

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 2/27/2023
Approved 3-6-2023

In attendance: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Laura Greeley, Joe Freeman, Ellie MacMakin

New Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 431 235 8359
Passcode: TownMeet

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Ron Price called the meeting to order at 6pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Elaine Higgins made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Steve seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - o Civil Defense Training: 3/2 6:30-7:30 pm (EMA office Rowley at Public Safety Way) for citizens interested in getting into Civil Defense
 - o Jim will be doing a communication exercise tomorrow night with other towns from 6 pm on.
 - o Bureau of Labor mandatory training: ongoing and Jim will be completing.
 - o Jim wanted to thank everyone for the SAMS number and the work that was done.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
 - o Nothing to report.
 - o Requested executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A. Ron Price made a motion to go into executive session, Steve seconded and all approved. They came out of executive session at 6:30pm.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - o Payroll \$6089.87, A/P warrant \$5199.13
 - o The current checkbook balance is inaccurate and the accountants are working on determining the exact amount.
 - o Steve made a motion that the payroll warrant be paid in the amount of \$6089.87 and the A/P warrant in the amount of \$5199.13. Elaine seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - o No report
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - o Ellie MacMakin: requested to retract the design suggestions that she had presented as she wants the triangle to remain. Dave Allen and the engineer are coming to speak with the Select Board about the bridge and detour. The date is yet to be chosen.
 - o Joe Freeman asked why the Raven Road was taken out of the budget for paving. There are 14 homes on the road. He feels it has been put off too long. He also expressed that the town's people had previously voted for it

to be done and it now appears to be out of the upcoming budget. Ron Price suggested that Joe Freeman come and speak at the town meeting. Additionally, Joe Freeman asked about the fuel tanks buried under Main Street and what would be happening. He suggested that Raven Road be completed prior to doing Main Street. Laura Greely expressed concern about which roads are completed and feels that roads should be done as per what the tax payers are voting for. Joe also expressed that other roads have been paved twice in the time that the Raven Road has not been completed.

- Laura Greely asked questions about:
 - The voting with the budget committee and subsequent recommendations.
 - Leasing / contracts
 - Asked about requirements for town positions, Ron Price stated that they use the MMA handbook for job requirements.
 - Laura Greeley requested that the Selectboard broadcast the town meetings on Facebook live as she feels it would give people better access to the meetings. Ron Price commented that he has concerns about Facebook as a site. She feels that there is a lack of transparency by not using Facebook. Ron reported that we are meeting transparency expectations as per state requirements. She provided examples of other towns that are using Facebook Live.
 - Laura Greeley asked about the school board budget and concerns about that budget. She asked if she could talk with other towns with regard to the school board budget. She would like to speak with the other towns to determine how they all feel about the budget and accountability.

8. Review Correspondence:

- Wilson Hess provided the enrollment confirmation in the Community Resiliency Partnership
 - Eligible for community action grants.
 - Environmental Analysis study of the Skidgell Lot.
 - Municipal Solar Array.
- April 6, 2023 The Maine Chapter of American Public Works Association. We are not currently members and Ron Price asked if we should join? Their upcoming training will include: Transportation Funding and Initiatives

9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement Officer
- Health Official
- School Board Director
- General Assistance Officer
- Plumbing Inspector
- Solid Waste Director
- Animal Control Officer

10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board
- Recreational Committee
- Appeals Board
- Charter Committee
- Historical Society
- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee
- CDAC Committee
- Broadband: Elaine Higgins, the 11.2 million grant was not awarded and additional information was requested. There is a second round of grants slated for June so they hope to resubmit.

11. Old Business

- Pot Growing: submitted 3 names. Sites have been referred to the state and the following is the outcome.
 - 100 Belfast Rd. Licensed Medical, It was questionable about the licensee living in a camper trailer on the property.
 - 555 Belfast Rd. Has been turned over the Sheriff's Dept
 - Greeley Rd.: It is a registered medical growing facility
 - North Palermo Rd.: Inspector to review and both were inspected.
- Ron Price expressed that we need to hire someone to shovel at the town hall and post office pending to the person who currently does it being able to do the job.
- Ron Price suggested that they put liability insurance on the Fisher Lot (address)
- Steve Bennett is looking at the Road abandonment document. He will contact the MMA for further clarification.
- Elaine asked about Director's and officer's liability insurance. Ron stated that they are covered under the Tort claims act. Steve will look into this.

12. New Business

13. Date of Next Meeting: 3/6/2023 at 6 pm

14. Adjourn: Ron Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45. pm, Elaine Higgins seconded and all agreed.