

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 8-7-2023
Approved 8-14-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Laura Greeley, Meredith Coffin, Joe Freeman, Kyle Price (via zoom), Dillon Turner, Brian Murphy, Bob Kanzler, Heather Donahue, AnneMarie Adamson (via zoom), Pamela Hermon (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.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the meeting minutes as amended, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
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4. Public Works Director Report: Ryan Willette reported
 - o Isaiah is working on cleaning up and the work bench is made
 - o Purchasing rip rap this week
 - o Has been working on the Mitchell Road around the bridge.
 - o Will be purchasing gravel and erosion control mix for Mitchell Road and Beaver Hill.
5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
 - o Payroll warrant \$7954.57, A/P warrant: 8,934.81
 - o Camden National \$136,948.84
 - o Checkbook still from \$208,995.80 from March
 - o Workers comp refund \$1623
 - o Excise tax report for 2022 under \$86000, this year \$86700 to date
 - o Elaine Hlggins asked if they had heard from Ron Smith, the accountant. Steve Bennett stated that he would call him tomorrow.
 - o Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the payroll warrant \$7954.57, A/P warrant: 8,934.81, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
7. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - o Elaine Higgins: the policy committee needs permission to speak with the drug testing company.
 - o The boardwalk in front of the Meeting house needs to be repaired. One board has rotted through and the door on the left has a tripping hazard as it has dropped. By September 9th it needs to be repaired as Tyler Hadyniak will be doing a reading. Ryan Willette will look into the repairs and materials.

- Tyler Hadyniak sent the select board an email with proposed survey information. Ryan Willette said that he had received it.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they accept the survey information as stated by Tyler Hadyniak for the upcoming election with the stated correction, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- 8. Review Correspondence
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- 9. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official:
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Plumbing Inspector
 - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 10. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
 - Planning Board:
 - Tyler Hadyniak: Hopes that people come to the meeting tomorrow. He encouraged people to think about their questions ahead of time.
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Still working on the park and have cleaned up.
 - Wood chips for the playground.
 - Cleaning it up for the field day
 - Looking for volunteers on the 19th
 - Steve Bennette asked about the foundation. Ryan has spoken with Rita Doughty and the Freedom Academy; people appear ok with cleaning up the foundation. They would like to save the steps. Ryan will speak with the alumni again. Steve asked if anyone knows what happened to the wrought iron archway that said freedom park.
 - Appeals Board:
 - Charter Committee
 - Historical Society:
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee: we do not have the final audit.
 - CDAC Committee:
 - Broadband Committee:
- 11. Old Business
 - Email from Phil Bloomstein: Broadband is getting closer to a determination. Next grant August 15th. Meeting weekly with Direct Communications. Talking with another vendor as well. Weekly meetings with Maine Connectivity to explore options. Municipal waste. Hamden has

done a run with garbage. Waiting for the new tipping fees. Recycling has hired a part time manager.

- Meredith Coffin asked how the upcoming changes will impact the budget.
- Steve reported about the 2 CD's and is looking into how to combine them if possible. One comes due on August 16th. The other comes due in August of 2026.
- DM and J contract to demolish the Fisher house was modified for \$14,000 and they are going to try to get the work done this month.
- Appeals Board vote: should the vote be before the charter vote or after. Vote for the added two members this month and then have the charter amendment vote in November. He suggested having a hearing at 6pm on August 28th and have a vote, then have the selectboard meeting. Meredith Coffin asked if the hearings could be combined. Steve Bennett was concerned that it might be confusing to combine the two.
- Taxes: discussion with Jackie and hoping to commit taxes by the 23rd of August. The town budget is higher this year by about 130,000. Revenue sharing has increased to 20,000. Base lot figures were increased, as was the waterfront property. Steve Bennett said he does not anticipate the mill rate going up more than 1 point.
- Laura Greely asked about the final audit review with Ron Smith. She is concerned with how long it has taken to get this meeting scheduled. Steve Bennett will call them tomorrow morning. She mentioned the money that we had paid per month for everything to be followed up on and have those things been fixed. Ryan Willette stated that Karen has been meeting with Cindy.

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12. New Business

- Steve Bennett made a motion to have Beth and Cindy work together to update the zoom and wix contract for the town, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to renew our contract with State Surplus, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to add Isaiah Humphrey to the state surplus contract so he can make purchases as well, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett made a motion for Elaine Higgins to contact DISA to get information on policy development, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to open a Home Depot account in the town's name, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Meredith Coffin asked about voting for the charter amendment. Steve Bennett stated that he would like to have the vote on adding members to the charter committee. Steve Bennett stated that he will review the information Meredith submitted.

- Steve Bennette made a motion that they go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E at 7:16 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved. Came out of executive session at 8:22pm and no decisions were made.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday August 14, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.