

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 11-13-2023**  
*Approved 11-20-2023*

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

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - The State of Maine Government was hacked by the Russians through a program called Moveit. 877-618-3659 toll free number to call to see if your information was compromised. The state has a record of whose information was compromised.
  - Many bills were submitted to the legislature that would address eminent domain, better alternatives to overhead lines, and others. All those bills were voted down. Once LSPower is a public utility they have the right of eminent domain.
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
  - As a citizen Jim Waterman reported that there is an invasion of beavers on Cummings Road and the access to the cemetery is cut off.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that Ryan Willette contact Henry Carter regarding the beavers at the end of the **Davis** Road, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - \$1100 was brought in from the Hunter's Breakfast
    - It appears that there are 13 baskets that need to be delivered. WCAP can be contacted if anyone wants to volunteer to deliver baskets in another district.
    - Knox Fire protection: Was a 3-year contract with a 2.4 increase each year. \$12,000 is a 25% increase in their protection.
    - Steve Bennett will set up a meeting with all three towns to discuss fire coverage. November 28th is one of the proposed dates, Tuesday the 5th of December was a second option both at 6pm.
    - Jim asked if the water filter had been ordered.
    - Cindy is still working on the WEX cards.

- During the day Ryan Willette said they can go down to Public Works to get fuel for the fire trucks.
  - Rene Oulett mentioned that they have been working on the drug and alcohol policy and would like to have Jim's input. Jim was ok with the change.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to have Steve Bennett contact the other towns to set up a Fire Coverage Meeting, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
5. Public Works Director Report:
- Ryan Willette reported:
    - Worked on the brakes on the Trash Truck
      - They will fix the trash truck tomorrow.
    - Working on the 350 and the cab
    - Salt pile is ready
    - Wing and plow are on the truck.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll Warrant = \$5967.50 A/P Warrant = \$18636.64
  - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
  - Camden National = \$249,653.42
  - Ryan Vines set up the printer in the office.
  - 7 Thank you letters for the town's charity donations were received.
  - Mount View Middle School is asking for donations for their K-8 Holiday Giving Tree.
  - 2021 45-Day Notices will be mailed out on Thursday, November 16,2023 and Automatic Foreclosure is January 8th 2024
  - Kristy will be out for BMV Training Thursday, November, 16,2023; Cindy will be covering the office.
  - A discussion occurred regarding vehicle registrations and agent fees. Also on line access to re registration.
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$5967.50 A/P Warrant = \$18636.64, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
  - Laura Greeley asked about why things were not reconciled. Cindy Abbott stated that Karen Oliveri stated that they are not yet done. Steve Bennett stated that he has asked for the reconciliations for 2023. Laura asked if they have been paid if the work has not yet been completed.
  - Steve Bennett reviewed some of the accounts and they are not correct. Cindy Abbot will have Vernice take a look at the accounts that are not correct.
  - Laura Greeley asked if there needs to be a vote on one select person that calls the atty. Ryan Willette suggested email only to streamline the costs.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- They were able to train new people for counting.
  - 300 people came to vote.
  - 3 counters donated their time.

## 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions

- Elaine Higgins attended the webinar with KVCOG about building up your downtown. They suggested getting a food truck to come in to build up foot traffic.
- Nathan McCann asked about the authorization to speak to the town atty. What are the circumstances that would allow Steve Bennett to spontaneously contact the town atty.? Steve Bennett stated that he is attempting to stay on the right track with all the issues we are dealing with.

## 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:
  - Tyler Hadyniak reported that they are meeting tomorrow and they are hoping to finish the solar ordinance.
  - People will be testifying at the Nov. 28th meeting. Steve Bennett asked if it would be done in two weeks. Tyler stated that the guideline was December 15th.
    - Steve Bennett stated that he read through the Palermo ordinance and that it is ready to go.
  - Tyler Hadyniak mentioned that the planning board was given direction to create 2 standalone ordinances. Could this reference the CDRO.
    - Steve Bennett reiterated that the quicker this is completed the better.
    - Ryan Willette suggested that they just reference the CDRO within the new ordinances.
- Recreational Committee:
  - Veteran's Day was a nice turn out.
    - The rec committee would like to use the buildings for a Christmas craft fair. December 17th. Sunday
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to let the Rec Committee use the town hall and annex for a Christmas Craft fair, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Appeals Board: November 29th is the next meeting
- Historical Society:
- Cemetery Committee:
  - Looking to locate a grave in Beaver Hill Cemetery
- Budget Committee: 15th of November

- CDAC Committee:
- Broadband Committee:
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Oulett
  - Policies are ready to be approved. They have reviewed the town policies and identified those that are high priority, they actually prioritized all. They have identified 4 that are key. 2 are high priority but easy to update (holiday pay and election of town officials) They have a meeting set up for the week after thanksgiving. Rene will send the select board members the ones they are proposing.
  - Laura Greeley made a motion to accept the drug and alcohol testing policy as presented by the ad hoc policy committee, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Laura Greeley made a motion to accept the drug and alcohol policy as presented by the ad hoc policy committee, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Cindy Abott asked about a safety policy.
  - Laura Greeley thanked the policy committee for their work.
- Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue
  - Did not meet last week. 53 comments have been posted on the PUC website
  - If the Unity Watershed is averted then there may be a greater impact on Freedom.
  - LS Power is currently updating their maps.

## 12. Old Business

- Albion Road signage. The sign that says the road is closed, is misleading. There has been citizen concern noted. Ryan Willette spoke with Peter Coughlan, Head of DOT. Then he spoke to Dave Allen. It will be 2024 before work will be done. The bridge had been derated and it did not stop any trucks; the support beams have completely degenerated. They plan to make a brand-new bridge. Dave Allen handles the signage. Ryan expressed his concern with the signs. Dave said they are working on signs and permanent signage will be done. Ryan expressed his safety concerns. Ryan Willette spoke to EMS dispatch.
- Meredith Coffin reported that she saw people measuring for signs.

## 13. New Business

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, November 20, 2023. 6pm

15. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at 7:40pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.