

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 2/17/2026
Approved 2-23-2026
Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8395
Passcode: TownMeet

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Bob Kanzler, Joe Freeman, James Hayes, Jim Waterman, Brian Murphy, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Stan and Kerri Taylor, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Dylan (via zoom), Patrick Terry, Matt Grotton (via zoom), Kory Boulier (via zoom), Herman (via zoom), Kyle Price (via zoom)

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A Personnel Matters and 1 MRSA 405 (6) E Legal Consultation, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 6:10pm
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve the minutes from 2-2-2026 and put them on record, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
2. Announcements:
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
 - MMA Inspector: Jim Waterman asked if the Select Board met with the MMA inspector (Bob) and the response was no.
 - The town office furnace has been cleaned as well as the one at the fire department.
 - Fire extinguishers have been inspected and signed off on.
 - The fire department furnace was cleaned and repaired. It will need to be replaced at some point in the near the future.
 - Jim Waterman asked if there were any differences from the audit that the town recently received and the one that was printed in the town report.
 - Jim Waterman asked about the checks that had been received. Laura Greeley reported that the money is now in the Fire Department Reserve Account.
 - EMA director: Jim Waterman asked if there had been any progress on finding a new EMA director. The response was no.

- Direct Communications: Jim asked when the new fiber optic internet service would be available and the response was that they are waiting for it to be scheduled.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
- Budget: Guard Rails have been moved to the Mitchel Road account. \$3500 was moved into the capital reserve account. Laura Greeley will send an email with the changes in the accounts to the members of the budget committee. The major question is the undesignated fund balance. If any budget committee has any questions after reviewing what is sent via email they can come to the Select Board meeting next Monday.
5. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
- Loren Fitch was out of town due to a family member passing. Joe Freeman covered. Jeff Holmes had quit that day. The town contracted with Clint Spaulding to come help with the roads for a total of \$600, at \$150 per hour.
 - Loren Fitch quit effective today. He will come and meet with Laura and Joe this week.
 - Lissa Widoff suggested that the Board reach out to the various individuals who can plow.
 - John Thornhill
 - Clint Spaulding
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Correspondence:
- FOAA: request has come in regarding invoices and amounts of costs for Beaver Ridge Road. Laura Greeley was trying to gather this information anyway. Cindy Abbott can respond to the receipt of the FOAA and Laura will gather the information.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Bob Kanzler: Asked how many of our meet and greet potential Select Board members come to the meetings.
 - Joe Freeman asked how much money was left over in the Public Works account. Laura Greeley stated \$90,000. Laura Greeley reminded him that we would have the money from the salaries as well.
 - Brian Murphy asked how the county budget will affect our town. Laura Greeley responded that it is still unclear.
 - Kyle Price asked if he could present on the 23rd. Laura Greeley responded yes. They asked that materials be presented in digital format.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)

- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - No applications in the last week.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Lissa Widoff suggested that this committee work with other town committees. She also suggested that we plan dates ahead of time for the entire year.
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee: 2-21-26 meeting to gather public input at the grange, 10-1pm
 - Historical Society:

11. Old Business:

- Mailing for Public Participation at the Beaver Ridge Road Consent Decree. Rene Ouellet and Lissa Widoff reviewed the parameters of the meeting.
 - 3 minutes per speaker
 - No interrupting
 - Respectful behavior
 - Asking individuals to sign up when they arrive if they wish to speak
 - Comments addressed to the board not each other
 - No combining of time, each person has 3 minutes
 - If someone is not able to attend, they can send a letter to the town and it will be read.
 - The select board will not respond after each speaker but will speak at the end.
 - Questions will be addressed at the end regarding details.
 - Atty Kelly will be there to address specific questions.
 - Public comment will be closed and then the Select Board will discuss it and come to a decision.
- Lissa Widoff will draft a cover letter to go out with the mailing.

- Patrick Terry asked if the board had considered what the effect of the Consent Decree will have on other roads in the 1956 town article.
 - It was requested that the select board, not the town Atty, reach out to have MMA review the Consent Decree prior to the select board acting on it.
 - Bob Kanzler clarified the difference between a town road and a county road.
 - Patrick Terry presented two deeds for public cemeteries on Beaver Ridge. Burying Grounds. Log and Land had the records.
- Town Meeting Warrant:
 - There was discussion regarding a policy change, versus an ordinance versus being on the warrant with regard to an appointed versus elected clerk position and how the charter impacts this.
 - **Laura Greeley made a motion to add a article to the town meeting warrant to make the Town Clerk position appointed not elected, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - Rene Ouellet stated that he feels the town should make the decision.
 - At this point in the town meeting, citizens can request hour changes for the town office.
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to add an article to the warrant that if we have an elected Town Clerk that we make it a 3 year position, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**
 - Rene Ouellet will send the wording for the warrant to Cindy Abbott.
 - He spoke about sample job descriptions for Town Clerks he got from MMA.
 - there are state requirements from the state but as a town we have no job description.
 - Permit Fees: Lissa Widoff continues to gather information. Within a week or so this information should be collated and presented.
 - Internet and phone: We are waiting for a date for installation.
 - Reval: An RFP was sent to appraisal services asking for proposals for all properties to be reevaluated in town. Rene Ouellet created a folder to be shared with the Select Board Members. 1 proposal was received. Lissa Widoff asked what the process was for responding to the proposal. Rene Ouellet read a proposed response letter.

12. New Business:

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion that they approve the draft job description for the general maintenance position, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion that they post this position job, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Beth will post this on the website and Cindy Abbott will post it on facebook and in the office.
 - **Electrical Work at the Post Office: Rene Ouellet has gathered the names of companies and will call them.**
13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/imXaUgWxB2ED5AQ-uASWZ-uXkMLmyuy4TgMgNL_TGES70jqJz24U_L1e6nRtHaSa.5_ECq25rs6XevgmR

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