

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 3/27/2023
Approved 4/3/2023

In attendance: Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Elaine Higgins, Travis Price, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Clint Spaulding, Christopher Spaulding, Jasmine Willette, Jacob Brugger, Laura Greeley, Elenore MacMakin (via zoom), Tyler Hydiniak (via zoom), Alexis Spaulding, Robert Kanzler, Tim Biggs, Josh Suitor, Brandon Suitor, Jason Young, Joe Freeman, Bob Kanzler,

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 6:00 pm.
 - Ron Price stated that he is not questioning the credentials of the new selectman, Ryan Willette and He offered Ryan a formal apology.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Steve Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ryan Willette seconded, and all agreed.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - The power to Jason Young's property has been removed.
 - Emergency Management zoom meeting tomorrow night.
 - Waldo County Disaster was declared, due to the January storm.
 - Travis Price mentioned that there was about \$1300 worth of gravel used.
 - Cold water rescue training happened this past week.
4. Public Works Director Report: Travis Price
 - The information that was taken out of the computer was out of google. The information will need to be input. It is all on paper but will need to be transferred to the computer.
 - Truck Bodies: the body that was sold was a \$350 body that was sold to the Amish. It was more than 30 years old. The aluminum body on the other truck will be sold for \$10,000.
 - Clint Spaulding asked why it was not put out to bid.
 - Ron Price stated that it is fine to put it out to bid. Ryan Willette suggested that a reserve bid be put on it for \$10,000 if that is what the other person is willing to pay.
 - Ryan Willette suggested that sales should go through the town office and a bill of sale and receipt be provided.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that the aluminum truck body be put out to bid by normal process, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - \$5509 payroll warrant, \$65,103.33 A/P warrant

- State Revenue sharing check received for \$7313.43
 - Credit refund for copier \$37.83
 - Town Hall closed Tuesday and Wednesday this week due to training.
 - Ron Smith would like to meet to discuss the 1st quarter report
 - Cindy Abbot stated that there are still issues with the checking account and that she and Karen are working on it.
 - A Maine Revenue site was set up and some training was provided.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that the payroll warrant be paid in the amount of \$5509 payroll warrant, and the \$65,103.33 A/P warrant, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Reports to be provided next week.
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- Jason Young wanted to speak, Steve Bennett explained that the Atty. has directed the Select Board to not discuss the matter further.
 - Chirs Spaulding, stated that he feels there is nepotism and corruption occurring at the town hall. He was concerned that he received a letter from the town regarding the moving of a sand pile.
 - Christopher Spaulding defined corruption and nepotism, and provided the Select Board with printed definitions of both.
 - A conversation about the road and location of the dirt pile was discussed between Christopher Spaulding and Travis Price.
 - Clint Spaulding expressed that he feels that when things are being plowed they are swinging into Christopher Spaulding's driveway.
 - Steve Bennett suggested that if Christopher Spaulding is going to work on the town road, that he should do it collaboratively with Travis Price as it appears that it would be within the town's right of way.
 - Christopher Spaulding stated that he will consult the town when something comes up.
 - Bob Kanzler suggested that if someone is looking for the center mark of the road they can contact CMP
 - Ron Price noted the papers that were submitted.
 - Laura Greeley, mentioned that they are having the school budget meeting with the Superintendent on the 29th. The second meeting is on the 30th to present the budget. She mentioned the commissioner stated that Maine may have difficulty with funding from the Federal Government. She stated concerns with the continued budget increases. She wonders if the Social Emotional Staff are still necessary. She feels that social emotional learning is taking precedence over English and math skills. She would also like to know more about the assessment data.
 - She would like to see us have more input with the education of our town students.
 - She also asked about LD 11-29 This is in reference to public access to information regarding testing and the skill level of those implementing education.

- Steve Bennett mentioned that in 1986 Mt View was rated the top high school in New England.
 - She is concerned that the money is being spent on the wrong things.
 - She would like to see a report from Ellie Hess regarding the school board meetings and perhaps she could come to the Select Board Meeting.
 - Ellie MacMakin stated that too much dirt is being put on High Street and we could save money by using less.
- 8. Review Correspondence
- 9. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Is responding to what she was asked to do.
 - Health Official
 - School Board Director
 - General Assistance Officer
 - Plumbing Inspector
 - Solid Waste Director
 - Animal Control Officer
- 10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Mtg April 1st
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Appeals Board
 - Charter Committee: April 4th 6pm at the town annex
 - Historical Society:
 - Book Signing on Saturday at the Church at 1pm Saturday April 1st.
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee
 - CDAC Committee
- 11. Old Business
 - Tax maps: need a work session for the Select Board. April 3rd at 8 am at the Town Hall.
 - Greeley Road issue: a trailer is in unsafe condition. The code enforcement officer stated that there is nothing she can do. There is a non-vented propane heater. Ryan Willette asked if Freedom has a square footage requirement for a domicile.
 - Tim Biggs stated that he does not feel it is the town's issue how someone lives.
 - Steve Bennette would like to see Jackie's report.
 - Steve Bennette will speak with Jackie and the health officer to see if they can work on the situation.
 - Steve Bennett has left two messages for Peace Ridge and has had no response.
 - Ryan Willette spoke with a Waldo County Dispatcher, they page out who is in the area. They wait 3 minutes then they page again, after that they call the back up. The dispatch was surprised that Unity took on another

town. He said that Unity has a history of not responding to pages. Liberty has a good response time when being paged.

- Clint Spaulding asked why we got rid of Delta. He has had a good history with Delta. Ron Price stated that Delta was asking for \$10,000. Ryan Willette stated that we should watch the response time and see if after the next few weeks there is not positive change then we should make a change.

12. New Business

- Water testing: (post office as well)
 - What testing needs to be done: \$115 Mortgage test. For another \$20 it tests for lead as well. It is \$135 per test with the lead test. It will cost \$405 for all three.
 - Elaine Higgins suggested taking it out of public safety.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that the test be completed and be taken out of each area's budget, Ron Price seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett felt that the meeting with the auditor this past friday was very helpful.
- Clint Spaulding asked that there be limited comments about former employees and that it is defamation of character. He suggested that the town have a policy about sharing confidential information.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 3, 2023 at 6 pm

14. Adjourn: Ron Price made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm