

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 11-6-2023
Approved 11-13-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Cindy Abbott, Samantha Turner, Willa Smith, Mike Smith, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Meredith Coffin, Dylan Turner (via zoom), Heather Donahue, Joe Freeman, Kevin Greeley, Tom Stout, Eleanor MacMakin, Brian Murphy, 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 6:45pm.
2. Announcements:
 - o **Veterans Day Ceremony:** November 10th at 11am, sponsored by the Rec. Department. Elaine Higgins is coordinating the food. Cindy Abbott has reached out to Kim about a wreath. Cindy Abbott will ring the bell and Ryan Willette will grill the food. Elaine Higgins will reach out to Paul Flynn and ask him to connect with Ryan Willette and Cindy Abbot.
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
 - o Steve Bennett spoke with Darren Mahuren (Brooks) regarding the provision of Fire Services for these towns. They are willing to pay \$12,000 per year. Ryan Willette feels that with all of the price increases that it is reasonable the price increase.
 - o Jim Waterman will look into what the increased yearly percentage is for the fire contracts with the other towns.
 - o Truck One is at Jordan Fowlers and the muffler needs to be replaced. Cost approximately \$3800. For parts alone.
 - o Hunters Breakfast Saturday from 5am-10am
 - o Thanksgiving Day baskets to be delivered on the 18th. Jim will deliver them and submit his mileage. Rene Oulett asked if he needed help delivering them.
 - o A Maine Forest Service Grant is coming up and Jim is going to submit it.
 - o Key Box: Ryan Willette is working on it.
 - o Project to replace the kitchen cabinets.
 - o Ryan Willette made a motion to reimburse Jim Waterman for his mileage to deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - o Ryan Willette made a motion to allow Cindy Abbott to use the credit card to pay for the water filters, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Ryan Willette made a motion for Cindy Abbot to purchase some of the tools for Public Works online, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
5. Public Works Director Report:
- Ryan Willette reported:
 - New gravel in the town driveway.
 - Town office building was pressure washed.
 - Salt was delivered last week
 - Brakes on the garbage truck have been adjusted
 - Working on the cellar holes behind the public works.
 - Took metal in, \$573 was the refunded amount.
 - Where have we been getting rid of tires from the spring clean-up? Ryan Willette will check with Ron Price.
 - Moving granite this week from the Fisher property to Keen Hall.
 - Ryan Willette did some research on the bridge and detours. It appears that the bridge may not be opening again until 2026. He is concerned about traffic patterns and the risk of accidents. He is waiting for a return call from DOT. Steve Bennett said that he got a call from a resident that was concerned about the signage, because the signage may cause the ambulance to go all the way down the Albion Road.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they authorize Ryan Willette to contact all of the local ambulance and fire services to let them know about the road closures, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Samantha Turner asked about roads and access.
 - Meredith Coffin asked if the signs were going to be in the way of the plow trucks.
 - Tom Clay had concerns about the quality of the grading on the dump road and that there are pot holes in 3 days on a new road. He feels that it is not properly crowned and he is concerned about the material that was used. He would like it to be graded again. Ryan Willette will have someone take a look at it.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll Warrant = \$8,454.70; A/P Warrant = \$ 13,610.74
 - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - Camden National = \$
 - Vernice printed the reports as of Sunday and they do not include tonight's warrants
 - Ryan Vines would like to set up auto pay on the 1st of each month. Steve Bennett is fine with paying him monthly but not on auto pay.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that we break out how much Ryan Vine's annual fee is, divide that by 12 months, and pay him that amount on the first of each month, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Denise called on Thursday and said that the Select Board of Unity will be taking care of the tax bill and lien issue.
 - New Hope sent a thank you for the donation.

- 3 checks received this week.
 - Treasurer State of Maine: \$7,197.67; Tree Growth Reimbursement
 - State of Maine \$164.81, DHHS to offset general assistance costs.
 - Clark Corner Scrap \$573.30
- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$8,454.70; A/P Warrant = \$ 13,610.74, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Vote tomorrow 8 am - 8pm
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - Meredith Coffin: Do we need to run contracts by the town attorney? If the town has voted, and there is an article, then it is ok based on the Atty's response.
 - Elaine Higgins mentioned clearing in the annex. The storage closet, there are records that need to be purged. Cindy will not be available until the new year to review the materials. We will need to have a shredding company come in to shred. Steve requested that she not shred anything without the oversight from Cindy.
 - Cleaning supplies and an exit sign were found.
 - Portable speaker and microphone
 - 4 door knobs with locks
 - Flags and rope
 - Rope is to be auctioned off
 - Paint to be recycled
 - Ellie MacMakin: brought a diagram to share with the Select Board regarding the charter amendment vote tomorrow. She reviewed her diagram. There are errors that are in the amendment that she feels that should not be allowed to slip by.
 - Steve clarified that tomorrow's vote is to take wording out of the charter.
 - Rene Oulett stated that if the revision was more extensive, we would have to reconvene a charter commission. The charter is a living document and it will need to be changed as the town changes.
 - Steve Bennett said that tomorrow's vote just removes just a few words.
 - Ryan Willette said that it did not appear to relate to tomorrow's vote.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion to table the discussion about Eleanor MacMacans concerns, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Samantha Turner reported that she contacted MMA and there is not a conflict of interest so she will be in the town office helping people make public comments with the PUC, along with Heather Donahue.
- 9. Review Correspondence
 - Steve Bennett shared a letter from MRC regarding voting for candidates.

- Steve Bennett made a motion that they nominate Melissa Done from Bradley, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Insurance costs will increase.
 - Travana Frost Grenfeld letter, she asked if Freedom would be willing to have a community canoe program with a canoe rack. Ryan Willette mentioned that the rec department was aware of this.
- 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
 - Joe Freeman suggested getting rid of the garbage can at the boat launch and replace it with a carry in carry out sign.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to remove the trash can at the boat landing and put in a carry in, carry out sign, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: October 24th is their next meeting
 - Tyler Hadyniak reported that their next meeting is November 14th.
 - Tyler asked if he could pay presenters fees. Steve Bennett said that there is no presenter's fee in the budget, he could ask for the Select Boards approval prior.
 - Palmer Pierson intends to resign his seat.
 - Laura Greeley said she feels that policy should be followed and the opening should be posted and they should see what citizens are interested in serving on that committee.
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to have a locksmith come and fix the locks on the rec. Committee shed, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Appeals Board:
 - Wednesday November 29th at 6pm was the proposed meeting date with the select board.
 - Historical Society:
 - Auction was a success.
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee: 15th of November
 - CDAC Committee:
 - Broadband Committee:
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee:
 - They would like to meet on the 8th of November at 6pm.
 - Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley

- Meeting next week, November 9th.
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue
 - They will be at the town office tomorrow to help people make public comments to the PUC.
 - Heather Donahue asked if there was a budget.
 - Copies can be made at the town office
 - The intent is to have a meeting this week on Wednesday

12. Old Business

- Error on an abatement, Steve Bennett will run it by Jackie tomorrow.
- Maine Revenue Services: all towns are supposed to enforce the personal property tax. Due to home rule, Freedom does not choose to have a personal property tax.
- Simple IRA eligibility for town employees.
- SAM renewal

13. New Business

- Steve Bennett made a motion that they go into executive session for 1 MSRA 405 (6) A for Personnel Matters, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- They came out of executive session at 8:50 pm and no decisions were made.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2023. 6pm

15. Adjourn: Laura Greeley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.