

Freedom Budget Committee Ordinance

As amended December 4, 2019

As amended September 18, 2021

Section 1. Establishment.

Pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. Section 3001, a Budget Committee is hereby established for the Town of Freedom, Maine.

Section 2. Composition; election (appointment); qualifications; terms; vacancies.

The Committee shall consist of 7 members, defined as follows:

Elected Members: The three members of the Select Board will qualify automatically to be members of the Freedom Budget Committee, and will serve as long as they are elected by the town to serve in their primary positions. No other official or employee of the Town may be a member of the committee.

Appointed members: The four remaining members of the committee shall be appointed by the Select Board. Members shall serve terms of 3 year(s).

Beginning with the first meeting of the Select Board following the Annual Town Meeting in 2022, one of the current members will begin a one year term, a second member will begin a two year term, and the two remaining members will each begin a three year term. For transition purposes, the initial terms shall be staggered so that at least one of the appointed member's terms shall expire annually.

Vacancies shall be filled within 10 days by appointment of the municipal officers for the unexpired term.

All members of the Freedom Budget Committee must be registered voters of the town.

Section 3. Officers; meetings; quorum; procedure.

The Select Board shall choose one of its own members at the first Select Board meeting following the annual town meeting to be the Chair of the Budget Committee. The committee shall annually elect a Secretary from among its members.

The Chairman shall call meetings as necessary or when so requested by a majority of members or the municipal officers. A quorum necessary to conduct business shall consist of at least a majority of members. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all proceedings including all correspondence of the Committee. All meetings and

records shall be subject to the Maine Freedom of Access Act, 1 M.R.S.A. Sections 401-410. The Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this ordinance.

Section 4. Powers and duties; authority; recommendations; official cooperation.

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. To prepare the annual operating budget for presentation to the town at Town Meeting;
- B. To review and make recommendations to the Town on annual capital expenditures;
- C. To review and make recommendations to the Town on supplemental appropriations, expenditures and other budgetary actions;
- D. To explore ways and means to encourage business and economic growth within the town.
- E. To make such other recommendations on fiscal matters or matters in the towns best interest as it may from time to time deem advisable.

Any recommendation on a matter requiring town meeting action shall be printed with the article in the warrant and on the ballot, if any, along with such other recommendations as may be included by the municipal officers or required by law. Members of the Committee, elected or appointed, and all other Town officials and employees will cooperate for the betterment of the town.