

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 2-12-2024
Approved 2-26-2024

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Meredith Coffin, Heather Donahue, Jim Waterman, Samantha Turner, Tyler Hadyniak, Brian Murphy,

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:
 - Steve Bennett asked for a moment of silence in honor of Myrick Cross, he passed on Saturday morning, service arrangements are pending.
 - Website updates; Elaine Higgins asked how aspects of the site can be updated. Anyone can contact Beth regarding needed changes but should also cc the select board members on the email.
 - Laura Greeley was concerned about the news column regarding Freedom's Solar Ordinance, She felt that it was a personal opinion versus a factual portrayal of what is happening. She reviewed her concerns about the solar ordinance and how it will impact the citizens. A company, who had a conflict of interest, was asked for input prior to the ordinance being shared with the select board. Laura Greeley will provide a selectmen's rebuttal to the newspaper.
 - Tyler Hadyniak responded that they will agree to disagree. He apologized for not giving the selectboard notice of the column's content.
 - Steve Bennett mentioned that he was uncomfortable with how the selectboard members were treated at the planning board meeting he and Laura Greeley attended.
 - Tyler Hadyniak asked to meet with them outside of the meeting to discuss this.
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
 - MMA risk evaluation was asked about. The fire dept had no areas of concern.
 - WTW garage across from the post office, Jim asked if someone is living in it?
 - Spoke with Michael Dutton, the schedule is on for the Farmer's Market to start up again. Jim expressed concern about the parking. Mike is aware

of the parking issues. Ryan Willette will get the date for the bridge reconstruction. The traffic redirection up Pleasant Street will make parking on the street very difficult.

- Samantha Turner asked about the Lost Kitchen and if they are using our rec field, if they are is there any compensation for the town? Ryan Willette mentioned that the Lost Kitchen had put a handicapped accessible portable toilet at the rec field.
 - Meredith Coffin mentioned that there was a conflict between the rec farmers market and the Lost Kitchen's. Ryan Willette mentioned that the rec committee does not plan on having a farmers market this year.
 - Jim is looking for ridged orange cones and road closed signs.
 - Last November a grant was written for the forest service and it was approved. \$4000 grant.
 - The Fire Protection Contract is signed.
 - New emergency flashing lights on trucks one and two have been completed.
 - Winterfest is in question due to ice thickness and amount of snow.
 - Freedom FD is capable of ice rescues.
 - The kitchen cabinets will be taken out and are on order.
 - Epoxy sealant on the concrete floor will be completed while the cabinets are out.
 - Corporate dues for were paid for \$45
 - King foundation grant is being applied for, to fund SCBA replacement.
 - Steve Bennet asked about the Unity Ambulance. Jim has not heard anything.
 - Unity Ambulance came to a call, but Freedom had to provide a driver.
 - Laura Greeley mentioned that some residents have reached out with concerns and have asked about Delta Ambulance.
5. Public Works Director Report:
- Ryan Willette reported:
 - Kyle Sheriden from MMA did an assessment of risk management. There are paperwork issues/procedures that need to be established. "Inspections need to be completed by a competent person." Some policies need to be developed.
 - Isiah is working on one of the vehicles.
 - Sand is looking good.
 - Got two more loads of salt.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll Warrant = \$ 9016.17 A/P Warrant = \$ 18,123.79
 - Camden National = \$249,694.23 (2/12/2024)
 - Received 2 checks:
 - Treasurer state of Maine 30,860 for LRAP
 - Treasurer state of Maine \$284.66 Snowmobile refund
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$ 9016.17 A/P Warrant = \$ 18,123.79, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Ryan Willette made a motion for Steve Bennett to contact Camden National Bank about a Credit Card, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Received a thank you note from the YMCA
 - Beth will print an invoice from zoom regarding payment and give it to Cindy Abbott
 - Steve Bennett will call regarding the Sweep account.
 - KVCOG
 - Town Report Cover: select board choose one.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
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8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- Samantha Turner expressed concern about themes she has observed during meetings. She said that people are representing the townspeople but not all the people. If people continue to be negative it prevents people from completing their jobs. When people come into the meetings highly emotional and with preconceived notions it prevents work from being accomplished. Mutual respect needs to be shown from the public and the board members/ committee members. Individuals that serve on boards should be open to everyone in the town's opinions. Ryan Willette agreed with what was being expressed.
 - Beth Owen-Mishou suggested that the town have a group in-service on de-escalation strategies.
9. Review Correspondence
- Letter from LS power saying that they are done. Ryan Willette suggested sending the letter out with the next mailing.
 - Samantha Turner suggested billing LS Power for the mailing of the notice, as LS Power asked the town to send out the notification.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that LS Power be sent a bill for \$25 for the mailing fees, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
10. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - There is a cell phone that is kept in the trash truck. It cost \$500 per year through US Cellular. Ryan Willette has suggested that they go to Google Fi for \$49.99 and it is \$20 per month. It will save us \$150 compared to what we currently pay.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that they purchase a Motorola phone at \$49.99 from Google Fi and they start a cell phone account at approximately 29.30 per month with Google Fi, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Ryan Willette made a motion for Cindy Abbott to use the town credit card to pay for the Google Fi phone and account, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
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11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
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- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Winterfest
 - Fishing Derby
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Freedom Follies :
 - Winterfest, February 17th
 - Ryan Willette was concerned about money being spent on the electricity of the Town House and since the town is giving the Historical society \$2800. Should the electricity be paid with those funds? Ryan would like to know why we are paying a power bill for a building that is not being used. A lease was proposed making the private historical society responsible for the power.
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee:
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
- Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:

12. Old Business

- Met with cable people to select a site for the hub for the cable. It will be located behind the town hall. 10 x 15 space.
- Laura Greeley made a motion that we add the vote for the amendment for the electric transmission and facilities ordinance on March 10th at the annual town meeting, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

13. New Business:

- Steve Bennett made a motion that they go into executive session for a1 MRSA 405 (6) a for personnel matters, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved. They came out of executive session at 7:25 pm and no decisions were made.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that they sign and send a letter of inquiry to 2 Freedom Board Members, Laura Greeley seconded it and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to carry forward \$1500 from the fiscal year 2023 general government line carried forward to 2024 to pay for unemployment compensation late fees and interest, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay back unemployment unpaid and unfiled compensation taxes going back to years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 from fiscal year 2023 general government fund in the amount of \$4397.51, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Post office lobby still needs to be completed. Ron Vales continues to work on it.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday February 26, 2024. 6pm

15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:30 am on 2-19-2024

16. Adjourn: Steve Benett made a motion to adjourn, at 9:10 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.