

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 3-11-2024**  
*Approved 3-25-2024*

**In attendance:** Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Tyler Hadyniak, Jim Waterman, Nathan McCann, Rhonda Leyden, Josh Brugger, Brian Murphy, Jasmine Willette, Elaine Higgins (via zoom), Kyle Price (via zoom), Dillon Turner, Joe Freeman, Meredith Coffin (via zoom), Joe Sears, Jake Bryant, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - Laura Greeley welcomed Heather Donahue to the Select Board.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion that Laura Greeley be made the chairperson of the select board, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Laura Greeley made a motion that they go into executive session for 1 MRSA 405 (6) A, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - They came out of executive session at 6:44pm and concluded with the first issue, and acknowledged errors with the select board report and will acknowledging that with the planning board tomorrow evenings. In the second session they clarified the treasures position.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to appoint Kristy Palmer as the Treasurer for the Town of Freedom, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - As per that motion Kristy Palmer appoints Bernice Boyce as her deputy treasurer.
  - Laura Greeley stated that they will be asking all committees to create a quarterly newsletter.
  - Laura Greeley also stated that there were concerns about the workshops and they will take notes and share them at the next meeting.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Laura Greeley seconded and Heather Donahue recused herself due to not being at that meeting.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
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5. Public Works:
  - Ryan Willette reported:
    - Working on F350, the turbo was not working
    - Working on Ayer Ridge Road
    - Davis Road held up

- Rollins Road did not fare well, will run the grader there when it dries.
  - Sand pile is looking good
  - Worked on the trash truck
  - Elaine Higgins let them know about the tree on Town House, Ryan Willette had already taken care of reporting it.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - Payroll Warrant = \$12,125.53 A/P Warrant = \$ 26,789.69
  - Camden National = \$560,653.84 (3-11-2024)
  - Elections- Rene Ouellet, Katie McDonald and Sean Murphy all donated their hours for working at the Election Hall counting ballots both on Tuesday and Friday with a total hour of 2 each.
  - Library Pass for the Botanical Gardens- will be available starting May through October. Please call Cindy 382-6177 or email [freedomclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:freedomclerk@yahoo.com) for scheduling.
  - Received 2 checks:
    - 1st EQ shareowners' services in the amount of \$70.20 for Black Hills Corp.
    - United States Postal Services in the amount of \$884.17 for rental fee.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to sign and pay the A/P Warrant = \$ 26,789.69 and to extend the signing of the payroll warrant until tomorrow morning 3-12 so it can be reviewed for accuracy, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - Joe Freeman: asked what they are going to do with the Raven Road. It is currently closed. Once it is dry they will grade it and it was approved at the town meeting to repair the road. Stone will be laid once the road work starts.
  - Jake Brugger: asked about the office hours and the oversight that the town has. He stated that under section 203 that the select board has supervisory responsibility for all departments. Laura Greeley responded to the question, providing information from a variety of sources.
- 9. Review Correspondence
- 10. Town Officials Reports
  - Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
    - Jackie will be stepping away from the job for an unspecified period of time. This position will have to be filled fairly quickly. Cindy Abbott is certified as a CEO. Atty Kelly is looking into whether Cindy could hold the job at the same time as the clerk job.
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
  - School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
  - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette

- Laura Greeley made a motion to nominate Ryan Willette as the GA officer, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved. Ryan Willette then appointed Cindy Abbott as the assistant GA.
  - Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
  - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
    - Spring Clean Up: May 6-17, 2024 The refuse should go in front of each person's property. Further planning needs to occur and the notification letter needs to be updated.
    - They will continue with stickers for now. Ryan Willette suggested ordering more stickers.
  - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
- 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:
  - Planning Board:
    - A solar survey has been created.
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the solar ordinance survey and put it out to the people, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
    - Heather Donahue made a motion to set up a free survey monkey account for the survey, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
    - Meeting Wednesday at 3
  - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
  - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
    - No changes or updates.
    - Reading this summer at the Grange Hall.
  - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
  - Budget Committee:
    - As soon as Vernice and Kristy enter the new budget they will set up a meeting.
  - CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
  - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
  - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
    - A meeting coming up and they will continue to work on policies.
    - Ryan Willette made a motion to continue with our current policies until policies are updated, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
    - Montville selectmen reached out about their school. The selectboards will be getting together to discuss their concerns and then approach the school board.
    - Select Board Members have been asked to participate in the budget creation for the schools.
  - High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:
    - 2 bills are coming up and the steering committee is following these.
- 12. Old Business:
  - Cell phone for trash truck, Heather will contact Ryan Vines.

### 13. New Business:

- Laura Greeley spoke about the supervisory role of the Select Board for town officials. She has reached out to MMA, and has the information provided by Josh Brugger. She reviewed the information from MMA. They did not have the right to make the offer to not have Cindy working on Saturdays. Decisions need to be made based on the position, not the person. Based on the information presented in the town charter it appears that the select board does have supervisory rights. MMA is reviewing all of this. It does not have to be a salaried position; it can be hourly.
  - She asked if there should be an ordinance that specifies the hours and manner of payment.
  - Heather Donahue asked how other towns handle treasurers and clerks. Laura Greeley stated that they are appointed or there are conditions.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion that they begin to develop/draft an ordinance for the town office for hours of operation standards, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette stated that the boiler needs to be addressed at the town office. Ryan Willette has two electricians set up to make bids to run a cord to the generator and the boiler. They are welcoming bids
- Ryan Willette made a motion that Beth Owen-Mishou set up a bidding process for the electrical system/ boiler for the town office, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette will provide her with the necessary information.
- Ryan Willette stated that a new gage needs to be installed in the oil tank for the voting annex. Ryan Willette will call.
- Heather Donahue made a motion that Ryan Willette contact Haskels to fill the oil tank and replace the gage, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday March 25, 2024. 4-6pm

15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:48 am on 3-18-2024

16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, at pm, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.