

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 9-11-2023**  
*Approved 9-18-2023*

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Jim Waterman, Laura Greeley, Joe Freeman, Kyle Price (via zoom), Anne Marie Adamson (via zoom), Brian Murphy, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Rei (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.
  - o Steve Bennette asked for a moment of silence in honor and remembrance of 9/11.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Steve Bennett made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - o Jim Waterman called the town of Knox regarding the second payment for fire protection. The check is in the mail and it should be received by Freedom soon.
  - o Work on the fire house exterior wall continues.
  - o Working on the tanker.
  - o Used to be a siren on the fire house to announce calls. Jim Waterman has salvaged it and has given it to Mark Letourneau and is having it refurbished.
  - o 7:00pm business meeting and truck check tonight.
  - o Hurricane Lee, perhaps in the Gulf of Maine on Saturday.
  - o Submitted 2 reports to Central Maine cost recovery.
  - o The reserve account from last December \$83,0000. Spent \$27,000, collected \$19,000. \$75,491 remaining. He anticipates \$82,000 by the end of the year.
  - o Ryan Willette reported that Loren is a diesel mechanic and is capable of working on the fire trucks. Ryan asked for the year, make and model and list of what needs to be done so he could have an estimate put together. Ryan will have Loren contact Jim and take a look at the repairs needed.
  - o Jim Waterman asked what will happen with the surveys on LS Power. Steve Bennett stated that it was intended to help increase awareness of what is happening with LS Power.
4. Public Works Director Report: Ryan Willette
  - o Body is on the new Sterling.
  - o Rain has been an issue with the sand.
  - o Grease seal leak on left rear which is being fixed.

- Loren checked the fluids in the truck today.
  - Isaiah and Jeff built material stalls. This was to prepare for emergencies, like washouts.
  - Grader, oil leak. A patch is being done.
  - Weather permitting, they will haul sand.
  - Our summer road work will hopefully be started next week.
  - Ryan Willette will get a final invoice prepared for Unity.
  - Elaine Higgins asked if some cold patch could be placed down by the bridge on Pleasant Street.
  - Steve Bennett mentioned that Monroe has a pavement crack sealer that we might be able to borrow.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
- Payroll \$5,593.63
  - Camden National \$260,825.46
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the payroll warrant in the amount of \$5,593.63, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
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8. Review Correspondence
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9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
  - Health Official:
  - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
  - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
  - Plumbing Inspector
  - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
    - The flyer that Cindy sent out had no weight limit on the 55-gallon bag. This needs to be clarified. Joe Freeman stated that there needs to be a specific weight limit on the bag. Steve Bennett will mention this to the policy committee. Ryan Willette suggested that the town sell the bags.
  - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
- Planning Board:
  - Recreational Committee:
  - Appeals Board:
  - Historical Society:
    - Elaine Higgins thanked Ryan Willette for repairing the boardwalk. She would still like it to be presented to the budget committee to have a new boardwalk and the retaining wall be worked on due to rotting. She requested a new broom and trash bags for the meeting house.
  - Cemetery Committee
  - Budget Committee:

- CDAC Committee:
  - Broadband Committee:
11. Old Business
- Candidates' forum: Steve Bennett was surprised as to how many people attended. Tyler Hadyniak stated that he counted about 25 people in attendance. Steve Bennett stated he felt both did a good job.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that he write a letter to Bo Spaulding for charitable donation to the town at the approximate value of \$2,000, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that they advertise a closed bid sale on body of the Sterling body, with a reserve, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that they sell the bolt racks, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - The revenue for this will go into the reserve account for the Public Works Department
    - Steve Bennett asked about the metal at Public Works. Ryan provided suggestions regarding places to sell and recycle the metal.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that the granite from the Fisher property be given to the historical society, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
12. New Business
- Steve Bennett reviewed the survey results to date. 34 surveys were returned.
    - Steve Bennett has been researching moratoriums and feels that we should have a vote on a moratorium. It may not stop LS Power but it does send a message.
    - Tyler Hadyniak suggested that there be an ad hoc committee to respond to the survey results and make recommendations. That committee could write and draft moratorium language to present to the select board.
    - Steve Bennett made a motion for a town meeting vote on a moratorium regarding LS Power and announce the survey results at 3pm on September 30, 2023, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
    - Steve Bennett mentioned that we need to review our town not for profits, 501 C-3's. The issue is how we properly assess these entities and properties equitably. Ryan Willette and Steve Bennett will have further discussions with Jackie about this.
  - Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 18, 2023. 6pm
13. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.