**Meeting Minutes**

**Freedom Board of Selectmen**

**Date: 3-5-2025**

*Approved 3-17-2025*

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Beth Owen-Mishou, Jim Waterman, Brian Murphey, Meredith Coffin (via Zoom), Heather Omand, Nathan McCann, Kyla Windbloom, Kyle Price, Elaine Higgins (via zoom), Prentice Grassi (via zoom).

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

**Passcode:  TownMeet**

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
	* Laura Greeley made a motion to go into executive session at 6:00 pm for Legal Consultation for 1 MRSA 405 (6) E, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
	* They came out of executive session at 6:35pm, with no decisions made.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary’s Report:
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the minutes from 2-17-2025 with the stated amendments and place them on record, Laura Greeley seconded the motion and all approved.
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the Beaver Ridge Road final deliberation minutes on put them on record with the approved amendments, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to attach Prentice Grassi’s letter to the board to the meeting notes from 2-17-2025, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
5. Public Works:  Ryan Willette
	* Plowing
	* MMA compliance book is being worked on.
	* Laura Greeley asked Ryan Willette to address the fixed asset list for MMA as part of the annual audit.
6. Treasurer’s Report:
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the payroll warrant in the amount of $8,426.95, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the A/P warrant in the amount of $148,906.55, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
	* Camden National Account: $644773.82
	* State of Maine Revenue Sharing: $19,234.13
	* State of Maine Snowmobile Refund $244.94
	* Maine Municipal Audit Refund $927.00
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report:  Cindy Abbott
	* Cash Receipts for February were presented
	* 24 taxes:  78 accounts are still outstanding
	* 23 taxes: 26 accounts are outstanding
	* 22 taxes: 2 are outstanding
		+ There is no address for sending certified mail for these accounts.  Cindy Abbott will check with the post office regarding an address for the owners.
	* Pre Payments: for 2026 were reviewed.
	* Excise Tax: January and February, 25-24 were both presented.
	* Cindy Abbott presented a citizen’s petition for the recall of a Selectman that was addressed to Ryan Willette and Laura Greeley with regard to Heather Donahue.  The petitioners needed 42 signatures and there were over 73.
		+ Laura Greeley read what was submitted:  Meredith Coffin made the petition and it was also circulated by Steve Bennett and Prentice Grassi.
			- Laura Greeley stated that Heather Donahue is not being sued, no select board members are being sued
			- Cindy Abbott stated that Meredith was the sole person behind the petition.
			- Cindy Abbott clarified that it meets all of the town’s requirements of the ordinance.
			- Ryan Willette made a motion to acknowledge the recall as it was presented to Cindy Abbott, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
	* Town Report Update:  They selected the cover. Cindy Abbott is waiting on a few more reports.
8. Citizens Issues:
	* Rene Oulett asked about a plan for the roads in town.  Ryan Willette has a draft of one. It was a 5-year plan and it needs to be updated.  Some of the work has been done and others will be added.  Rene asked about the Town Clerk having been given a $4000 raise as was requested by the citizens during the 2024 town meeting.  Laura Greeley clarified that Prentice Grassi proposed that $12,000 be added.  She further clarified that Cindy Abbott and Laura Greeley collaborated and determined a $30 / hour fee and the town pays 90% of her health care insurance.  Laura Greeley discussed an elected position versus an appointed position.
9. Review Correspondence:
	* There was a letter from the County with an additional $20,000 increase. Laura Greeley called them regarding the reason for the increase.  They stated that the jail “Two Bridges” needs improvements and that was the reason for the increase.  There are 3 members on the county commission, the group that determines this budget.
	* A letter was received from the IRS regarding the towns ongoing tax issues and it appears that the issues that need to be addressed are being addressed.  We have $19793.08 in unpaid taxes due to deal with 941 filings and about $27816.39 in penalties, late fees and interest.  We can ask for abatements on the penalties once it is all paid from 2019-2023.
	* Waldo CAP reached out and called regarding their requests for money.  They did not submit a request for money by the town deadline.
	* Workers Compensation Letter:  A letter was received which indicated that the rate would be approximately $11,000.  Ryan Willette suggested that they reach out and find out if that was the final amount.
	* Laura Greeley received an email back from Peace Ridge.  The attorney provided a letter responding, that they will not agree to a pilot program, and that they would not help us with our shelter costs.
	* Avian Haven has responded regarding a pilot program and Laura Greeley will talk with them soon.
	* Ryan Willette made a motion to table the petition for Heather Donahue until the next Selectman’s meeting, 3-10-2025 at 8am, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
10. Town Officials Reports
	* Code Enforcement:  Cindy Abbott
		+ Has reached out to Atty Kelly but they have not yet decided on a time to discuss the downtown property.
* Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
* Health Official:  Patricia Ashland
* School Board Director:  Eleanor Hess
* General Assistance Officer:  Ryan Willette
* Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
* Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
	+ Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the one-page sanitation report and use it, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
* Animal Control Officer: Meg Anderson
* Town Boards & Committee Reports:
	+ Planning Board:  Tyler Hadyniak
		- Laura Greeley would like to have Tyler Hadyniak purchase the training on his computer so they can view it as a group.  It was also suggested that the appeals board also join them.
		- Laura Greeley asked about the development of the Trailer Park Ordinance.
	+ Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined.
		- $210 was made during the Winter festival
		- Easter festivities need to be discussed
			* Proposed date is the week before Easter, April 12th
		- March 22nd is the proposed date for a Fishing Derby
			* Ryan Willette has a grand prize.
	+ Appeals Board: Michael Smith
	+ Historical Society:  Wilson Hess
	+ Cemetery Committee:  Steve Holmes
	+ Budget Committee: Laura Greeley
		- It was a long budget season.  Things were trimmed.
	+ CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
	+ Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
	+ Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
		- Rene Oulett stated that his emails are not going through to the board, but he is able to send to their private email.
		- The Employee Policy handbook is in draft form and is 24 pages long.  After the town meeting they would like to meet and discuss it.
	+ Budget Committee:
* Old Business:
	+ Easement 15 x 15 area for the Broadband to put a storage building was reviewed.
		- Ryan Willette made a motion to sign an easement for a shelter with Direct Communications, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved. Cindy Abbott notarized the document.
* New Business:
1. Date of Next Meeting:  Monday March 3, 2025 at 6:00 pm.
2. Next Select Board Workshop Monday March 10, 2025 at  7:30 am
3. Adjourn:  The meeting will remain open until 3-10-2025 for a 7:30 am start time.

