

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 11-27-2023**  
*Approved 12-5-2023*

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Meredith Coffin, Brian Murphy, Rene Oulett, Kyle Price (via zoom), Phil Bloomstein

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Announcements:
  - Date was correct for the warrant but the day was incorrect. As long as the date was correct, we are all set. The corrections were up on the website and other social media sites.
    - Rene Oulett brought up 3 things regarding the meeting:
      - Should there be a term for the moderator and specific roles for the moderator. In that role the moderator would work with the Select Board in developing the warrant and the articles. Input on the warrant before it goes out is his key point.
      - If he had seen the warrant before it was posted he would have provided feedback. The purpose of a town meeting is for the town's people to have input. The hearing is for the board to tell people what they are thinking of and hear feedback from the people. If you have them both the same night then it makes it difficult to make changes based on the town's feedback.
      - Rene has a concern that if this passes tomorrow that you might be on tenuous ground because you may not have given people time to provide feedback and have their concerns heard and perhaps be modified based on the feedback.
    - Meredith Coffin presented her concerns about the document. She is concerned that people have not had the time to read and think about the ordinance.
    - Laura Greeley mentioned that she wished we would have time to explain the warrants. She is concerned that not many people come and show up to review the warrants and ask about them.
    - Ryan Willette mentioned that he has had concerns on both sides.
    - Rene Willette reported on title 30 law

- Public participation is required, the people have a right to be party to the preparation of the zoning regulation.
  - Laura Greeley asked if the attorney said that it was ok to have both the hearing and vote in the same night.
  - Meredith asked who had a chance to review that ordinance prior to the planning board being told to read it. Who were the Freedom residents who worked on this ordinance?
  - Rene Oulett stated that in a town meeting there is something to be acted upon. He suggested that we have a hearing, close the hearing, open the town meeting. He said we need 2 separate warrants.
  - Ryan Willette suggested going forward then having a second meeting to amend the document to fix typos and address any additional concerns, citizens may have.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion that Steve Bennett call MMA and ask for clarification regarding the wording in the warrant, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
  - Tyler received the full ordinance and the ½ page initial draft on November 1st. He included all of this to the members on the 14th of November. He did not send the full ordinance to the planning board members.
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
- SAMS # has it been updated, the response is, that is has. He needs it to apply for a Maine Forestry grant.
  - Christmas basket deadline is 12/1/2023,
  - Fire Department Budget meeting has not been scheduled yet
  - He is available on the 12th and 14th to meet with the other towns.
  - He suggested that we speak to John York, prior to looking at Liberty.
  - Water filter is in and Jim should contact Ryan to get that installed.
  - If you call 911, you can request a specific ambulance service.
  - Jim Waterman suggests that we contact Colby Robbins, the Asst. Chief in Unity
  - Freedom Averages 3-4 ambulance calls per month
  - Ryan Willette would like to call Delta, Winslow and Unity.
  - Kyle Price mentioned that Winslow has an ambulance and crew.
5. Public Works Director Report:
- Ryan Willette reported:
    - Grader is being worked on.
    - 550 is being worked on.
    - Call on Raven Road about the mud. Isaiah looked at the road today and measured out the issues.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll Warrant = \$4,771.48    A/P Warrant = \$6,173.60

- Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
- Camden National = \$ 249,605.92
- Ryan Willette made a motion for Cindy Abbot to use the credit card for the purpose of purchasing the tools for public works, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$4,771.48 A/P Warrant = \$6,173.60, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Received 2 checks: From Fastenal Company Purchasing for 106.96
  - 13,903.15 from State Revenue Sharing
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
  - Nomination papers will be available on Wednesday November 29th.
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - Elaine Higgins brought a flyer for Ryan Willette regarding a free webinar. Ryan Willette will attend.
- 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:
    - Next meeting is Wednesday the 29th. 6pm
    - Palmer will be done at the end of November; he would like the select board to put out a notice regarding the vacancy. Notice for applicants has been placed on the town website.
  - Recreational Committee:
    - Upcoming Christmas craft fair, notice on town's website.
  - Appeals Board: November 29th is the next meeting, 6pm
  - Historical Society:
    - Meeting this week
  - Cemetery Committee:
  - Budget Committee: December 5th 6pm
  - CDAC Committee: November 30th at 6:30
  - Broadband Committee:
  - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Oulett
    - Meeting Wednesday 6pm in the annex.
    - The Select Board would like the following policies reviewed: Holiday Pay, redraft of the health ins policy, general policies for elected town employees, computer security and persons handling money. Health insurance was the most important to the board.
  - Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley

- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue

#### 12. Old Business

- Ryan Willette and Steve Bennett will continue to work on the beaver situation.

#### 13. New Business

- Steve Bennett asked if the money that has been put aside from the paving should be put in a CD. He is exploring the options.
  - Brian Murphy asked about the amount Steve Bennett mentioned last week and where that money came from.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that they hold a Select Board executive session on Monday at 9am December 4th to meet with the Town Clerk Treasurer and Deputy Town Clerk Treasurer therefore the town office opening will be postponed by one hour, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, December 4, 2023. 6pm

15. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at 7:56 pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.