

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 5-22-2023**  
**Approved 5-30-2023**

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jasmine Willette, Tim Biggs, Joe Freeman, Elaine Higgins, Nathan McCann, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Jacob Brugger, Kirk Thomas, April Turner, Elle MacMakon, Kyle Price (via zoom),

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and put on file, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - o Fireman in Unity tonight for electric vehicles and charging systems course.
  - o Air compressor was tested and has passed.
  - o There was a report from the EAP regarding the excessive water with the Freedom Pond Dam
  - o Ryan Willette reported that they have the dead-end signs and posts and when they are done grading, they will put up the signs.
4. Public Works:
  - o Grading is underway.
    - Smithton Road is scheduled to be done.
  - o Ryan Willette and Steve Bennette agreed to change the days and hours of the employees at Public Works to a 5-day work week from 7-3:30pm.
  - o Dead end signs will be going up after the grading is done.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - o Payroll warrant= \$7715.82, A/P warrant \$9838.67
  - o Checkbook has not yet been balanced and Trio is working on it. Steve Bennett asked when this is going to be fixed.
  - o Received a check for \$3936 from Central Maine Cost recovery for the fire department.
  - o Cindy provided a print out of the upcoming bills in the legislature that the select board needs to be aware of.
  - o Cindy asked if the Select Board wanted the May School Payment on next week's warrant.
  - o Steve Bennett made a motion that the payroll warrant= \$7715.82, A/P warrant \$9838.67 and a second \$776 A/P be paid, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

- Doug Thomas' abatement has been placed in the warrants to be signed. Steve Bennett made a motion that they sign the abatement for Doug Thomas and Ryan Willette seconded, all approved.
- 6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
  - In June, Cindy Abbott will start the 30-day process for Tax Liens.
  - Cindy Abbott will provide reports after the 31st.
- 7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - Appeals Board: Ellie MacMakon was concerned that a new responsibility was put on the appeals board regarding a 2 week turn around for a conflict resolution. Her concern was the time period and that the people who were involved should have been involved in the decision-making process. She is concerned with achieving a quorum in 2 weeks. Cindy Abbott mentioned that the ordinance may be in conflict with the charter. Tyler Hadyniak stated that Ryan Willette is correct in that the intent was to have a quick turnaround. It was suggested that more people be added to the appeals board. If there were 7 a quorum would be 5.
    - April Turner asked what the procedure is for increasing the number of people on the appeals board. Steve Bennett stated that it would be the select board that would appoint someone and that the ordinance would be amended at a town meeting.
    - April Turner also asked about how unintended consequences would be dealt with in the town charter. Tyler Haydiniak stated that there are none that he is aware of other than increased workload for the appeals board. Tyler Haydiniak stated that if there were unintended consequences the charter could be amended or revised. Amended is a much easier process.
    - Tim Biggs asked if the citizens find an issue and the Select Board does not agree how would they express their concern? Steve Bennett stated that if 10 citizens signed a petition it could be dealt with. Tyler Haydiniak stated that this was accurate.
    - Cindy Abbott asked if an ordinance is amended by the town if that impacts the charter. His response was no.
  - Elle MacMakon asked about when the roads were going to be fixed. Ryan Willette stated that it would be after the bridge on Rt 137 is replaced.
- 8. Review Correspondence
- 9. Town Officials Reports
  - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie
  - Waste Management:
  - Health Official
  - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
    - Lynn Hadyniak was concerned about a baby porcupine that was in the ditch. They suggested that they call the facility in South China. They captured the baby porcupine and brought it to Cody's.
  - Planning Board:
  - Recreational Committee:
    - Solidified dates

- Decided a name for a Market: Freedom Community Market, to be run on Saturdays. 9am-1pm, tentative second Saturday of June; This will be held at the park where the ballfield is.
  - Ryan Willette is planning to talk with the Freedom Academy Alumni
- Appeals Board
- Charter Committee: Tyler Hydiniak
- Historical Society
- Cemetery Committee:
  - The meeting is canceled for tomorrow
  - Cindy Abbott is concerned that the cemeteries will not be cleaned up by Memorial Day. Jeff Holmes stated that they did not need to be mowed due to only being moss and leaves. She stated that they were not ready last year.
    - Ryan Willette will speak with Jeff Holmes and make sure he cleans up the cemeteries. Steve Bennett stated that there is a marker at the site of every veteran. Ryan Willette will look at each of the cemeteries and make a list of what needs to be done.
- Budget Committee: 6pm on the 23rd of May.
- CDAC Committee:
- School Board: Elenore Hess,
  - School budget meeting tomorrow night.

#### 10. Old Business

- Water tests are underway.
  - They did a first draw lead test.
  - There is a leak behind the toilet at the post office. Cindy Abbott stated that there is a process for the town to respond to maintenance concerns at the post office.
  - Ryan stated that the water pressure at the Post Office is poor and he will look into it. He also stated that the water was discolored.
  - Tim Biggs asked if we are required by the state to test the water?

#### 11. New Business

- When will the complete audit be available with recommendations?
- A meeting will be set up with The Lost Kitchen to discuss the parking situation.
- Elaine Higgins spoke about getting the word out about the charter vote. She asked if emails could be sent to announce events and votes electronically. The answer is yes but it would be important to set the parameters as to how to collect emails then how information would be sent out.

12. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday May 30, 2023 at 6pm

13. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. Ryan Willette seconded all approved.