

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 1/26/2026

Approved 2-2-2026

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Dylan Turner (via zoom), Stan and Kerri Taylor, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Kyle Price, Kory Boulter (via zoom), Donald Hager (via zoom), Kyle Price (via zoom), Matt Grotton, Patrick Terry, Donald Hager

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Announcements:
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 had a question about SAMS renewal. We will look into the renewal date.
5. Treasurer's Report: Contesa Mancini (not present)
 - A/P: \$11459.78
 - Payroll: \$12361.27 1-26-2025
 - Payroll: \$447.90 correction 1-26-2026
 - Payroll: \$124.67 correction 1-26-2026
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve the payroll for 1-26-2026 in the amount of \$12361.27, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve the corrected payroll for 1-26-2026 in the amount of \$447.90, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve the corrected payroll for 1-26-2026 in the amount of \$124.67, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - **Rene Ouellet made a motion to approve the A/P warrant for 1-26-2026 in the amount of \$11459.78, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**

- Camden National: \$791642.95
- 6. Public Works: Loren Fitch (not present)
 - A garbage truck was not purchased.
 - Lissa Widoff will reach out to Loren Fitch tomorrow regarding the joint purchasing agreement. Loren let Laura Greeley know that the application is filled out and he will drop it off tomorrow.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 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 (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
 - 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
- 11. Old Business:
 - Fees for various town applications were discussed and research was completed and discussed.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to appoint Patti Ashland as Health officer until the town meeting 2027 at an annual compensation rate of \$300, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - Town Meeting Warrant: Laura Greeley has a list of items that residents brought forward that they would like changed. She would like Lissa Widoff and Rene Ouellet to review this list so that if residents want to take out a

petition to have it put on the warrant, they will be able to do so. Some of the items were reviewed.

- The benefits and risks of a Comp Plan were discussed as well as asking for voter input with regard to whether a comp plan is needed. Laura Greeley wanted the risks and benefits of a comp plan to be presented to the residents. Lissa Widoff clarified why we have a committee and the benefits of the plan. Rene Ouellet asked why it would be brought to the Town Meeting. Laura Greeley asked that they do research with the state about how the comprehensive plan will impact the town. Lissa Widoff suggested that the information from the research be brought to the comprehensive planning committee.

12. New Business:

- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session 1 MRSA 405 (6) a Personnel matters, Laura Greeley seconded the motion and all approved at 7:06pm.**
 - They came out of executive session at 8:16 pm with no motions to make.
- February 28th at 10am will be the public meeting on Beaver Ridge. Laura Greeley asked Atty Kelly if the agreement could be printed off and shared with the residents. Laura Greeley would like Cindy Abbott to reach out the school about an available room.
 - Patrick Terry shared information about Red Mitchel and votes that were taken in the past. He asked about Atty. Kelly's knowledge of this information. Laura Greeley responded that the select board is bringing the agreement to the people and the select board agreed to listen to the people.
 - Matthew Grotton asked if the document would be ready before the meeting. The response was that they have asked the lawyer if they can do this.
 - Someone expressed that it was relitigating what had already been decided.
 - Laura Greeley expressed concern that an article was written that included inaccurate information about the costs of a survey.
- County Budget Committee meeting tomorrow evening.
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) F confidential records, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They came out of executive session at 9:13pm.

- **Rene Ouellet made a motion that they make an expenditure from the donation made by Beaver Ridge Wind to send \$300 to Waldo County Oil on behalf of a resident experiencing difficulty maintaining heat in their home, this action being consistent with the intent of the donation, seconded by Lissa Widoff, passed unanimously.**
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday February 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
 15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 9:15 pm., Lissa Widoff seconded, and all approved.**

Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/5uyxckyrE-hldz_SW9WnUJ2O3STZV3TNthWjA2Rg-Eu1THZ36CrcrAxNcVGVnc.6Sp9YI48N9I49Peo

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