

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 11-20-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Heather Donahue, Meredith Coffin, Joe Freeman, Kevin Greeley, Brian Murphy, Maryann Bennett, Kyle Price (via zoom), Clara Alvarez, Rene Oulett,

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Laura Greeley made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Town report: Fire Chiefs' pay was listed in two places. He would request that his pay be listed with the fire department expenses, only.
 - Steve Bennett stated that it is in a separate article.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they not move that money at this time, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Jim Waterman asked about the potential construction going on at the Millbury's place on Belfast Rd.
 - There is a new trailer there with a hard roof.
 - Down by Anderson's there is a trailer in the woods.
 - Steve Bennett will reach out to Jackie regarding the construction.
 - 13 boxes were delivered for Thanksgiving
 - People can still submit an application for Christmas boxes
 - The water filter is on the warrant
 - Ryan Willette is working on the key box for the meter.
 - Steve Bennett has not heard back from all the other towns regarding a meeting to discuss Fire Service. He will reach out to them again.
5. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported:
 - Working on the 550 Ford
 - Trash truck brakes should be good now.
 - Bucket on the payloader is thin and some spots have pushed through. Should it be rebuilt or replaced?
 - Plow trucks are ready for the season.

- The state of Maine will be doing Core drilling will be happening by the bridge on 137.
 - Some of the temporary signs have been removed on Albion Road and replaced by permanent ones.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll Warrant = \$4,609.82 A/P Warrant = \$70,529.31
 - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - Camden National = \$ 298,590.75
 - Received receipts with bank recs up to August 23
 - Steve Bennett stated that we have received the reconciliations for all of 2023 up to August 2023.
 - Steve Bennett reviewed the revenue summary year to date. 2.3 million dollars. There was roll over money from some designated accounts.
 - Ryan Willette suggested that the paving money be put into a CD.
 - Kyle Price asked if the money from the paving was used for the crushed stone base and the answer was no, it did not get used.
 - 2 thank you notes were received
 - There will be a mailing on Tuesday for a special town meeting, rec craft fair and transmission line information.
 - Efficiency Maine Letter on upgrading town buildings
 - Kristy will be out of the office on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.
 - There was a bill \$2257.39 was due to the State of Maine. The auditor suggested not to pay it due to us having a credit. If we do not pay it they can charge 25% penalty. Steve suggests paying it within the tax portal.
 - Ryan Willette and Laura Greeley have had difficulty with the portal. They suggest that if it is going to be used, they should take screenshots and save information.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that Cindy Abbott make a payment to the state of Maine through the payment portal making sure to document throughout the process, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Town will be closing at noon on Wednesday.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$4,609.82 and the A/P Warrant = \$70,529.31, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - Tyler Hadyniak raised concern about the response by Unity Ambulance. An ambulance was paged out and it was over 45 minutes before anyone would have responded to the emergency.
 - Clara Alvarez shared a similar concern.
 - Jim Waterman is the EMA director and Steve and Ryan both expressed concern. They will speak with Jim and determine what to do moving forward. Steve Bennett will call Delta and Laura Greeley will contact Liberty.
- 9. Review Correspondence

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
- Assessors Agent:
- Health Official:
- School Board Director: Elenore Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
- Plumbing Inspector:
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
- Recreational Committee:
 - Provided a flyer to go in the mailing.
- Appeals Board: November 29th is the next meeting
- Historical Society:
- Cemetery Committee:
- Budget Committee: December 5th
- CDAC Committee:
- Broadband Committee:
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Oulett
- Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley
 - Trying to find time for another meeting.
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue
 - 6-hour meeting on Saturday with the steering committee on how to move forward. They are thinking about community engagement. Wednesdays at 6pm.
 - Q and A in Thorndike with LS Power tomorrow.

12. Old Business

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13. New Business

- Warrant for a special town meeting: Cindy Abbott handed out materials.
 - Lance Stewart: Albion resident. He has a background in control system engineering.
 - Steve Bennett asked why these lines can't be buried? L.S. response said that it is what is technically possible. There is no reason it cannot be buried. The current plan is for AC lines and they cannot be buried. DC lines can be buried. Power grids are usually AC so there would need to be a conversion from DC to AC. The power coming off the turbines is AC.
 - Albion is anticipating that their ordinance will be done in January.
 - Brian Murphy asked if the state could overrule a towns ordinance. LS responded that it would be a legal challenge.
 - Elaine Higgins asked about cattle grazing under a high voltage line. LS responded that cattle are sensitive to the

stray voltage and ground conditions are a factor. If the ground is boggy the water is a conductor. Metal troughs are an issue versus rubber. There are some studies that investigate stray voltage with cattle.

- The magnetic field created effects bees. A DC transmission would not Heather Donahue asked if there were any European studies.
- Clara Alvarez asked who created the Freedom Ordinance and when. Ms Bennett asked if the lawyer had reviewed this. He has looked at it preliminarily.
- Steve Bennett presented a timeline of what has occurred. He referenced a website called Utility Drive. Materials from Tanya Blanchard. He referenced an email sent from LS Power.
- Clara Alvarez mentioned that the planning board met on a Tuesday and had no idea that the information was going to be presented. She felt that the select board was demanding that the document be worked on. She felt that the select board should have better communication with the planning board. The selectman came to the planning board meeting without being on the agenda and asked that they look over the presented information. She felt that the message was that this was going to occur with or without the planning board. Ryan Willette stated that he was asking them to read it. She asked why have a planning board if they are going to be superseded by the selectboard. Steve Bennett stated that it is important that we move forward due to how important the issue is. Ms Bennett stated that she would have like to have known ahead of time that the select board members would be presenting at the meeting. She would like better communication. Laura Greeley stated that in the future they would ask to be on the agenda. Laura Greeley stated that she felt they left on good terms. Additionally, she asked how long they have been working on the solar array ordinance. Tyler Hadyaniak did not feel that the select board was disrespectful. He did feel that the part where it was indicated that it would be voted on regardless was disrespectful. Steve Bennett stated that he is sorry if people felt disrespected but it needs to get done. Ryan Willette stated that he does not feel that there is good communication between any of the town committees. Laura mentioned that the Bangor Daily stated that the push back that occurred had an impact on the decisions that are being made, thus it is important that the town of Freedom firmly states their views.
- Warrant for a hearing and a vote on next Tuesday at 6pm the 28th of November.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to set a public hearing on a proposed Electric Transmission Facilities and Corridors Ordinance will be held and first and then proceed immediately to the Town Meeting at

6pm on November 28,2024, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Selectboard Workshop: Monday the 27th of November at 7:00 am

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, November 27, 2023. 6pm

15. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at 8:40pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.