Meeting Minutes Freedom Board of Selectmen Date: 1-8-2024

Approved 1-16-2024

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Meredith Coffin, Joe Freeman, Brian Murphy, Eleanore MacMakin, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Dylan Turner (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 6:01pm.
- 2. Announcements:
 - FCHS dinner has been canceled for this year due to Myrick's recovery.
- 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
 - Asked about the filter, Ryan is going to get this done.
 - Anticipated flooding with Wednesday's storm.
 - Business Meeting for the Fire Department next Monday.
 - Some new applicants for the fire department
 - Concerned about the trees that are down on the Palermo Road. Ryan Willette will follow up with DOT.
- 5. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported:
 - Isaiah and Adam went out and plowed. Joe also helped with this past storm.
 - Working on the cab from one ton.
 - Doing tree work.
 - Ryan Willette and Laura Greeley have watched a video on grant writing for the DOT grant. Deadline is on the 19th.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll Warrant = \$7046.31 A/P Warrant = \$2751.35(1)
 A/P Warrant = \$42,037.81 (2)
 - o Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - o Camden National = \$247,864.82 (as of 1-8-2024)
 - o 2021 Foreclosures- All are paid for 2021
 - Nomination papers for Heather Donahue have been turned in with the qualifying signatures.
 - Received a check from the USPS for \$884.17 for rental fees.

- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$7046.31 and the A/P Warrant = \$2751.35(1)(FY 2023) and the A/P Warrant = \$42,037.81 (2) (FY 2024), Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Rabies Clinic in Winterport.
- Once the payroll service begins, all payroll payments will be electronic through direct deposit and biweekly.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- 9. Review Correspondence
- 10. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
 - There was a workshop today with Patty Ashland. She wanted to verify her role and direction. She was encouraged to contact MMA and review her role.
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - o Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
 - Peter has not heard back from the Augusta Shelter; he has also reached out to the shelter in Camden. He wants to assure that he has a place to take animals. He will follow up when he has answers.
- 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: 6pm Tuesday night 1-9-2024
 - Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - They met Sunday and did some preliminary planning for Winterfest.
 - There has not been further conversation about taking the concrete wall down in the town park.
 - Eleanore MacMakin asked what was being cleaned up and what the wall was going to be replaced with. Ryan Willette responded that that has yet to be determined.
 - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
 - Having a meeting on January 22, at 6 pm at the town voting hall.
 - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Has had donations from their holiday drive.
 - Grant is pending with the Federal Government
 - o Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee:
 - 1-10-24 meeting, 6pm
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - They met and next steps will be determined.

- Meredith Coffin asked if we needed a policy on the money that was donated for heating assistance.
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue
 12.Old Business
 - Post Office: Thursday morning, Ryan Willette will meet with Ron Valles and review the things that need to be fixed. Ron will then provide a bid.
 - Policies:
 - Employee Health Insurance Policy: needs some revision
 - Weekly Trash pickup, using a colored bag as opposed to stickers is being worked on.
 - Holiday Pay:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign and accept the updated holiday pay for hourly employees' policy, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Non-profit unified tax needs to be updated
 - Annual Renewal of Select Board Policies:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the new annual renewal of the select board policies, policy, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Registration of Vehicles:
 - Laura Greeley made a motion that they accept the new vehicle registration policy, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - LRAP funds have not yet been received.
 - Camden National: checking is being changed and they are waiting for paperwork. Their new account will accrue a greater percentage.
 - Elaine Higgins asked what was left of the ARPA funds. They will need to be spent by 2025. She suggested looking at the paperwork to see what qualifies for expenditures.
 - They are waiting for a contract from Bangor payroll and they will be moving to a biweekly payroll. It will begin on the 29th and be paid on the 31st. \$2231 per year for all of our payroll and associated Federal paperwork.

13. New Business:

- Electronic and Transmission facilities ordinance: Updates were needed. These have been done and Atty Kelly has reviewed it. Steve is suggesting a separate hearing and make it separate from the vote. Ryan Willette suggested it be posted on the website and the townspeople have a couple of weeks to read it. Steve suggested the 29th of January prior to the select board meeting. Then the vote could be February 16th. Both at 6pm prior to the select board meeting. Vote on the ordinance will be on, February 12th.
- Broadband: March 31, 2022 survey was completed on the Skidgell Lot that provides a space that may be appropriate for the broadband.

- Steve Bennett made a motion to sign a consent agreement between the town and the owner of the Bangs and Knights Store, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Select Board Meetings: suggested that they have one workshop each week and a full select board meeting every other week. The workshops would be 7:30 am.
 - Regular Select Board meeting on January16th. The first biweekly meeting would be on the 29th and the first biweekly workshop would be at 7:30 am on the 22nd of January.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to rearrange the select board meetings so that every other week there would be a select board meeting at 6pm, and the workshops would begin on the 22nd at 7:30 am on the following week, all meetings would be open to the public, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Beth Owen-Mishou will reach out to Ryan Vines regarding internet security and use of emails.
- 14. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2024. 6pm
- 15. Adjourn: Steve Benett made a motion to adjourn, at 8:55 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.