

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 12/29/2025

Approved 1-5-2026

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Bob Kanzler, Joe Freeman, Cindy Abbot, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Dylan Turner (via zoom), Stan and Kerri Taylor, Heather Donahue, Herman (via zoom), Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, DJ Hager, James Hager, Don Robert,

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1MRSA 405 (6) E and 1 MRSA 405 (6) F at 6:03pm, Laura Greeley seconded this and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 7:03 with no decisions made.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes as amended and place them on record, Laura Greeley seconded, but abstained and all approved.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Central Maine Recovery: is changing their costs. Jim will ask them to put it in writing and will present that to the Select Board when he receives it.
5. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
 - Payroll: \$9746
 - A/P: \$144,076.11
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for 12/29/2025 in the amount of \$9746, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for 12/29/2025 in the amount of \$144,076.11, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
 - Camden National Checking: \$876,271.00

- Checks Received:
 - Bobbi Gannon (FD) \$5000
 - State of Maine Rev. Sharing: \$13,456.76
 - State of Maine BETE \$6481.00
- 6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
 - Potential applicants for the open position, applications were put in the Select Board shared drive. Rene Ouellet will review the applications.
 - Loren will be asked to come to the budget meeting on the 7th of January.
 - Trash truck: Laura Greeley sent an email to the budget committee members regarding the trash truck and the options proposed.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott (not present)
 - Asst. Town Clerk application: Rene shared that Cindy Abbott spoke with Contessa regarding the applicant. This person may not have the clerk experience that is needed.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to abate account #98 in the amount of \$48.11, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
- 8. Correspondence:
 - Tax maps have been digitized and updated.
- 9. Citizens Issues:
 - Bob Kanzler: Thanked DJ for the letter he sent out. He feels that the town has issues. He is concerned that there are people in the area that can't get cell service. With regard to the Beaver Ridge Road, he feels that the tax payers of the town cannot spend any more money on something they already own. He has called the bar association. Laura Greeley stated that the entire select board is concerned with legal fees. He feels that it is bullying.
 - Joe Freeman asked why the lawyer did not stop this right away. The select board explained that they had to respond to the suit.
 - DJ Hager is concerned that there need to be more civil discussions. He hopes himself and others will come back to our values. He does not want this to drag on. DJ had sent out a townwide letter that expressed some thoughts about the road.
 - Bob Kanzler suggested that we have a page in the town report that we can be torn out that provides numbers for the various support services. Laura Greeley pointed out that there is a page in the town report with these numbers and additionally suggested sending out the page from the town report with one of the mailers.
- 10. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott (not present)

- Waiting on confirmation from Atty. Kelly regarding a meeting on the Young property. He has not yet confirmed the meeting date. Laura Greeley will send him an email about that.
- A stop work order was filed over the weekend on another property.
- Bob Kanzler mentioned work on a property and if there was a building permit. Laura Greeley suggested he ask Cindy Abbott.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - No applications in the last week.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott (not present)
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Rene Ouellet spoke with Phil Bloomstein regarding reimbursement for recycling, and Phil will look into this.
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak (not present)
 - Meeting scheduled tomorrow 12/30/25
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes (not present)
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee: (chairperson not yet appointed)
 - January 8th.

11. Old Business:

- Greeley Rd/Albion Rd. meeting next Wednesday with all parties to try to achieve a mutual agreement. Laura Greeley asked if the CEO has provided a written report yet. Rene Ouellet said that Cindy Abbot gave him a verbal report. Laura Greeley stated again that she would like a written report with the CEO's findings.
- RFP: Rene Ouellet will send them out tonight or tomorrow
- Board and Committee Vacancies:
 - Laura Greeley stated that there will be a seat expiring in March on the planning board and when should we be posting this? Rene Ouellet also mentioned that there are positions on other boards that

are expiring. He will check on what positions are expiring. They will expire on Town Meeting Day.

12. New Business:

- Openings for the Select Board: applications are due by 1-16-26
 - Laura Greeley: encouraged any applicants to be aware that this position has a lot of work to do. It is not about pet projects. She is concerned about the mismanagement with the taxes and what needs to be fixed.
- Laura Greeley stated that there had been complaints and confusion regarding trash pickup on Friday. Moving forward if there is a holiday on a Thursday the trash will be picked up on Friday.
- Lost Kitchen event on the day of the Children's holiday party. Loren noted that cars were parked on both sides of the road. This will be looked into further.
- County Budget Meeting on January 9th.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm., Laura Greeley seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/5j70P2ubHhgN8ro6u34ZeZhaTfU4IPjhH-FfBilaZQFY4g1T9EpPCOo5Kg7oNcuD.YuaA69Tfw4GGEtIE>

Passcode: hXf!?p8G