

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 8/31/2026**

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

***Approved 9-8-2026***

**Select Board Meeting**

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Lissa Widoff, Kory Boulrier, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Kevin Greeley, Roy Mishou (via zoom), Bryan Murphy, Stan and Terri Taylor, Troy Nelson, Hermon,

**Select Board Meeting**

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - Troy Nelson mentioned that he is interested in making a bid for plowing. Laura Greeley encouraged him to submit a bid. Lissa Widoff mentioned that the Select Board has come to a shared agreement to discuss taking bids for plowing for the upcoming season. Troy Nelson reported that he generally uses the town's sand and salt. Lissa Widoff will create an email connecting all the select board members and Ryan Willette with Troy Nelson.
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the minutes as amended and put them on record, Kory Boulrier seconded and all agreed.**
3. Fire Chief Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Lissa Widoff reported on her review of liability insurance for the individual fire fighters. It does not appear that our policy covers individual liability for the fire fighters. Laura Greeley mentioned that she is checking with MMA about insurance coverage for fire hydrants on private property. She is waiting for a response.
  - EMA director position: Kory Boulrier reported that he has shared the emails and would like to set up a meeting to discuss the applicants.
4. Treasurer's Report: Contessa Mancini (not present)
  - AP Warrant: \$10390.68

- **Lissa Widoff made a motion to pay the AP payroll warrant for the week of 8/31/26 in the amount of \$10390.68, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - Camden National Municipal account: \$293,096.69
  - Checks Received:
    - Revenue sharing state of Maine: \$18834.77
    - Bitney Bowes: \$183.98
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette (not present)
- The select board has been conducting interviews for the open Public Works positions. They have been working with the executive budget committee to determine the feasibility of some of the requests. They will be hiring John Thornhill as a road commissioner. He will help organize projects and assist with the budget and planning process. They will be taking bids on plowing the North Palermo Road. Lissa Widoff clarified the process the select board went through prior to making any decisions.
    - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to hire John Thornhill as the road commissioner on a contract basis 10-15 hours per week at \$50 per hour, Kory Boulier seconded the motion and all approved.**
      - Lissa Widoff will prepare a letter.
    - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to make an offer of employment to Donald Brown and discuss with him wages to be determined, Kory Boulier seconded the motion and all approved.**
      - Laura Greeley will reach out to Donald Brown.
  - Two sand bids have been received.
    - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to accept the sand bid for sand at \$15 per yard delivered from RA Littlefield Logging and Construction, Kory Boulier seconded and all approved.**
  - Joe and Bill have been working on Rollins Road. Lissa Widoff clarified that they were not told to stop working on the Rollins Road. The issue is that they are not classified as public works employees and that there are insurance issues. The board wants them to continue working on the Rollins Road.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Cindy Abbott provided a report to the select board for 2026, regarding what has been paid out for abatements to date.
  - Abatements/Supplements: Laura Greeley requested to review and write out the abatements and supplements. They will vote on them next week.
  - Laura Greeley asked what the process is with the Appeals Board. Cindy Abbott clarified that the Select Board should ask the Appeals Board what their process will be.

- The state contacted Cindy Abbott today and the town will be getting a counting machine and there will be training regarding its use.
- 7. Correspondence:
  - FOIA: All information will be forwarded to Cindy Abbott and she will collate it and send it out.
- 8. Citizens Issues:
  - Brian Murphy: Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been sent to FEMA and they anticipate a final approval next week.
- 9. Town Officials Reports
  - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
    - The Select Board proposed a meeting with the CEO at 8am Thursday, September 10, 2026 morning. Laura Greeley will check to see if that will work.
    - Laura Greeley will reach out to Contessa regarding the foreclosure.
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
  - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
  - General Assistance Officer: Kory Boulier
    - No new requests this week.
    - The training course is in September
  - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
  - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
    - They are no longer going to the landfill. Lissa Widoff will be reaching out to Phil Bloomstein to determine where the trash will be taken.
    - Joe Freeman reported that they will be going to Hamden instead.
  - Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
  - Town Boards & Committee Reports:
    - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
    - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
      - Meeting tomorrow
        - Fund raiser
        - Veterans Day
        - Christmas
    - Appeals Board: (chair to be determined).
    - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes (not present)
    - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
    - CDAC Committee: Sean Murphy (not present)

- The grant request was approved to cover the designing of the replacement Mitchel Road Bridge, planning of the downtown, and energy audit of town office and fire station.
- Comp Plan Committee:
- Historical Society:
  - Reading: upcoming

#### 11. Old Business:

- Freedom Town Employees Policy: the proposed changes were reviewed.
  - Lissa Widoff shared the 2 emails from MMA and the board will sign the policy next week.
- Annex Clean up: next steps. Lissa Widoff reported that the primary closet is empty. The rec materials need to be moved or they need to change the contract with the shredding company. Cindy Abbot reported that she has bins for the Christmas things. The next pick up is Tuesday, next week. Lissa Widoff also asked about the empty binders. Cindy Abbott will contact the shredding company and ask them to skip a week.
- Tax bills: Property Cards and Valuation cards were included. They are hoping that residents will come to the Select Board with any concerns. Laura Greeley asked about the difference in the homestead exemption. Our certified ratio this year was 85%, last year's ratio was 75%. That would affect townwide abatement and veterans' abatements as well. Laura Greeley is concerned with the accuracy of the assessments. The select board has had to release Jackie from her position as assessor's agent. There were many inconsistencies between residents and the manner in which they were assessed. The three select board members are dividing the commitment book and they will be reviewing every resident's taxes. The select board will be looking for another assessor and the goal would be for them to be in the office one day per month to answer questions. Lissa Widoff mentioned that the inconsistency is the problem.
  - Elaine Higgins asked about a reevaluation for the town. Lissa Widoff stated that the select board has looked into that and there is a 3-year waiting list and it is \$90-100,000. They need to plan for this in the future. It will need to be part of the budget process.
  - **Lissa Widoff made a motion to abate \$54.00 to each resident that receives the homestead exemption, Kory Boulter seconded and all approved.**
  - Laura Greeley will review the veteran's exemption and report back next week.
- Ordinance Hearings have not yet been determined, but the plan is for them to be in October. The Select Board will meet on the following dates:

September 14: Medical Marijuana, September 23: Data Center, Food Sovereignty is the other ordinance being worked on. Ballots need to be out by the 3rd of October. Next week the board will determine the hearing dates. Hearing Sep 17, 2026 for the ordinances that are ready to be reviewed. 6pm

- Saturday September 19th 9 am topic to be determined.

12. New Business:

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

14. Adjourn: **Kory Boulter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm, Lissa Widoff seconded the motion and all approved.**

### **Recording Information:**

Shareable link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/h15EY\\_fXmbDJi5ZmgtPWE3\\_4sMpNZ9F1WCa1sEJdU9r91d7snp1g29uOKxLYu\\_8h.87U\\_5sUf--203\\_5L](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/h15EY_fXmbDJi5ZmgtPWE3_4sMpNZ9F1WCa1sEJdU9r91d7snp1g29uOKxLYu_8h.87U_5sUf--203_5L)

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