz0nSpw0.YN4_PNpt66avvAZI

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