

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 11/10/2025
Approved 11/17/2025

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Lissa Widoff, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Brian Murphy, Cindy Abbot, Kyle Price (via zoom), Dylan Turner, Beth Powell, Patrick Terry, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom),

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the minutes as amended and place them on record, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman reported that they are finishing up on the safety corrections.
 - They had 62 people for the Hunters breakfast.
 - They are still taking orders for Christmas baskets. The application is on the website.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - AP: \$6305
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to pay the AP warrant in the amount of \$6305, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - Checks received:
 - Maine Truck Excise Reimbursement: \$1242.34
 - Camden National Municipal Checking Balance: \$568,039.37
6. Public Works: Loren Fitch
 - Laura Greeley was asked to check out some potholes on Raven Road. She will go out tomorrow.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - **Lissa Widoff moved to approve an abatement for account 251 in the amount of \$58.38, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

- **Lissa Widoff moved to approve a supplement tax for Map 10, Lot 16 in the amount of 301.53, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved to approve a supplemental tax for account 298, Map 8, lot 11 in the amount of \$58.38, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**
- **Lissa Widoff moved to approve a supplemental tax for Account 298, Map 8 lot 11, in the amount of \$58.38, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

8. Correspondence:

9. Citizens Issues:

- Patrick Terry: There are 5 maps in the Selectman's office and all of the maps show the Beaver Ridge Road. He asked the late Red Mitchell why we had so many discontinued roads and he stated that they could still be used. He is disappointed that someone would sue the town about a road. He does not feel that anyone has a right to sue the town over a road. It is a privilege to have town roads.
- This Friday is the day of court ordered mediation. It will be from 9am-2pm if needed. The goal is to find agreement.
- Joe Freeman: asked when the town's people voted to pave the Raven Road. When will the roads be paved? Laura Greeley stated that there is a paving fund that is dedicated for the purpose of paving the roads. All of the interest from the sweep account goes into the paving account. The select board is planning for the paving by saving the money to pay for it. Lissa Widoff stated that it will be part of the Comprehensive plan as well. Joe Freeman is concerned that the town's people voted to have the road paved and it has not happened.
- Tyler Hadyniak: asked about the produced documents. He asked about an email from a potential buyer from Laura Greeley. Laura Greeley asked Cindy Abbott to send out that information to all those who had requested the FOIA. Tyler Hadyniak asked what date the recall petition was taken out. Laura Greeley suggested he email Cindy Abbott for that information.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Inspection on Thursday at 3pm
 - She hand delivered the letter to the owner so he has been informed. The certified letter that was sent on 10-21-2025 was not picked up.

- Pictures for 22 North Palermo Road were supplied to the Select Board members regarding code enforcement issues. Laura Greeley would like to match the pictures with what is on the tax card.
 - Laura Greeley asked if a stop order is necessary. The individual has a copy of the ordinance now. Cindy Abbott said she had Loren check.
 - Smithton Road issue: The owner will be going before the planning board. Tyler Hadyniak spoke with the property owner. He is interested in coming to the planning board meeting on Wednesday. If he is going to submit a CDRO application he would go on the December agenda.
 - Laura Greeley asked if meeting once a month would be enough with all of the applications and state changes occurring as well as the Mobile home ordinance.
 - Illegal subdivision: Cindy Abbott may have an issue to present.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins (not present)
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland (not present)
 - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess (not present)
 - General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
 - Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
 - On 137 across from Ayer Ridge there is a chair that is still there. Rene Ouellet stated that Cindy Abbott would need to complete a letter and send it to the home owner. Joe Freeman also noted that the home owner is putting untagged garbage out.
 - Lissa Widoff will look for the form letter for Cindy Abbott.
 - Citizens asked what the consequences would be if the home owner still does not comply.
 - Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt (not present)
 - Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak (not present)
 - Hearing on Wednesday for Bennett Event Center
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Veteran's Day tomorrow 11/11/25 11am
 - Levi Temple history will be dedicated and reviewed.
 - Appeals Board: (vacancy)
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes (not present)
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett (not present)
 - They met. A member will be meeting with the historical society.

- There is still a question between the property line with the General Store.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein (not present)
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
- Budget Committee:
 - Meeting Wednesday at 6:30.
- Comp Plan Committee:
 - Met last week, had the 2nd meeting and KVCOG came to discuss the comprehensive plan. Everyone is engaged. In another meeting or two they should pick co-chairs.

11. Old Business:

- Boat Landing: Lissa Widoff continues to look for the deed. She will reach out to Mike Knowlton.
- 67 Belfast Road Property. Lissa Widoff is having 3 realtors look at the property.
- Request For Proposal draft for property assessors, Lissa Widoff continues working on this. Rene Ouellet went over it and made some edits. Discussions ensued regarding local individuals and companies that are available. The selectmen need to take the course moving forward. Jim Murphy was discussed as a potential mentor for an individual.
- Letter for Travis Price. A letter was received from Kyle Price with regard to his brother Travis Price. This letter was in regard to the MOA. A letter from the town was generated and sent out to Travis Price. Laura Greeley will continue to work with Ron Smith in an attempt to have more money returned.
- A second FOAA request was received regarding the Island, that is for sale.
- Laura Greeley asked Cindy Abbott to post the hearing information regarding Rene Ouellet's response to the petition to remove him from office.
- **Rene Ouellet made a motion to go into executive session as specified under 1 MRSA 405 (6) E for legal consultation at 6:53pm, Lissa Widoff seconded and all approved.**
 - They returned from the executive session at 7:04, no decision was made.
- The response to the Workers Comp email was completed today by Contessa. She had sent the check; it was just the worksheet needed to be completed.

- Laura Greeley gave Elaine Higgins data from all of the invoices for the Beaver Ridge dispute and what has been paid to Atty. Kelly. Laura Greeley stated that declaratory judgements are the costliest.

12. New Business:

- Workshop for Employee handbook: December 1st or 15th were offered at 4:30 in the afternoon prior to the select board meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

15. Adjourn: **Lissa Widoff made a motion to adjourn at 7:55 pm., Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

Recording Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/9rn94TPVnOD9PGrQz9nIb79xfxAydIRuviKB0uouOkbif60HaMMIzRjLVpOxfO3n.jgTdAl8kdJvulTyp>

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