

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 10/14/2025
Approved 10-20-2025

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

Select Board Meeting

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Rene Ouellet, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Richard Bickford, Meredith Coffin, Ron Price, Heather Donahue, Dylan Turner, Billy, Kyle Price, Tom Clay

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - Laura Greeley reviewed the letter that was sent out to the citizens of Freedom. She started receiving phone calls and correspondence from residents who received the letter.
 - Transparency: Feels she has been very transparent
 - Restricting Public Comment: Has not restricted public comment. She will not accept having people raise their voices to her.
 - She respects veterans but she will not be yelled at. She also does not appreciate swearing.
 - Sharing of information after executive sessions. In the executive session you do not take a vote and with the Attorney it is a confidential meeting. They would always bring information to the people prior to voting to spend more money.
 - Laura Greeley reported that she is not trying to hide information on how much money has been spent; they still did not have the final information.
 - Laura Greeley mentioned Roberta, she is a self-proclaimed expert. In an email she admitted that she was asked to write the letter by Tyler Hadyniak.
 - The judge ordered the town to hire a mediator and a surveyor.
 - She said it was a good day for the town because 3-4 of the motions were decided on the side of the residents.
 - Laura Greeley stated that she is very concerned about how much money has been spent on the lawsuit. She has been very

concerned about how much money has been spent. She also tried to come up with a compromise before the lawsuit progressed.

- Derwood Parkinson is the mediator.
- The declarative judgement suit was the first to be received, while the town was responding to that suit, the plaintiffs blindsided the town by filing a summary judgment, which had to be responded to within 20 days. Heather Donahue had done tremendous research and was able to file an affidavit prior to the 20 days. After that Heather Donahue was sued and the town was added as a party of interest. A temporary injunction was filed and a no trespassing order was filed. Then another suit was filed and the town was listed as a party of interest. All of these little things have only increased the time the lawyer has had to spend responding to everything.
- Laura Greeley will ask Bill Kelly about what information will be filed with the mediator.
- Elaine Higgins asked about the cost of this litigation to date for the town.
- Laura Greeley stated that there are three select people who were not mentioned in the letter that was sent to the residents.
- Lawyer receipts were added to date=\$26,959 (that was only 2025) they have not received the recent costs.

3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:

- **Laura Greeley made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Rene Ouellet seconded and all approved.**

4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman

5. Treasurer's Report:

6. Public Works: Loren Fitch

- Loren is gathering information on cost comparisons for repair versus replacement for the trash truck.

7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott

8. Citizens Issues:

- Meredith Coffin feels that the people have not been asked how they felt about the Beaver Ridge Road. Public vs Private. Does the select board know what the whole town feels about keeping the road public or private. In March of 2025 she remembered Laura Greeley mentioning eminent domain. She hopes that we can ask the town what they want to do with the Road.
 - Dylan Turner stated that we have invested \$27,000. Why would we just give the road away at this point?

- Richard Bickford: said we could continue to incur costs so perhaps it is best that we should stop to process.
- Laura Greeley stated that we are now starting at the beginning with a mediator.
- Richard Bickford asked about the survey and this was responded to. Laura Greeley stated that the Attorney has the letter from Roberta. Laura Greeley will give a copy of the email from Roberta to Richard Bickford.
- Laura Greeley would have appreciated them meeting with her prior to sending the letter out to all the residents.
- Ron Price asked if a citizen came in with a personnel question or concern would they be able to come into executive session. Could the citizen ask for an executive session? The response was yes. Ron Price appreciates that foul language should not be used.

9. Review Correspondence:

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess.
- General Assistance Officer: Rene Ouellet
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Johnna Hatt
- Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Hearing for the Event Center will be on November 12th at 6pm and the meeting will follow.
 - Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined
 - Veterans Day Ceremony 11-11 at 11am. There will be a meal after the ceremony and everyone is welcome to bring food and this will occur in the basement of the church.
 - Elaine Higgins is looking for photos and names of any Freedom area residents to be added to the veteran's board. It was suggested that Cindy check the veteran plates in town.
 - Appeals Board: pending new appointment
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee: Laura Greeley

- The first meeting will be on October 23rd at 6pm and will happen on Thursdays. They will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
- Our district Counselman's contact information will be shared by Laura Greeley. They will be moving to a budget that will cover 18 months. The county has not had an audit since 2021. They will be asking for a 5 million dollar increase but have not had an audit in 4 years.
- Cindy Abbott let the SB know that she has told those requesting money from the town as charitable donations that they need to submit their request by 12/1/2025.
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Elaine Higgins
 - Laura Greeley would like to have a discussion about the need for the ad hoc policy committee. She would like the committee to finish the employee handbook. But she is not sure that it is necessary moving forward. She would like it to go on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Budget Committee:
- Comp Plan Committee:

11. Old Business:

- Property Tax Update: Laura Greeley has worked many hours to get the taxes committed. Jackie manually put last year's assessments in. \$17,500 in our homestead exemption. Laura Greeley thanked this past year's budget committee and the past select board. Tax cards need to be included with the tax bills. Rene Ouellet thanked Laura for all her work. He stated that we have not had townwide valuations and we do not have confidence in the valuations across town.
- Term of offices:
 - Peter Abello: for the planning board: term expires on March 2028 at the town meeting.
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to confirm the appointment of Mary Ann Bennett to the planning board for an appointment that will expire in 2026, Laura Greeley seconded the motion and all approved.**
- Special Events Policy:
 - **Rene Ouellet moved to approve the town's special events policy as written, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**

- Rene Ouellet suggested they wait until Lissa returns to review the permit application.
 - Hearing Date: Public Meeting regarding recall. Laura Greeley sent Rene Ouellet an email request regarding his stepping down. Rene indicated that he will not be resigning. He would like to have a public hearing to discuss the recall on Thursday 11-20-2025 at 6pm in the annex. Cindy Abbott will send out the warrant and notification. This will be discussed further at the next Select Board meeting. Laura Greeley will reach out to Mary Ann Kenney to see if she will moderate that meeting.
12. New Business:
- Discuss the re eval process:
 - The individual who did Montville will no longer be doing assessments.
 - Rene Ouellet reached out to 4 different companies. 2 were big and out of state. 2 others were smaller and local. Garnett Robertson, reported that he is involved with doing assessment work in Freedom in the past. \$125-150 per parcel. \$1000 per day of inhouse per month. He could possibly get it done by 2027. It was suggested that we send out a request for proposals.
13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday October 20, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
15. Adjourn: **Rene Ouellet made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm., Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.**

Recording Information:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Kpj3KXxu9VrUdNRv3FrwLIO7xNwIDnqat0ktsZDWrBKOxYO1eRegdYqllYRaNrjn.EvTeBT1iPB7pHyOj>

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