

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 6-26-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jasmine Willette, Elaine Higgins, Nathan McCann, Tyler Hadyniak, April Turner (via zoom), Cindy Abbott, Bob Kanzler, Trudy Price, Laura Greeley, Anne-Marie Adamson via zoom, Ron Littlefield, Nancy Farrar, Meredith Coffin, Kyle Price, Barbara Littlefield, Ron Littlefield, Isiah Humphrey, Aubrey Humphrey, Tim Biggs, Susan B. via zoom, Dylan Turner, Kyle Turner

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

- Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Steve Bennett called the meeting to order at 6 pm
- Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and put on file, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
- Select Board went into executive session at 6:09 pm for 1 MRSA 405 (6)
A. Returned at 6:15pm. No conclusions were made.
- Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - CPR training tonight
 - Class Tues July 11th training on Critical Infrastructure Briefing from 6-8pm
- Public Works:
- Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott payroll warrant = 44,206.04, a/p warrant \$10,193.81
 - March cash balance= \$208,995.80 in checkbook, Trio error still not fixed.
 - Camden National Balance = \$181,038.71 as of 6/26/23
 - Employee folders had been ordered
 - Received a check from the Treasurer State of Maine for revenue sharing.
 - Next week she will present a contract from Pitney Bowes for a postage meter.
 - Steve Bennett has asked that the word budget be changed. Cindy said that Karen needs to change it.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the payroll warrant = 44,206.04, a/p warrant \$10,193.81, Steve Bennett seconded and all approved.
 - Cindy Abbott mentioned that the boat landing porta potty needs to sit higher due to the amount of water. Ryan Willette will contact Bill to see where he suggests putting it.
- Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - No reports this week.
- Citizen's Issues and Questions:
 - Ron Littlefield was notified today that there is no trespassing on the portion of Beaver Ridge Road that town no longer maintains. Steve

Bennett stated that it is contentious and that he can't say whether it is closed or not. It is a private issue. Steve encouraged him to speak with the people who put the sign up. Bob Kanzler asked if the town had ever voted to close that road. Steve stated that the road had been discontinued by the town. The decision that the select board made was ambiguous. There is a new statute that was implemented 4 years ago that is very complicated. Ryan Willette asked if it was even passable. It was stated that it is not by a vehicle. A hurricane in 1954 gutted part of the road. Laura Greeley mentioned that this came up years ago as well. The town is not maintaining it so it should not be available to the citizens. Nancy Farrar asked what it is going to take to figure this out. Steve said it has been his pet project for a while. It is a state and town issue. Nancy Farrar asked who enforces the law on that road. Steve stated that the town voted 80 years ago to discontinue road maintenance but continue public access and that in order to change that now there would have to be a town vote. 2.5-mile road then next ½ mile about 70 years ago was discontinued for town maintenance with public access, then the other 1,1/2 was abandoned. That last portion qualifies as discontinued by abandonment. Steve presented a list of all the roads in town and their status. How you deal with each portion of the road depends on the statute at that time.

- Bob Kanzler: There is still trash out on the roads. He asked who and how it was going to be cleaned up. Ryan Willette stated that it should be placed in front of the individual's home.
- Review Correspondence
- Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement Officer: Jackie Robbins
 - Emergency Management Officer
 - Waste Management:
 - Health Official
 - Assessors Report
 - Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber
 - Health Committee
 - Planning Board:
 - Tyler Hadyniak reported that they did not meet in July and that they will be meeting again in June. Steve Bennette asked if there would be solar arrays on good ag land. Tyler said there are criteria to putting arrays on ag land.
 - Recreational Committee:
 - Meeting first Sunday of July at 4pm
 - Appeals Board:
 - Charter Committee: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Website has been updated.
 - There is a conflict of interest in the conflict of interest section and they are looking into it to determine how to correct it.
 - Historical Society

- Cemetery Committee:
 - Someone called to ask why flowers were cut in the Montville Cemetery. Elaine Higgins reported that the flowers were clear cut with a hedge trimmer. She feels that this is disrespectful.
- Budget Committee:
- CDAC Committee:
 - Ready to put some grant applications in.
- BroadBand:
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- School Board: Elenore Hess
- Old Business:
 - Meeting with the auditor is Thursday, June 29th at ?
 - Ryan Willette met with the select person in Unity, Tony Avilla. He has been in contact with the president of Unity College. At this point Unity College has not been contacted by anyone yet to do this. The town of Unity is concerned. Tony's concern is that Portland is trying to move many people who are homeless, that are not asylum seekers (those from another country). Ryan will make another document available from other organizations that was presented to Unity College.
 - Ryan Willette did some research on 706-A. He presented the state statute. He will post this in the town office. He feels that we had a deal with Beaver Ridge Wind but they have sold it and no one contacted the town to tell us that it had been bought out. The current owners have not contacted the town. He feels it is a new ball game now that there is a new owner. We should get the standards set right moving forward. He feels that the evaluation could go up or it could go down. Nancy Farrar asked if this new evaluation should be regardless of the cost. Ryan Willette stated that no, he wants to see the results of the 706-a. At this time we do not even know who to send a tax bill to. Steve Bennett stated that the select board would make the decision to go forward. Nancy Farrar asked if the town would be consulted if there was going to be a significant cost to the town to move forward. Steve Bennett reviewed previously made statements regarding ongoing tax relief. He stated it is all about taxes to him. In 2008 we added 9 million dollars to our town assessment. He feels that everyone should be treated the same and treated fairly. Steve Bennett stated that no money was spent out of legal expenses to determine the value of the turbines.
 - Elaine Higgins stated based on the town budget of 8,000 for legal expenses, how much more will be spent on legal expenses. 16,000 has been used for legal fees at this time.
 - Ban Kanzler asked if the water turbine to The Lost Kitchen, sell electric back to CMP. Steve Bennette stated that he believes that the net metered is turned back to the owners. He is not sure if it has been assessed. Ryan Willette stated that Ron Price had reported that it has not been assessed.

- Trudy Price asked if the taxes paid by Beaver Ridge \$140,00 per year have decreased the average town's person 2 mills less per year. Steve Bennett said that that was true when the deal was originally assessed. She asked if it was the Select peoples goal to assess the value of the mills. Steve Bennett brought the conversation to an end.
- New Business:
- Date of Next Meeting: Monday July 3, 2023 at 6pm
- Adjourn: Steve Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:13pm. Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.