

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 1-29-2024**

***Approved 2-12-2024***

**In attendance:** Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Meredith Coffin, Heather Donahue, Rebecca Harris (via zoom), Pam (via zoom), Ellie Hess, Rene Oulett, Tyler Hadyniak, Brian Murphy, Brian Fuller, Sue Beery, Tom Berry, Shawn Lamoureaux (Gannon), Prentice Grassi

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:55pm.
2. Announcements:
  - Received a call from the Chair of the Board in Brooks regarding fire protection. The cost for fire protection has increased and will increase incrementally during the next 3 years.
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 all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Jim Waterman submitted the contract for the Town of Knox.
5. Public Works Director Report:
  - Ryan Willette reported:
    - Plowing and sanding is happening regularly
    - Head work on the 1 ton needs to be done
    - Elaine Higgins asked about the roads being scrapped. Ryan Willette reported that they are aware and are going to check the blade on the truck.
    - Laura Greeley asked about Doug Thomas, Ryan Willette said they had not contacted him yet.
6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott
  - Payroll Warrant = \$8548.92 A/P Warrant = \$ 71,856.41 (1) A/P Warrant = \$5,009.66 (2) (for 2023)
  - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance (2023)
  - Camden National = \$249,301.50 as of 1/29/2024
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$8548.92, A/P Warrant = \$ 71,856.41 (1), A/P Warrant = \$5,009.66 (2) (for 2023), Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
  - Gorham Savings Bank- town received the title 2002 Ford F550SU, it was paid off and we now have the title. (fire dept vehicle)
  - Bangor Payroll needs more documents.

- Received 2 checks:
  - State Revenue Sharing: \$14,827.50
  - United States Postal Services: \$884.17
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
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- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
  - Rene Oulett would like to attend the moderator training.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to send Rene Oulett to the moderator training through MMA for \$40, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
    - February 21 at 6pm there will be a candidate's night and they asked if Rene could moderate this.
- 9. Review Correspondence
  - Wednesday Steve Bennett is meeting with MMA Risk Management (Kyle Sheriden) Services.
- 10. Town Officials Reports
  - Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
  - Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
  - Health Official: Patricia Ashland
  - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
    - Reported 3 things that she wanted to bring up.
      - School consolidation: they are looking at Liberty. Pre covid they had 111 students and now they have 51. 11 students go to Mt View. The school in Liberty is very old. The other school they are looking at is Brooks. Pre covid they had 113 and now 86. There are 9 teachers between Brooks and Liberty. If they do the consolidation there would be 6 additional classes at the "complex". With retirements it does not appear that there would be many jobs displaced. Laura Greeley asked about new admin buildings on the campus? There is a space that can be added on to. Some covid money was used to complete the bus garage.
      - Working on a behavioral program. Ryan Willette asked if this was so the children currently outplaced could be served in the district. The new program would address 6 students in the fall.
        - Rene Oulett asked if the opening for superintendent has been filled. There is an interim.
      - The interim superintendent is working out well and is proposing a smaller administrative team.
  - General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
  - Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
  - Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
  - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
    - Ryan Willette made a motion that we sign a contract with the PAWS Animal Adoption Center in Camden in the amount \$1400 to cover the year of 2024, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.

## 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
  - A workshop has been requested to review the ordinance. Laura Greeley has concerns about having this done before the 13th. Tyler Hadyaniak was concerned that the moratorium for solar arrays may impact a homeowner using a ground mount. The planning board felt that they could move forward with the ordinance as it stands. The planning board would like residents to come to meetings or read the minutes on line.
    - Meredith Coffin would like a copy of the proposed solar array ordinance.
    - Brian Murphy suggested that someone should moderate a joint meeting between the planning board and select board.
    - Heather Donahue suggested a survey on solar arrays for the citizens.
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
  - Winterfest
  - Fishing Derby
    - Steve Bennett made a motion that Cindy Abbott and Ryan Willette sign the paperwork to allow a fishing derby, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
  - Freedom Follies: still looking for performers, they should reach out to Prentice.
  - Winterfest, February 17th tentative date
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee:
  - Wednesday evening 6pm at the town office
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
  - Met last week and interviewed the company from Bangor for an environmental analysis of the cannery lot.
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
- Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:
  - Still meeting on Wednesdays to be on top of upcoming legislation.

## 12. Old Business

- Personal Property Tax: 8 years ago they decided to not assess personal property tax. The state assessed the town of Freedom \$400,000 for personal property tax. We are not going to charge our citizens personal property tax.
- Camden National has a sweep account that will contain our regular checking account and an isc (insured sweep cash account) that will make 5%. There will be no fees.

- Ryan Willette made a motion to sign a customer profile form with Camden National Bank and an Assured Sweep Cash Account and the Treasury Management Master Services Agreement, IntriFi Network Deposits Agreement, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

13. New Business:

- Ryan Jackson: new community development for Waldo Cap. The level of support is less than prior to covid. He is trying to create a whole family approach. He is trying to come up with ways to help all the communities. A hand up not a hand out. He is trying to coordinate with other agencies. He reviewed some of the services available. He spoke of coming out to the town office once a month.
- Hillary Flemming passed away yesterday.
- Committee reports for the town report are due by the 12th of February.
  - Cindy Abbott mentioned the cover.
- Steve Bennett made a motion to direct Cindy Abbott to call Ryan Vines to phase out the email addresses to webmail, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Agreement between the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department and the Town of Knox.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion that we sign the agreement with Knox for fire protection, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday February 12, 2024. 6pm

15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:30 am on 2-5-2024

16. Adjourn: Steve Benett made a motion to adjourn, at 9:00 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.