

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 5/26/2026**

***Approved***  
**6-1-2026**

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

**Select Board Meeting**

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Elaine Higgins, Ellenore Hess, Bob Kanzler, Roy Mishou (via zoom),

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the minutes from 5-18-2026 as amended and to put them on record, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman (not present)
  - Portland Press Herald: The woman who requested the FOAA is associated with the Portland Press Herald. She had spoken with several different fire chiefs in the area. Jim Waterman will reach out to the woman.
  - He heard back from Contessa and is waiting for more information.
  - He has suggested a pedestrian crossing, Lissa Widoff has more information about this and will review it.
  - Mowing: Jim Waterman received a message from Ryan Willette tonight. Jim Waterman would like to see weed whacking around the generator. It was the public works responsibility in the past.
  - Building Permits: the fees were changed but not in the ordinance, we need to schedule a meeting to make an amendment to the ordinance.
  - A statement was received for the lease agreement and he asked if it had been paid.
  - Fire Station Reserve account: there is only one reserve account.
    - A truck account needs to be set up
  - The AED claim has not yet been filed. Cindy Abbott was asked to complete this. Jim Waterman will send the Select Board information on a new unit.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
  - A/P Warrant: \$2925.93

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week 5-25-2026 of in the amount of \$2925.93, Laura Greeley seconded and all agreed.**
  - Camden National Balance: \$407848.66
  - Checks Received: \$
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette (not present)
- The back field was mowed.
  - Currently working on the grader.
  - Friday was supposed to be metal pick-up day but it was extended until today. They were unable to get out today but it will be picked up tomorrow.
  - All the paving bids are in.
  - There is a DOT issue with the culvert to the bridge abutment on Pleasant Street.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Property tax school course, registration was completed and reviewed. Laura Greeley will be attending all week and Lissa Widoff will be attending for one full day.
  - Copy of Kirk Thomas' appointment certificate for the Budget Committee was received.
  - New Hope had contacted the town regarding the reduced charitable donation. Laura Greeley responded and reviewed why the donation was reduced.
  - Contract is still pending with the shredding company; Cindy Abbott is working on this:
    - Travel fee
    - When they come, what do they take?
7. Correspondence:
- Unifirst reached out regarding a refund.
  - Belfast Computer: ok on getting rid of computers, Lissa Widoff will respond.
  - FOIA request: From the Portland Press Herald requesting information for the Robbins Fire Lumber Mill Fire response. Jim Waterman is aware and will send the incident reports.
  - Maine Revenue, a balance due of a total of \$9500 for a reconciliation of homestead exemption. What the assessor reported on the forms does not line up with what the assessor stated. Laura Greeley will reach out to Jackie tomorrow and then contact the state. This was for 2025.
  - Library: Has a tracking system for the book use. It is important to keep it all organized.

## 8. Citizens Issues:

- Elaine Higgins asked when the tax bills would be received and she asked when the mill rate would be established. These have not been established yet. Jim Murphy will review our assessments and then they will start the process of establishing the mill rate.
- Landing at night: Stan Taylor expressed concern about the people at the landing at night. Laura Greeley will contact the sheriff's department about randomly checking the landing at night.
- Bob Kanzler mentioned the town roads and how they were town ways. Regarding Beaver Ridge Road, the town may not have paid for maintenance; we have paid a lawyer to pay for the road. When will this be settled? Atty Kelly is doing his last deposition in the beginning of June. The town has paid for the beginning of the surveyor's work.

## 9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
  - New High School Principal: Carrie Hanagriff
  - District Showcase: over 800 people in attendance
  - The Governor's Supplemental budget passed and it included a cell phone ban; it will start this fall.
  - Brooks and Liberty schools were closed and both towns have agreed to take the building back.
  - Waldo is considering withdrawing from the district.
  - Liberty is also considering withdrawing from RSU 3. Liberty is considering RSU 12.
  - Budget Meeting Hearing this Thursday. 2.8% increase, 1.4% increase for the town. Freedom would be 5.8% for next year. The Chief Financial Officer did not use the 3-year state average. The school is not required to use the state's 3-year average.
- General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier (not present)
  - No new requests this week.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott (not present)
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
  - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak (not present)
    - Laura Greeley will send an email requesting the planning board consider 2 meetings per month.

- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
  - June 2, 3pm will be the next meeting
- Appeals Board: (chair to be determined)
  - Note was sent to Samantha Turner, awaiting a response.
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
  - June 17, 2026 next meeting.
- CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
- Comp Plan Committee:
- Historical Society:
  - June 6 2026 open house 11-12:00 for Keene Hall Ground Breaking.

11. Old Business:

- June 16, 2026 CPR/Stop the Bleed combined course, in the town office annex. 5:30-8pm (approximately), there is a fee for the certificate.
- Moratorium on Data Centers was discussed.
- Community Resilience Partnership Grant:
  - Estimates on engineering, permitting and design of the Mitchel Road Bridge.
  - Pedestrian access for “downtown” Complete Streets
  - Battery based equipment for Public Works.
  - Battery operated Utility vehicle.
  - Energy Audit for town buildings.
- Code Enforcement:
  - Certificate of occupancy: we do not do all the inspections so we do not provide a certificate of occupancy. Lissa Widoff will continue to explore this. Discussion ensued regarding inspections.
- Jake Brake Ordinance: You cannot post a sign without an ordinance. Speed and traffic calming strategies are needed. Public works will be contacted regarding putting the speed sign out.
- Pressure treated lumber is ok for fresh water use.

12. New Business:

- Building Ordinance needs to be addressed.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday June 1, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Lissa Widoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm,**

**Laura Greeley seconded the motion and all approved.**

**Recording Information:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/kvVk-wg7fteyh\\_zecxq\\_xlUwQdhxa-vtoaDdr\\_2AYNTHOr5CIsrNeNf\\_3AtMPCDR.tflE8BmgMZyaCZQb](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/kvVk-wg7fteyh_zecxq_xlUwQdhxa-vtoaDdr_2AYNTHOr5CIsrNeNf_3AtMPCDR.tflE8BmgMZyaCZQb)

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