

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 3-25-2024
Approved 4-8-2024

In attendance: Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Jim Waterman, Rhonda Leyden, Jasmine Willette, Joe Freeman, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Steve Bennett, Elaine Higgins, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Kristi Palmer

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
2. Announcements:
 - Grant Committee: Laura Greeley suggested that they create a grant committee.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Heather Donahue made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman asked if there were any updates on the bridge reconstruction. Ryan Willette reached out but has not gotten any feedback yet. Ryan Willette stated that he will contact the state again.
 - King Grant: Jim Waterman has submitted the grant for 7 self-contained breathing apparatus. \$49,000 requested.
 - Need a workshop with Dale Rowley. This will be a review of all the town changes. The select board suggested a Monday morning at 7:30 am.
5. Public Works:
 - Ryan Willette reported:
 - Working on the F350
 - They are addressing the MMA concerns.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Payroll Warrant = \$ 6406.63 A/P Warrant = \$ 70,325.35
 - Kristy Palmer and Laura Greeley went to the banks and changed the names on the accounts.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign and pay the combined A/P Warrants = \$70,325.35 and the Payroll Warrant = \$ 6406.63, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Maine Trust invoices \$73.47, they will hold this for clarification from Alexis Bennett
 - WC 2023 Audit refund from MMA for \$409
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Port o Potty estimate was presented:

- Ryan Willette made a motion that they sign an order form for AAA Portable toilets of Albion for 2 handicap toilets, one at the park and one at the boat launch as budgeted, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved. To be installed after 4-1-2024
 - Dan from Trio called regarding a ticket placed a year ago. The commitment was completed twice and they are going to test the system to check the fix.
 - Boston Cane: it is a cane that was given to the oldest citizens in town. Ryan Willette offered to sponsor this one. Cindy Abbott provided the Selectboard with the information.
 - Mailing: they were going to do a mailing today or tomorrow.
 - The Bunny Hop and the Eclipse Party were information that were going to be included in this mailing.
8. Citizens Issues and Questions:
- Steve Bennett stated that he is concerned about the comments that have been made in terms of the charter. He presented and read the appropriate sections from the appeals board ordinance, that is the most recent. Based on this the appeals board has a great amount of power to address a number of applicable town issues. Conflict of interest is written well into the appeals board ordinance. What is not there is a process to bring an appeal. The charter put a process in place. Heather Donahue asked what Steve's opinion was about the application for the appeal. He provided the Selectboard with the form that the town lawyer had reviewed.
9. Review Correspondence
- Thank you from New Hope
 - Letter from Eleanor Mc Mackin was received regarding Laurie Burgesses' visit to the select board.
 - Efficiency Maine: regarding heat pumps, heat pumps cannot be your primary heat source.
 - IRS: there are still outstanding balances back to 2019. This has been forwarded to Ron Smith.
 - Peace Ridge Sanctuary filing for an exemption from local tax. There was an invitation for the select board to visit the property. They included the court conclusions from their case with Brooks. Pilot program: payment in lieu of taxes (Steve Bennet clarified the previous proposal from Peace Ridge).
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to ask Atty. Kelly about the offer to visit the Peace Ridge Sanctuary.
 - Atty Kelly suggested that they visit the property.
10. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
 - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
 - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette

- Ryan Willette is trying to put a hygiene cabinet together. He will work with some local vendors to do this.
 - Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Joe Freeman has requested a new coat, which is part of his safety gear.
 - Google Fi is out for the phone.
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board:
 - Their meeting for tomorrow is canceled.
 - Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Anyone who wants to come and decorate their cars and hand out candy are welcome to do so.
 - The Eclipse Party- upcoming
 - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
 - Meeting on 4-1-2024 6pm
 - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Reading per month either at the town house or grange hall
 - It appears that we won the grant from the feds.
 - Laura Greeley stated that she had read it in the paper.
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee:
 - Once Vernice and Kristi meet they will schedule the next budget committee meeting.
 - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
 - Steve Bennett will be chairing this temporarily. 4-3-2024 is their next meeting. He would like the select boards input.
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - Meeting at 6pm. This evening.
 - Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
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 - High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:
 - All 3 bills have passed.
- 12. Old Business:
 - The select board will discuss the spring clean-up at their next workshop.
 - Laura asked if Ryan Willette wrote to the program they are looking to join. He is waiting for information from Cindy Abbott.
- 13. New Business:
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to have Ryan Vines set up a municipal google work space at the price of \$200 for initial set up and \$7 per account and 7 email accounts to be administered by Ryan Vines, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Keeping in mind that his rates on our existing services will go up by an estimated 15% this year.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday April 8, 2024. 6pm
15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:00 am on 4-1-2024
16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at 5:45pm, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.