

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine

Minutes of March 7, 2023

DRAFT

Present: MaryAnn Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Rene Ouellet, Tyler Hadyniak, Phil Bloomstein, Alexis Bennett

Absent: Tim Biggs, William Pickford

Guests: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins

Assignments for next meeting on April 4, 2023

Rene will clean up the final draft.

Tyler will write an introduction.

Tyler will reach out to MMA and KVGOG with the final draft.

We have a list of questions/thoughts that still need attention

Agenda 1. Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:05pm. Quorum achieved.

Agenda 2. Review of meeting minutes of February 7, 2023.

Tyler moved and Rene seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion Carried.

Agenda 3. Continue review of draft with the Select Board.

Article 301.2 Warrant

Section II Rene has reworked the wording clarifying that the first articles on the warrant deal with town officers.

Referendums need to be decided by secret ballot.

If we have a hearing before town meeting then a referendum can be voted on in secret

Consistent language will be used in 301.4 I “ Any referendum shall be decided by secret ballot”

### 302.1 Nominations and Elections

Don't use actual titles

Do use language "shall be consistent with state law"

### 302.2 Petition I

Discussed requirements to be on the Select Board. Needs to have been a resident of Freedom for one year and a voter, qualified, (not qualified voter,) unless otherwise specified in this charter.

Question asked: do we have language in the charter that allows the town to change a position from being elected to appointed, and visa versa. It is felt the charter allows this.

Need to ask if it is discriminatory to require a candidate be a registered voter, or does Freedom need to accept an unregistered voter.

A registered voter, by state law is a citizen.

### III Filing and Acceptance of Petition

Refer to Maine State Law

### Article 303.2 Ordinances Requirements

Policy goes into effect with a Select Board vote

Ordinance goes into effect with a town vote

How much authority does a policy have? What is enforcement like?

Do we want to keep sections I through IV?

Definition of franchise discussed. It is a complicated word.

At a minimum we keep sections I and III

Remove "regulatory requirement"

It is suggested that we discuss franchise with an attorney

303.4 Big edit

303.6 Emergency Ordinances.

Keep "61st

day" language. Extensions can be made and that encourages review.

303.8 (page 22)

delete "Freedom Code".

Centralization of Authority is with these books. These books are maintained

304.1 Fiscal year

The fiscal year can be changed by ordinance

304.2 Budget

The budget as presented to the town is not a line item budget.

304.11 Borrowing and Investment Guidelines

there is no policy or guidelines in a manual

need to state practices are consistent with state and federal law

304.12 Bonds of officials.

Need for a policy

MMA has one

Treasurer and town clerk need to be bonded. Town pays for this.

Agenda 4. Adjournment at 8 pm.

Next meeting : Tuesday April 4, 2023

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin