

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 4-8-2024**  
*Approved 4-23-2024*

**In attendance:** Samantha Turner, Willa Dinner, Elaine Higgins, Mike Smith, Kim Holmes, Steve Holmes, Kurt Thomas, Jasmine Willette, Brian Murphy, Dylan Turner, Alex Green, Cynthia Abbott, Kristy Palmer, Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Heather Donahue

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - o n/a
5. Public Works:
  - o Ryan Willette made a motion to increase the tire sticker price for Spring Cleanup by \$1. Heather Donahue Seconded. All Approved
  - o Ryan Willette informed that the potholes on Pleasant St. will be repaired this week.
6. Treasurer's Report: Kristi Palmer
  - o Payroll Warrant = \$ 11,849.52 A/P Warrant 1(3-29) = \$ 4,887.58 A/P warrant 2 (4-3) = \$13,705.37
  - o Camden National = \$477,892.99
  - o A combined total of \$15,435.92 came in through a variety of sources.
  - o A motion to approve 2 payroll warrants was made by Ryan Willette, seconded by Heather Donahue and approved by all.
  - o A motion to approve 2 AP warrants was made by Ryan Willette, seconded by Heather Donahue and approved by all.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
  - o A motion to grant a property tax abatement on Map 09 Lot 08 in the amount of \$462.67 was made by Ryan Willette, seconded by Heather Donahue and approved by all.
  - o A motion to grant a property tax abatement on Map 08 Lot 19 in the amount of \$131.20 was made by Ryan Willette, seconded by Heather Donahue and approved by all.

8. Citizens Issues:

- Kirk Thomas had questions about how ground mount residential solar arrays are taxed. He also asked how the hydro turbine at the Mill building is taxed. The reply was that, at present, neither are taxed. Kirk Thomas brought this up due to the current taxation on electric heat pumps. The taxation on greenhouse structures was also discussed.
- Samantha Turner reiterated the sanitary, junkyard, and trespassing problems coming from the property on the SE corner of Greeley and North Palermo roads. She stated that a man staying on/residing on that property entered her garage in the middle of the night and made sexual suggestions once caught by Ms. Turner. People staying on/residing at that property have been trespassing on multiple properties along North Palermo Rd sometimes in the middle of the night and also during the day when people are at work. State Police have been at this property numerous times, as have our Health Inspector, Select Board members, and Code Enforcement officers.
- Brian Murphy stated that he would like to see elected officials take more responsibility for this situation.
- Elaine Higgins asked to use the annex for a program from National. Digital Equity, enabling local seniors to make the best use of their existing digital devices. Given the need for wifi, it was suggested that if the town buildings were overbooked with meetings, the church could also be used.
- Willa Dibner read a statement condemning the select board in their removal of Eleanor MacMakin from the Appeals board.
- A question was raised: Can we use ARPA funds to pay for BMV Rapid Renewal? This would allow our residents to renew car registration online. The total amount is \$1,487.50. Vote was moved to next meeting, pending the answer re: ARPA funds.

9. Review Correspondence

- Correspondence was received from Montville to the effect that they will keep registering our resident's vehicles despite the fact that we have stopped registering non-resident vehicles. Ryan Willette then made a motion that we begin registering Montville residents' vehicles again. Heather Donahue seconded. All approved.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
- Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
    - A motion on sending out a town mailing including the Commercial Solar Survey, Spring Cleanup details, and board vacancy announcements was made by Ryan Willette, seconded by Heather Donahue and approved by all. An additional motion was made to authorize our Treasurer Kristy Palmer to pay for the mailing using the town debit card in an amount not to exceed \$80.
  - Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
  - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
  - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
  - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
    - Steve Holmes of the cemetery committee spoke at length regarding cemetery maintenance and who is responsible. It was noted that a wily beaver is wreaking havoc in Cummins cemetery, yet to be trapped.
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to supply Veteran flags, Fireman flags, and stone cleaner to the cemeteries from their “supplies” line in the budget. The amount is not to exceed \$750. Heather Donahue seconded. All approved.
  - Budget Committee:
  - CDAC Committee: Steve Bennett
  - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
  - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
  - Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
  - High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:
12. Old Business:
13. New Business:
- Heather Donahue made a motion to form an ad hoc grant writing committee, with special urgency given the upcoming April 22 deadline to apply for Federal funds through Senator Angus King’s office. Ryan Willette seconded and all approved. We’ll seek to fill openings via this week’s town mailing.
14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 22, 2024. 6pm
15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:00 am on 4-16-2024
16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at 7:30pm, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.