

Town Charter Commission Meeting Freedom, Maine
Minutes of October 18, 2022

Present: Mary Ann Bennett, Meredith Coffin, Tim Biggs, Tyler Hadyniak, William Pickford
Absent: Phil Bloomstein, Rene Ouellet, Mary Ann Bennett

Mary Ann arrived and would have stayed to keep quorum. She left once quorum was achieved with others.

Agenda 1. Meeting called to order by Tyler at 6:10 pm. Quorum achieved.

Agenda 2. Review of meeting minutes of October 4, 2022.

Tyler moved and Bill seconded to approve minutes as written. ***MOTION CARRIED***

Agenda 3. Continued section review.

No projector was used. Laptops were shared. As Rene was not present we decided to work on the first reading of Tim's Article 304.

Article 304 Financial Procedures

Section 304.1 Fiscal Year

- o This read well

Section 304.2 Budget

- o This reads well. Recommend informal is desirable.

Section 304.3 Budget Recommendation

- o This section cut out as it is addressed in Section 304.4

Section 304.4 Budget Development

- o We have a seven member Budget Committee. It is guided by the Ordinance of the Budget Committee. The Budget is done by town meeting. The town of Freedom shall keep Ordinances.

Section 304.5 Budget Committee Recommendations

- o These are included in our warrant.

Section 304.6 Budget Vote

- o This reads well.

Section 304.7 Budget Adoption

- o This reads well. Our town clerk certifies the results.

Section 304.8 Public records

- o This reads well.

Section 304.9 Budget Administration

- o Money can moved within a department.
- o Need to clarify state statutes on how money is moved.
- o Is there a Select Board Policy that states how money is identified as intra department or not?

Section 304.10 Annual Audit

- o We do an annual audit.

Section 304.11 Lapse of Appropriations

- o Our appropriations can be carried over.
- o Do we have a 5 year lapse period?

Section 304.12 Borrowing and Investment Guidelines

- Prudent and safe is implied in the role of the Select Board.
- This is redundant but important.
- Keep.

Section 304.13 Bonds of Officials

- We are bonded.
- Keep.

Section 304.14 Purchase Authority

- We use sealed competitive bids for selling.
- We have policies for selling surplus town equipment and selling tax acquired property.
- Select Board buys what is needed, no bidding done.

Article 305 Long Range Plan: Bill Pickford's section. Bill still does not know why St. George dropped this article.

Section 305.1.1 Purpose

- Do we have this in Freedom? Looking ahead is a good idea. Long range continuity.
- We have a Community Development Advisory Committee that is focused on the Skidgell Lot. This is an Ad Hoc committee formed by the Select Board. Is this focused on long range planning? Lissa Widoff may have the results of the survey they developed.

Section 305.1.2 Annual Review

- The Comprehensive Planning Committee oversees the above committee.

Section 305.1.3 Revision

- We do have a Comprehensive Plan that defines goals for freedom. That committee has not met in a long time.

Section 305.1.4 Funding

Section 305.2 Planning Board Review

- Oversees all.

Agenda 4 Adjournment.

Our next work will be :

- Article 301 Town Meetings, Sections 301.4 and 301.5 Rene's Article
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- **TYLER: to follow up with MMA regarding the employee handbook and ethics guidelines**
- *Meeting adjourned* at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Coffin

Next meetings : Tuesday November 1, 2022

Tuesday November 15, 2022