

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 8-18-2025
Approved 9-2-2025

Hearing E911 Addressing Ordinance 8-18-2025
6:00 pm

- Rene Ouellet stated the purpose of the hearing and called the hearing to order at 6:00 pm.
- Jim Waterman presented a brief overview of what the ordinance is about. E911 came into existence in the early 90's. The town was tasked to provide a complete listing of phone numbers and addresses for the 911 system and verify addresses. Each resident needs an identifiable number on their place of residence so that they can be reached in an emergency. This ordinance addresses these concerns. The numbers should be 4" and placed near the house.
 - Elaine Higgins asked if the numbers were requested or required. They are stated as 4" in the ordinance therefore they would be required.
- There were no other questions so the hearing was adjourned at 6:07pm.
- The next step will be to move the ordinance ahead for a town vote.

In attendance: Lissa Widoff, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Brian Murphy, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Heather Donahue, Joe Freeman, Dylan (via zoom),

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Lissa Widoff called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve the minutes from 8-4-2025 as amended and place them on record, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Parade on the 23rd, unable to do the chicken BBQ.
 - Looking for volunteers to go to the tabletop exercise. Lissa Widoff will attend and Jim Waterman has two others that are interested.
 - Lissa Widoff asked if some of the individuals who are interested in emergency preparedness might be interested in attending this.
 - Elaine Higgins asked if the valve was replaced for the hydrant by the Lost Kitchen. Jim Waterman explained what had occurred. There was never a written agreement and that needs to be developed moving forward.

- Richard Bickford asked if the town could allocate the money for the hydrant repair and it was explained that due to the costs involved it would need to be a budget item.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:
 - Payroll 8/14/2025: \$10,206.51
 - A/P warrant: \$82,644.50
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to pay the payroll warrant for the week of 8-14-2025 in the amount of \$10,206.51, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to pay the A/P warrant for the week of 8-14-2025, in the amount of \$82,644.50, Lissa Widoff seconded and all agreed.**
 - Camden Municipal Checking: \$253,205.38
 - Received Checks from:
 - Kids Backpack Program \$100
- 6. Public Works:
 - 41 loads of winter sand were brought to the sand shed today.
 - A discussion ensued regarding the bidding process. There needs to be a clear process for accountability as to how we are doing business.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Cindy Abbott asked for approval of credit card use for the mailing for the E911 town vote in the amount of \$88.45
 - A drawing for backpacks was discussed.
- 8. Citizens Issues:
 - Elaine Higgins asked when the tax bills were coming out.
 - Lissa Widoff stated that next Monday the Select Board will be meeting with Jackie regarding committing taxes. She suggested that the taxes can be prepaid at last year's rates.
- 9. Review Correspondence:
- 10. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - There are 3 situations being monitored and no changes.
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
 - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt
 - Town Boards & Committee Reports: The Select Board is looking to be more proactive in board appointments. It is necessary to keep clear and dependable information. Rene Ouellet has been working with Cindy Abbott to get this more organized.

- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to confirm the appointment of Cindy Abbott as addressing officer as of 8-4-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to confirm the appointment of Lynn Hadyniak to the ad hoc policy committee as of 8-4-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to confirm the appointment of Jason Thibideau to the planning board as of 7-7-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to confirm the appointment of Johnna Hatt as Animal Control officer as of 7-21-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to confirm the appointment of Kevin Mallady to the planning board as of 5-7-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Housing Ordinance: They reviewed the 3 main ordinances. They got guidance for state level laws and upcoming revisions. They will discuss this more during their September meeting. Rene Ouellet mentioned upcoming trainings on zoom. There is one tomorrow.
- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
 - There is a meeting tomorrow evening. There will be an executive meeting then a general meeting.
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
 - They are working on a draft landscaping plan and they are looking at the historical features. Representatives from the state came last week. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month. They are looking to the first Wednesday in October to present the plan.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Lex Bennett is the secretary and Lynn Hadyniak will be doing research. Elaine Higgins asked when they would like to meet and discuss the employee handbook. Lissa Widoff suggested that the handbook be addressed in sections. 9-8-2025 at 9:00am was chosen as a time to discuss the employee handbook. Lissa Widoff suggested that they start with definitions. Rene Ouellet stated that they can do the definitions as they go through sections 1 and 2.
- Budget Committee:
 - The Select Board will be meeting with Jackie to commit taxes and then the budget committee can start their process.

11. Old Business:

- PTO policy: is being updated as part of the employee policies. They have discretion to do things on a case-by-case basis so they will address Joe's concerns first, in an executive meeting.
- Unity Ambulance Contract: the final agreement has come in and the amount is what was budgeted.
 - Lissa Widoff will ask what other communities opted in.
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve the contract with Unity Ambulance in the amount of \$60800.50, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- Review and approve the Secretary Job Description
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the 8-5-2025 final draft of the secretary job description, Rene Ouellet seconded the motion and all approved.**
- Solid Waste Policy: Lissa Widoff offered to read it.
 - A discussion ensued about the number of stickers needed on a bag. The issue was volume and weight. In the past no 55-gallon bags were allowed. One sticker per bag and no bags more than 40 gallons. 40 pounds and one sticker. It will be updated to reflect the requested changes and presented during the next Select Board Meeting
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion that they go into Executive Session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) for personnel matters at 7:23pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 7:34pm with no decisions made.
- Boat Landing Fine and Warning Policy: in the policy that was passed they were going to have a warning and fine notice when the landing is blocked. Rene felt that this was great as it gives public works a way to respond. Continuing to disregard this notice will lead to your car being towed at the owner's expense.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved that they approve the boat launch warning and fine notices for addition to the boat landing policy as an addendum, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - Lissa will get the paperwork completed and Cindy will send the final copy to Beth.
- Lissa has spoken to all of the 10-12 individuals who expressed interest in the Comprehensive Planning Board. She is also working through when the first meeting will occur. She would like one more workshop period to talk through any additional guidelines to be given to the group and facilitation of the first few meetings. On 9-2-2025 they would like to appoint the committee members.
- Shredding: there has been discussion about bringing someone on site. KVCOG has a free shredding day. 5 boxes per car limit that occurs on Friday 9-12-2025. Lissa requested that the boxes be packed up on the Thursday before and she would bring over the 5 boxes.

12. New Business:

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay up to \$65 for Rene Ouellet to attend a GA basics workshop, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- Computer upgrades. New computers are not in the budget and the older computers cannot support the operating system. Lissa Widoff would like to wait and research how much it would be to update the computer for the town clerk.
- Sale of surplus equipment. We received a notification that someone is interested in buying equipment we look at as surplus. Our policy is that if it is worth more than \$3000, we put the item up for bid.
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to put out a bid for the dump body that is available for sale and that Rene Ouellet work with Cindy, Beth and Loren regarding putting it up for bid, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- **Rene Ouellet moved that we move forward the E911 ordinance in its current form and issue a warrant for a special town meeting on 9-2025, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved that we allow the clerk to use the town credit card to spend up to \$95 dollars for the public mailing for the E911 notice, Rene seconded.**

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

14. Next Select Board Workshop, August 25, 2025

15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**

Zoom Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/V68msHH7DYBDMaisCPAxfL4M1QTVd2fl_byKR5FGmkYJpXPXF0qsdX4XBnpLtraA.5nSYHDAvV4CVijWN

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