

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 9-5-2023
Approved 9/11/2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak, Renee Oulet, Jim Waterman, Willa Dibner, Michael Smith, Laura Greeley, Meredith Coffin, David Spencer, Brian Murphy, Jacob Brugger via zoom, Rick Girrioux, Joe Freeman, Kyle Price (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 6:50 pm.
2. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
3. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Damage by carpenter ants on one of the walls on the fire house. 6 x 8 feet of the wall. They are removing the windows to do the repair.
 - 3 car accident at Hilltop. The town tanker oil filter rusted through and left oil on the road. \$2200 worth of repairs needed to the truck.
 - Ryan Willette asked how Unity has been doing. Jim stated that it was the first time they had trouble with Unity getting to the site of the accident. Steve asked how long it took? Liberty Ambulance did not show for this situation.
4. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported
 - Loren Fitches first day, Ryan Willette started orienting him today.
 - Grading in Unity today. We have 40 hours of work there so far. Rate \$6000 approx so far. When we are done it should be about 1-2\$ thousand profit.
 - Grader needs some minor repair.
 - Meredith Coffin asked if we should be sending out this older equipment and perhaps we should save it for our purposes in town. Ryan responded that our equipment may be older but it is easy to fix and it is consistent. She asked if there is a limit to the amount of money we can take in? The response was no.
 - The body is on #3. A lot of work needs to be done on that truck. Hydraulic hoses need to be changed.
 - Truck #8 could be used for parts. Bo Spaulding does plowing for Knox. He has an international with head gear and wing post. He would donate it to the town if the town would write him a letter of donation. This would allow truck 8 to remain as a dedicated plow truck.

- The body that came off the Sterling could go up for a closed bid with a reserved bid. It may be worth up to approximately \$10,000
- The one ton has lost the head gasket. The cab is rusty but the truck is fixable. The head gasket work is very expensive but can be done at public works. Ryan Willette is willing to donate many of the parts. He will gather prices on the remaining parts needed. When fixed it could last another 10 years. He feels we are better off fixing the truck as opposed to replacing it.
- Steve Bennett thanked Ryan and the staff at the public works for their knowledge and work completed. He also mentioned that we are doing well with the public works budget.
- New sterling dump will be done this coming week. The sand pile will be filled up.
- There are some bolt bins that are useless and will not be used. Ryan suggested that we sell these and put-up racks with the materials that we would actually use.
- Steve Bennett asked about the tool inventory, both what we have and what we need. He asked when we would start our road work. Ryan responded that as soon as the sand pile is completed if not next week or the week after.
- Jacob Brugger: mentioned that John can take a look at the bolts.

5. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott

- Payroll warrant \$6969.51, A/P warrant \$20,998.15:
- Camden National \$ 248,003. 80
- Checkbook still from \$208,995.80 from March
- 2 abatements, 3 abatement requests
- Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll warrant \$6969.51, A/P warrant \$20,998.15, Steve Bennette seconded and all approved.
- Cindy will be attending a payroll course on Friday and then will be on vacation for a week.
- There is a nomination form for MRC to fill 3 board member seats.
 - Steve Bennett asked if any citizen would be interested in serving on the MRC committee.
- We received a letter from Gorham Savings Bank for paying off the lease.

6. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott

7. Citizen's Issues and Questions

- Merideth Coffin asked if a 706 A letter to the windmills would be sent in January, as Steve mentioned at the end of the last board meeting. A request was put in, in late July. Resubmitting it in January would allow us to know about the ownership since it was purchased on April 5th.
- Rick Girroux: asked if the town is selling the granite that is on the property that is being torn down. Steve stated that he felt that, they are going to hand it over to the historical society.
 - Steve Benett made a motion to give the granite to the historical society, Ryan Seconded and all accepted.

8. Review Correspondence

- Email from the postmaster: She asked if people could be reminded in the next town mailing that they should not put their trash in the path of the mail carrier. Cindy will do this. Steve Bennett will write something up and email it to Cindy. regarding one sticker, one bag and not blocking the mail boxes. Elaine Higgins: feels it should be one sticker, one bag.
9. Town Officials Reports
- Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Health Official:
 - School Board Director: Elenore Hess
 - Current superintendent resigned; they are currently interviewing for a new superintendent.
 - 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: Meeting next week on the 12th. They are working on a solar farm ordinance. The LS Power survey, the mailing was not revised to reflect when those surveys were due by. Tyler feels that there should be a return date for the surveys. He suggested that they have them completed by 9/30/2023.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to make the end of the survey for 9/30/2023, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Tyler has volunteered to review the surveys and collate the results.
 - Steve Bennett stated that he thinks it should come to a vote.
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Jacob Brugger: There is still trash in the shed. He donated some new swings and materials to update the snack shack. They will also be donating a window.
 - Appeals Board:
 - Charter Committee
 - Historical Society: Eliane Higgins asked if the boardwalk has been replaced. Ryan said he will take care of it before Saturday. Ryan will have Jeff mow the lawn before Saturday. Still waiting on a federal grant for Keen Hall.
 - Cemetery Committee
 - Budget Committee: Met last week.
 - CDAC Committee:
 - Broadband Committee:
11. Old Business
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12. New Business
- Candidate night Thursday Night at 6pm. Rene Outlet will moderate. Election will be on September 19th through a secret ballot.

- Money acquired through the Fisher lot sale was discussed, regarding where that money should go. Should we have a reserve fund moving forward to help deal with other blighted properties.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that Rene be given a key to the voting hall, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett made a motion that they provide 2 keys, one to Alyssa Brugger and one to Jasmine Willette for the snack shed, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Warrant for a special town meeting before the select board meeting on 9/25/2023 starting at 9 am. Steve Bennett made a motion for a special town meeting on 9/25/2025 at 6 pm for the amendment to the town charter, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Steve Bennett made a motion to amend the charter by removing the highlighted portion under section 204, so that it does not contradict the rest of the charter, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Abatements:
 - Joe Freeman: wrong dimensions \$3100, \$77.77. Steve Bennett made a motion to grant this, Ryan Willette seconded and all agreed.
 - Charlie Knight: building no longer exists. Ryan Willette made a motion to sign this, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Homestead abatement, paperwork was lost by the town office and they can:
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they sign the abatement request which reflects the acceptance of their homestead exemption which is \$512.50, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Steve Bennett made a motion that they sign the abatement request for Brandon Suitor which reflects the acceptance of their homestead exemption which is \$512.50, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

13. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 11, 2023. 6pm

14. Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.