

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 9-18-2023**  
**Approved 9-25-2023**

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Samantha Turner, Brian Murphy, Joe Freeman, Dylan and Tammy Turner, Eleanor MacMacon, Ricky Barnes, Heather Donahue (via zoom) Meredith Coffin, Anne Marie Adamson (via zoom), Jacob Brugger (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: Steve Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended for 8/21/2023 and 9/11/2023, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - We had 18 houses without power during the hurricane.
  - One tree down on Palermo Road during the storm.
  - One of the fire trucks is not working. Loren will look at the fire truck tomorrow.
  - Ryan Willette will do the repair to the wall of the fire house.
4. Public Works Director Report:
  - Ryan Willette reported
    - Isiah has spoken with Pike regarding materials to do the road work. Sargent has the materials at a lower cost in comparison to Pike. He will take the new sterling and get a load of material from Sargent so they can assess the quality of the materials.
    - A discussion about roads to be worked on ensued. It is expected that it will be a couple of weeks before they begin the work.
    - Grader is now in good working condition.
    - New sterling is working well.
    - They are trying to get the sand this week.
    - Wing posts are in for the new sterling
    - Ryan is meeting with the crew at the Public Works tomorrow.
    - Ryan Willette asked where the Sterling body should be posted as up for bid. Cindy will also send it in a mailing announcing the bidding.
    - Elaine Higgins mentioned an area of road that was soggy and Ryan said they are aware.
    - The Air Ridge side of the Raven Road has washed out a bit.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - \$6055.37 Payroll Warrant, \$8954.07 A/P Warrant
  - \$208995.80 Checkbook balance

- \$341,045.66 Camden National Bank
  - Credit application for Sargent has been requested by Public Works
    - Ryan Willette made a motion that Steve Bennette sign and submit the application for credit with Sargent out of Plymouth for aggregate, Steve Bennette seconded and all approved.
  - September school payment, on the next warrant.
  - County taxes, when will they be paid.
  - When will charitable organizations be paid?
  - Abatement for Charlie Knight in the amount of \$49.35 for 2022 taxes.
  - Request for an abatement for Priscilla Gould.
  - Request sent to Jackie from Mark Letourneau
  - Received 4 checks:
    - \$431.22 for Waste Mgmt Service Center
    - \$5825.71 for State withholding Tax Refund 2020
    - \$1704.89 State withholding tax refund 2021
    - \$3488.04 State Withholding tax refund 2021
  - Unity Soup Kitchen can bring meals here as a pick up site. Cindy will check with Jim and the director of that program to determine how many meals we should ask for each week.
  - There is a piece of siding that needs to be replaced on the outside of the voting hall. Ryan Willette will look into it.
  - Wex card needs to be designated. Ryan Willette would prefer that it be the personnel that drive the trucks and are public works employees.
  - Steve Bennette moved that we put the \$2800 for the historical society on next week's warrant, Ryan Willette seconded and all agreed.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the \$6055.37 Payroll Warrant, \$8954.07 A/P Warrant, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to abate Charlie Knight on his 2022 taxes due to no building in the amount of \$49.35, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion for a \$230.79 abatement to Pricilla Gould, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
  - Ricky Barnes asked about his acreage in Freedom and how it is being taxed. It was suggested that he find out how Albion is taxing his property and share that with Freedom.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
- Elaine Higgins has a request from Dave Bridges to name the library at the town hall, the Glen S Bridges Memorial Library.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion to name the library the Glen S Bridges Memorial Library, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - Eleanor MacMackon asked about the upcoming votes. She asked if the handbook was being used in determining the increase in the membership. Steve Bennette stated that the town is voting on the ordinance not the handbook. Eleanor was referring to the MMA

handbook for an appeals board. She asked what was driving the change. Steve Bennett stated that these changes were in response to the town charter. The two-week time frame is in the town charter. Samantha Turner asked if there was any supporting information about why they suggest a 5-member board.

#### 8. Review Correspondence

- CDAC committee learned that their grant request for \$50,000 was approved. The purpose will be to conduct a technical site assessment on the cannery lot.

#### 9. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official:
- School Board Director: Elenore Hess
  - Samantha Turner mentioned that it would be great to get a brief report about what is happening with the school board, every other month.
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
  - Steve Bennett made a motion to go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E at 7 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - They returned from the executive session at 7:04 and no decisions were made.
- Plumbing Inspector:
  - Plumbing applications have come in and the fines were paid for the buildings.
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
  - Joe Freeman asked about the trash bags being provided by the town. Ryan intends to talk with the China transfer station in regards to where they get their bags.
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

#### 10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
  - Steve Bennett would like the planning board to write a high transmission line ordinance.
- Recreational Committee:
  - Saturday is a scheduled farmers market
  - October 7 harvest day with the Church
  - 10/28/2023 Trunk or Treat
  - 11/11 Veterans Day ceremony in the works
- Appeals Board:
- Charter Committee:
- Historical Society:
- Cemetery Committee
- Budget Committee: 9/18/2023 at 6pm
- CDAC Committee: October 4, 2023 This committee will want to meet with various other committees to discuss what the land would best be used for.

- Broadband Committee:

#### 11. Old Business

- LS Power: Steve Bennett attended a transmission meeting in Albion. Steve Bennett got a call from a citizen in Palermo who is contacting area towns to determine which town's are getting started stating their concerns about the powerline. In Albion he spoke to Lance Stuart regarding the power lines.
  - Steve Bennett read about a moratorium. There has to be a necessity for the moratorium. They are in place for 6 months. He feels that public opinion is the best way to establish public concerns through a hearing.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to advertise the amended version of the high-tension line moratorium ordinance in the Republican Journal at a cost of no more than \$750, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
  - Steve Bennett presented many articles and resources which he reviewed that further defined how power lines will affect towns.
  - They need a moderator for the meeting. Elaine suggested Mike Thibideau as a moderator.
  - Samantha Turner asked if there was a time limit for people wanting to talk at the meeting. Sam will make a flier regarding the dinner after the meeting.
  - Steve Bennett would like to see a transmission line ad hoc committee to communicate with the committees in other towns so we can work collaboratively.

#### 12. New Business

- The auditor and his asst. were not able to attend this evening.
- Tomorrow is election day for the open select board positions.
- Ryan Willette mentioned that we need to look at the boiler system before the winter. He will review the plan that was presented and Elaine Higgins will provide him with the business card of the individual who created the proposal in the past.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 25, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.