**3-3-3035 Recording:**

[**https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/hTTr-VpIYx3zOei434f9X3n20uxtncuWOls5lIcFM4JxklC8CLhKLiRPNreXN1Sy.vE7Z2QWsH1QS9mHO**](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/hTTr-VpIYx3zOei434f9X3n20uxtncuWOls5lIcFM4JxklC8CLhKLiRPNreXN1Sy.vE7Z2QWsH1QS9mHO)

**Passcode: 8Ap0eR%E**

**Monday March 10, 2025 7:30 am**

Laura Greeley opened the meeting announcing that due to Ryan Willette being out sick that they will be continuing the Select Board Meeting until Wednesday 12, 2025.

She announced that at 9am there would be an executive session with Atty Kelly.

This meeting will continue as a workshop. There would be no voting today.

**Wednesday March 12, 2025**

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Heather Donahue, Cindy Abbott, Meredith Coffin, Steve Bennett,

Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the recall petition against Select Person Heather Donahue as presented, Luara Greeley seconded and both approved.

Cindy Abbot stated that she had made a mistake and that she had originally said there were 71 signatures and there were 73.

Laura Greeley stated that she wanted to point out that the statement that Heather Donahue was one of the selectmen being sued. The Select Board is not being sued it is the town of Freedom.

Meredith Coffin stated that she agreed.

Heather Donahue stated that she was actually doing her due diligence on behalf of the Select Board, all in her research for the affidavit.

Ryan Willette made a motion to hold a secret ballot referendum vote, pertaining to Heather Donahue’s recall petition, and that will be scheduled for April 23, 8am-8pm, Laura Greeley seconded, all approved.

Ryan Willette made a motion that they sign the secret ballot recall warrant, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

Laura Greeley stated that there will be a Select Board rebuttal to the petition and that Heather will be presenting her affidavit. She is expecting that the individuals who started the petition would join her, if not it would be open to other citizens who may have questions. That will be on the 15th of April at 6pm.

Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.