

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 12/1/2025
Approved 12/8/2025

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Jim Waterman, Brian Murphy, Bob Kanzler, Cindy Abbot, Kyle Price (via zoom), Dylan Turner, Stan Taylor, Kerri Taylor, Heather Donahue (via zoom), Eleanor Hess

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1MRSA 405 (6) E, legal consultation at 6:03pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved. They came out of executive session at 7:15pm.**
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes as amended and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman presented a letter to the Select Board from Mary Matthews regarding the Safety Review.
5. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
 - Payroll: \$9130.17
 - A/P Warrant: \$6204
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to pay the payroll warrant for 12-1-2025 in the amount of \$9130.17, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the A/P warrant in the amount of \$6204, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Camden Nation Checking: \$816,879.85
 - Funds Received:
 - USPO: \$884.17
 - State of Maine Revenue Sharing: \$16,898.53
 - State of Maine Local Roads: \$32,248.00

- Laura Greeley has been talking with Vernice regarding the non-attest letter. Vernice apologized for not having sent it and as soon as the town receives it Laura Greeley will send it back so Vernice and Contessa can work on the remaining items.
 - Laura Greeley asked who was responsible for the LRAP
6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
- A rim and tire were damaged while sanding so Loren went to Bangor to acquire new parts.
 - Lissa Widoff suggested that they continue to look for a second employee for the public works department.
 - Trash pick up for Christmas and New Years, are both on Thursdays.
 - Laura Greeley will talk with Joe Freeman regarding the Friday pick up when there is a Thursday holiday.
 - A Stop Work Order has been presented to the property on the Greeley Road and he let the property owner know that he will need a permit.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax abatement for account #415 in the amount of \$2553.43, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax abatement for account #98 map 2 lot 38 in the amount of \$984.22, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax supplement for account #98 in the amount of \$984.22 reflecting new ownership, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax abatement for account #148 in the amount of \$112.90, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax supplement for account #223 in the amount of \$97.41, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to approve a tax abatement for account #473 in the amount of \$132.40, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
 - Lissa Widoff suggested writing a letter to residents who have their property in various programs to let them know that the town will check on their plans with the state to make sure that they are in compliance.
 - Cindy Abbott is all set for elections and has asked town officials to make sure the area is plowed.

- Bob Kanzler provided documents to the select board regarding the situation with his neighbors.
- Cindy will send information to MMA regarding subdivision questions. She will include the selectboard in the correspondence.
- Cindy has not heard back from Carmen yet, with regard to the report on the Young property.
- Cindy Abbot spoke with the homeowner on 137 regarding the chair. The homeowner actually lives in Brooks. Cindy Abbott will talk with Joe Freeman to see if any of the trash has been removed. The letter was sent. It is a renter on the property.

8. Correspondence:

9. Citizens Issues:

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
 - Students: she feels that the students need to be the priority.
 - Events Calendar
 - School Play
 - Holiday Concert
 - Chamber Singers
 - Hosted 20 German students this past fall, 10 were sponsored by Freedom parents.
 - Wrestling Team won their division
 - Soccer team did well
 - Abe Grassi is a student ref
 - Board Meetings are now recorded and posted on the RSU3 website
 - 6 new board members
 - One has resigned
 - Two schools were closed: Brooks and Liberty
 - Awaiting the town decisions of those towns as to what they are going to do with the properties.
 - Waldo County Tech Center: has submitted their construction request. It is part of the integrated schools program.
 - RSU3.org has a sign up for electronic messaging
 - Strategic planning process has begun and anyone interested can reach out to the School Board Director or Eleanor Hess.
 - Futures RSU3 they are looking for citizens to help.

- Rene Ouellet asked about how the superintendent's office reports the school budget at the Town Meeting.
 - General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - 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
 - Second Tuesday of each month.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes (not present)
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - Meeting on Wed and walk on Friday
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Comp Plan Committee:
 - Meeting on Wednesday
11. Old Business:
- Deputy Clerk: It is Cindy's purview to select a deputy clerk but the select board has asserted that they would like the position filled.
 - Waiting for a return call from the neighbor to open a dialog about the abutting properties and water concerns.
12. New Business:
- Fisher Lot: Lissa Widoff has two opinions of values and is waiting for the third.
 - Monument Bill: Lissa Widoff spoke with Kim Holmes. Two individuals had committed. Lissa has spoken to one of the individuals who is willing to contribute but had forgotten.
 - RFP: Rene Ouellet is working on the request for proposals for the town assessments. He asked when we want the proposals by and how soon we would respond to the individuals making the requests and make a selection.
 - Board/ Committee Vacancies:
 - Appeals board
 - Recreation
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday December 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
15. Adjourn: **Lissa Widoff made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm., Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/gdirNt3i6hdQRC0IHkwrpkrxVUbjB3JSA0fugN_9Wm90m4smJ8dA39nsIA78cT0.U95uLf0uC9W-KuIH

Passcode: !7f1B90v