

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine  
Minutes of September 20, 2022  
**Approved**

Present: Phil Bloomstein, Mary Ann Bennett, Rene Ouellet, Meredith Coffin, William Pickford, Tim Biggs, Tyler Hadyniak  
Absent: Joseph Freeman

**Agenda 1.** Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:06pm. Quorum achieved.

**Agenda 2.** Review of meeting minutes of September 6, 2022.

Mary Ann moved and Rene seconded to accept minutes as written. **MOTION CARRIED**

Mary Ann clarified Section 202.1.1 Membership. Terms of individuals begin as soon as they are voted in or appointed. She confirmed this with Steve.

**Agenda 3.** Continued section review using projector.

***Article 204 Administrative Organization*** revisited again.

Section 204.2.2 Municipal Employees Handbook

- Meredith compared St. Georges Municipal Employee Handbook with the Select Board Policies pertaining to employees. Not all items from St. George can be cross checked with Freedom's. Discussion as to if Freedom's policies are sufficient. Tyler will contact the MMA for a copy of the municipal handbook and then share with this committee. Meredith will then research more as to what might be appropriate for Freedom in the future.

***Article 205 General Provisions***

Section 205.1 Terms of Elected or Appointed Officials

- Rene suggests this belongs with Mary Ann's section on Town Boards and Committees. Terms of Elected and Appointed follow the same rules of term identified in the Ordinances. It does not talk about when it starts but rather the term. As Mary Ann clarified above, a term begins when someone is elected or appointed.

Section 205.2 Oath of Office

- This is straight forward. We decided to keep the wording.

Section 205.3 part one Conflict of Interest

- As Freedom currently has 3 Select Board members it is unclear what happens when 2 of the 3 members recuse themselves from voting.
- Who would make the policy on when a Select Board Member would recuse themselves?
- Using existing resources:
  1. Could we develop an Ethics Committee that would make a determination that the Select Board would follow?
  2. Could we broaden the Appeals Board?
- Tyler will contact MMA for any guidance on ethics and conflict of interest.

Section 205.3 part two Conflict of Interest

- It was decided to leave the language “ Any contract that is negotiated or issued in violation of the preceding sub-section shall be voidable” . We currently do not have this language.

Section 205.4 Non discrimination

- This is straightforward. We decided to keep the wording.

***Article 301 Town Meetings***

Section 301.1 Town Meetings

- Annual town meetings will be in March each year as determined by the Select Board.
- Special Town meetings can also be called by warrant. State Title 30 Maine Revised Statutes are followed.

Section 301.2 Warrant

- Requirements and Petition look good.
- Clearer wording suggested: use “Secret” not “ Australian” ballot.

Section 301.3 Town Report

- Have we ever mailed the reports out? Would we mail if asked? We used to have them hand delivered by the Select Board.

**Agenda 4** Adjournment.

Our next work will be :

- Article 301, Sections 301.4 and 301.5
- Article 305 Long range planning. Bill will contact St. George to ask why they removed this Article.
- **TYLER: to follow up with MMA regarding the employee handbook and ethics guidelines**
- moved and seconded to adjourn. ***MOTION CARRIED*** at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin

*Next meetings : Tuesday October 4, 2022*

*Tuesday October 18, 2022*

*Tuesday November 1, 2022*