

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 10-2-2023
Approved 10-10-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Samantha Turner, Tyler Hadyniak, Jim Waterman, Jacob Brugger, Ricky Barnes, Kyle Price (via zoom), Anne Marie Adamson (via zoom), Billie (via zoom), Heather Donahue (via zoom), Dylan Turner(via zoom)

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the minutes from 8-28-2023 as amended, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the minutes from 9-25-2023 as amended, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Steve Bennette made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E for Legal Consultation at 6:30 pm. They came out of executive session at 7:23pm no decisions were made.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - EMA has a new plan coming out about long term power outages.
4. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported
 - Raven Road is done
 - Mitchell Road is currently being worked on. 1 foot of 6 inch base is down.
 - Changing out 3 culverts on the Mitchell Road.
 - Rollins and Town House Roads have been worked on
 - The grader is running but it is not in the greatest shape.
 - They are working on it but it is slowly falling apart. At this point it is probably best to keep fixing it as opposed to purchasing a new one.
 - Meredith Coffin asked if we should use it in other towns if it is falling apart. Ryan responded that it is safe for it to go to other places but the repairs are time consuming. He feels the grader should pay for its own repairs, by using it in other towns and being reimbursed we are able to pay for any repairs that become necessary.
 - Laura Greeley asked if they are having to do overtime because of what has happened, with the late start. Ryan responded yes but that we would still be within budget.

5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll Warrant = \$10,812.22, A/P Warrant = \$102,605.83 (1), A/P Warrant (2) = \$114,553.77
 - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - Camden National Balance \$250,033.04
 - September 19th Election, thank you to Rene Ouellet and Sean Murphy for donating their time in the Election Hall
 - 66 animals received Rabies Vaccines on September 30th.
 - Cindy will be out of the office Wednesday and Thursday for MMA Convention
 - The office will be closed Saturday and Monday for the Holiday weekend.
 - There is one abatement for the Select Board to consider.
 - N4N- Neighbor for Neighbor Applications were available.
 - Thanksgiving applications need to be returned by 11/1/2023
 - Christmas Applications need to be returned by 12/1/2023
 - They can be returned to WCAP, the Freedom Town Office during office hours and after office hours they can be put in the dropbox.
 - Reminder: County Taxes- scheduled to be on the October 10th warrant.
 - Charitable Organizations - scheduled to be on the October 16th warrant.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$10,812.22, A/P Warrant = \$102,605.83 (1), A/P Warrant (2) = \$114,553.77, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Abatement request for \$207.46 due to buildings that are not there.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they approve the abatement for \$207.46 to Carrie Bickford due to being charged for a building that is not there, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Cindy provided a spreadsheet for, January to September, of Cash Receipts.
 - Tax reports were presented.
 - Starting 10/15/2023 dogs can be licensed.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - Samantha Turner asked if we have reached out to the town atty about what Tyler presented at the town hearing.
8. Review Correspondence
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9. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official:
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Plumbing Inspector:
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Next Tuesday evening at 7pm
- Recreational Committee:
 - Event this Saturday
- Appeals Board:
- Charter Committee:
- Historical Society:
 - Meetings are the last Tuesday of the month
 - Auction will be the week of October 23-27
 - Ryan Willette is working with public works to move the granite. It will be a few weeks.
- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee: Oct 18 at 6pm, next meeting
- CDAC Committee: Wed, October 4th at 6pm
- Broadband Committee:
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee:

11. Old Business

- Ricky Barnes brought paperwork from Albion regarding his property in Freedom and provided it to the Freedom's Select Board Members. Steve Bennett said the Select Board is going to meet with Jackie to discuss property tax issues.
 - The Select Board will attempt to meet with Jackie at 8am on October 16th. After the meeting with Jackie, Ryan Willette will contact him to review the town's response.

12. New Business

- Moratorium passed 24 yes, 6 no, 1 abstention, we are approximately the 10th town to pass a moratorium
- The Select Board is meeting Oct. 3 at 6 pm with the policy committee.
- CDAC is meeting Wednesday evening and has requested that all interested parties attend.
- Laura Greeley asked about the grant, how it works and what the money will be used for. Steve Bennett stated that he assumes that it will be used to assess the property and what the land can be used for. She asked if we would be obligated to do something with green energy since that is where the grant came from.
- Steve Bennett proposed that we need to create a transmission line committee to enable communication with other towns. He is looking for 3 people to be on this committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Steve Bennett.
- The recommendation from the State regarding all the towns in Waldo County has been received. \$82,150,000 is what they are recommending for Freedom. We have until 11/15 to appeal this. Home sales determines this ratio.
- Beaver Wind paid their tax bill today in the amount of \$113,330.
- Elaine Higgins presented the Select Board with the balance of the cost for the select board Baked Bean supper. Ryan Willette and Steve Bennett covered the difference.

- Warrant for a Special Referendum election for Tues November 7, to approve the amendment to the town charter.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that we approve and sign a warrant for a special referendum election, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Nominations for the budget committee. There were 3 applicants.
 - Laura Greeley made a motion to appoint Kirk Thomas to the budget committee, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to send a copy of the Tyler Hadyniak's letter and concerns and a copy of our CDRC ordinance to Atty Kelly, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett feels there should be an executive board discussion with the appeals board. The week of the 16th. Regarding legal issues and personnel issues.
 - Steve Bennett will reach out to the members of the appeals board to set up the meeting Thursday 10/19/2023 at 6pm. Dylan Turner will send the contact information to Steve Bennett.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 10, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.