

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 1-2-2024
Approved 1-8-2023

In attendance: Steve Bennett, Ryan Willette, Laura Greeley, Cindy Abbott, Beth Owen-Mishou, Elaine Higgins, Jim Waterman, Joe Freeman, Peter Nerber, Jane Williams, Tyler Hadyniak (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 6:02pm.
2. Announcements:
 - 1-3-2023 at 11 am the Select Board and Vernice will be having a zoom call with a representative of Bangor Payroll services. It will be an executive session meeting.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Laura Greeley made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Beavers: Ryan Willette continues to follow up on the beaver situation and someone to assist with it.
 - 101 Albion Road, new address. He will provide the information to Cindy.
 - Firehouse filter: Ryan will try to look at it this week.
 - The Siren is back on the Fire house. Mark Letourneau did a great job with this and is responsible for it being fixed.
 - Kelly from Mitchel's Roofing made a platform for it so it could be mounted.
 - Has Brian Murphy contacted anyone about the hazardous planning committee?
 - Fire Protection needs to come and recertify the fire extinguishers. Jim will contact them.
 - Jim asked about a meeting regarding the budget for the fire department. The next meeting is January 10th at 6pm, Jim has requested if there can be a meeting any night other than Wednesday. The 18th or the 25th of January were proposed.
 - Reports will need to be submitted to Cindy by the 5th of February for the annual town meeting.
 - Jim said that he has no outstanding bills that have not been paid but other bills were not posted to the correct accounts.
5. Public Works Director Report:
 - Ryan Willette reported:
 - Working on a culvert on Greeley Road
 - Working on the trucks

- They are going to take a class so they can work on the DOT grant. Laura Greeley offered to help with this as well.
 - Call about Timberwood Lane.
 - Call from Doug Thomas, a Selectman from Montville regarding the crushed stone base.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Cindy Abbott (not present)
 - Payroll Warrant = \$3,895.08 A/P Warrant = \$10,562.16 (1st)
A/P Warrant= \$108.50 (2nd)
 - Ending Checkbook balance \$208,995.80 March Cash Balance
 - Camden National = \$245,830.40 (1/2/2024)
 - LRAP form needs to be signed before the town receives the money.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that the form for the LRAP form be signed so that the funds can be sent to the town, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - 3 abatements, it was one was a bill, for each of 3 years (21,22,23)
 - Waterville Humane Society Agreement needs to be reviewed
 - Samantha Tuner donated her time for counting ballots, a thank you note is being sent.
 - Elaine Higgins submitted her nomination paperwork.
 - Town Meeting: she suggested that someone contact Mike Thibideau or Rene Ouellet to moderate. Steve will call Mike Thibideau first.
 - Thank you note to Mitchell's roofing for the base on the fire house for the siren.
 - Steve Bennett will contact Mount View to reserve the space for the town meeting.
 - Received a check from Gorham Savings Bank check for \$3.02 for lease interest earned.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$3,895.08 and the A/P Warrant = \$10,562.16 (1st) and the A/P Warrant= \$108.50 (2nd), Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - Nomination paperwork needs to be submitted by 1-12-2024.
- 8. Citizen's Issues and Questions
 - Tyler Hadyniak: Freedom now has an effective constitution as of yesterday.
 - Meredith Coffin: Asked how the money from CPV Mountain Holdings, LLC donation of \$3000 would be handled. Ryan Willette reported how GA works. He suggested that the money be put aside in case a resident needed help but did not qualify for GA. She asked if they needed a policy. Elaine Higgins offered to help develop a policy if the select board would begin the process.
 - Pete Nerber: Expressed concern about the Waterville Animal Shelter. There was a long period of time that they were closed and were not able to accept animals. They do not vaccinate upon admission. He spoke with the director of operations in Augusta. He has asked if they would receive Freedom as a new customer. Ryan Willette asked about

the cost for Augusta versus Waterville. Peter will look into that and get back to the select board.

- Elaine Higgins asked about neighbor's dogs on her property. He encouraged her to talk with the neighbors first. He also suggested that she take a picture.

9. Review Correspondence

- Patty Ashland, Meeting on January 8th at 9:30 and Jackie Robbins at 8:00 am that morning.
- 3 abatements to be signed
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to abate account 769 for \$66.50 (21) \$71.75(23), \$67.90 (22), Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Repairs need to be made at the Post Office. Ryan Willette has contacted 3 people and is getting proposals/estimates/bids.
- Transmission ordinance: Steve has emailed his changes: misspelled words, wrong roman numerals, pages are now numbered, 2 ungrammatical sentences were fixed. Bill Kelly reviewed it as well and he made his revisions in red and underlined, Steve's changes were in red. Laura and Ryan will take these home and review them.
- Phil Bloomstein asked where the 8 x 8 shed could be placed, for the cable company.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Jackie Robbins
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Elenore Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
- Plumbing Inspector: Jackie Robbins
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
 - Joe Freeman asked what the allotment for boots is. It does not appear to be a policy. Joe suggests they make a policy on the boots and how often the reimbursement could be used.
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board:
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee:
 - 1-10-24 meeting
- CDAC Committee: Lex Bennett
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - 1-3-2024 6pm
- Education and Enrollment Ad Hoc Committee: Laura Greeley,
 - 1-4-2024 6pm

- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue

12. Old Business

13. New Business:

- Steve Bennett made a motion to take the two bills for electrical and the porta potty, to the amount of \$2547.04, and move them into the recreation committee reserve account and pay for them through that account, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
- Personal Property Tax: Steve will contact Jackie about this. There had been a select board vote. In the past we had voted not to assess personal property tax.
- Steve Bennett asked about filing a 706 A again this year. He will look into it.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that Steve Bennett look into filing a 706 A with CPV Mountain Wind Holdings, LLC, Laura Greeley seconded and Steve Bennette abstained.
- Steve Bennett made a motion to go into executive session for Legal Consultations for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E. They came out of executive session at 8:50pm and no decisions were made.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, January 8, 2024. 6pm

15. Adjourn: Steve Benett made a motion to adjourn, at 8:55 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.