

Ordinance Hearing 9-17-2026

Attendees: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulter, Dave, DJ Haggard, Meredith Coffin, Eleanore MacMakon, Ezra Anderson, Roy Mishou (via zoom). Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Doug VanHorn,

Moderator: Lissa Widoff

The Ordinance Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Laura Greeley.

Lissa Widoff initiated the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to review the two documents/ordinances that will be on the ballot in November.

Recall Ordinance: Lissa Widoff reviewed the reason for the proposed changes to the ordinance. Lissa Widoff read the proposed changes. She opened the meeting for public comment.

- Doug VanHorn asked for clarification regarding the percentage of voters and the change proposed from 10% to 25%. Meredith Coffin supported this change. She asked about the reasons for recall.
- Doug Van Horn asked if the reason was not within those examples who would decide what would be a reasonable reason. Laura Greeley responded that it is hoped that people will read the reasons and make reasonable choices about why to request a recall.
- Elaine Higgins asked about the reasons. Lissa Widoff clarified. Choosing to recall due to personality conflicts is discouraged. It is disruptive to the duties of the select board.
- Doug Van Horn clarified that any reason will pass, it is just hoped that it will be reasonable.
- Meredith Coffin asked for clarification on the statement about the assessor. The select board will revise that statement. Lissa Widoff clarified.
- Lissa Widoff proposed the edit of the word assessor and have it read only selectman of the town of Freedom.

Lissa Widoff closed the discussion on the Recall Ordinance.

Draft Data Center Moratorium

- Lissa Widoff opened this meeting by reviewing the reason that the Select Board felt that it would be important to have a moratorium on Data Centers. She explained how our proposed ordinance was developed. She reviewed the reason for a moratorium as opposed to a ban. Copies were made available. The moratorium gives us approximately 6 months to develop an ordinance. She opened the meeting to questions.
 - DJ Hagar asked what happens if the regulation is not developed by the end of the 180 days. The response was that it can be extended.
 - Elaine Higgins asked if it is a moratorium or an ordinance. Lissa Widoff clarified. It is a temporary ordinance. Lissa Widoff will check with KVCOG regarding the wording.
 - Meredith Coffin asked about the role of the Comprehensive Planning Committee in developing this ordinance and what their role would be. Lissa Widoff asked for further clarification and then stated that this moratorium is consistent with the direction that the Comprehensive Planning Committee supports. Laura Greeley stated that it is the role of the Select Board and the Planning Board to write ordinances. Input is always welcome from any citizen or committee.
 - Ezra Anderson: asked what the primary consideration was in not having an outright ban. Lissa Widoff responded that the trend is in restricting but not banning. Lissa Widoff reviewed the sources that are working on bans and ordinances with respect to data centers. Laura Greeley reiterated that the people of Freedom have consistently wanted to maintain the rural feeling of Freedom.
 - Elaine Higgins: She understands why the data center would not be a good fit for our town. What is the comprehensive planning committee doing to diversify the tax base for the town? Laura Greeley stated that the corrections to the taxes should help. Lissa Widoff stated that there are many home businesses in town.
- Lissa Widoff closed the hearing and stated that both of these will be on the November ballot. She also said that the Food Sovereignty Ordinance and the Marijuana Caregiver ordinance will also be created as well as an update to the CDRO. These will be ready by the town meeting.

- Lissa Widoff moved to close the meeting at 6:40 pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

Ordinance for Recall of Selectman (with proposed edits):

https://www.freedomme.org/_files/ugd/8d8f5c_63264456e1d840f99b9d7db76c6b97dc.pdf

Data Center Moratorium Ordinance, proposal:

https://www.freedomme.org/_files/ugd/8d8f5c_be3f789c00ae4e1eb75f14bae34aac9e.pdf

Session recording:

Shareable link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/P41e_TPYue9AQjqoydBqCAmyjV9_C62dcx0vgxBugf5xfGWzZbIHHd60OSnHjYuR.XMyBnpHxXZef5K96

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