

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 6-17-2024**  
*Approved 7-1-2024*

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Heather Donahue, Cindy Abbott, Kristy Palmer, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Rene Oulett, Jason Young, Rhonda Leyden, Samantha Turner, Nathan McCann, Elaine Higgins, Tyler Hadyniak (via zoom), Brian Murphy, Kyle Price, Kyle Hadyniak (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 6:08 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Heather Donahue made a motion that the minutes be entered as amended and placed on file, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Accident this am: Tractor trailer hauling water, oncoming car was in the wrong lane. There was a good response from emergency responders.
  - Last Wednesday hose testing was completed in Thorndike, all the ladders were tested. We lost one length of 4" LDH. A length of hose is 100 feet. We lost 2 links of forestry hoses. It will be replaced with regular inch and  $\frac{3}{4}$ , that is available.
  - No word from the Stephen King foundation regarding the grant request.
  - Jim asked if the water was tested in the old landfill. He asked if any water testing is being done regarding the possibility of toxins leaching into the waterway.
    - It was suggested that they do a PFAS water test.
    - Renee Oulett mentioned that he is trained in water quality with lakes in Maine and is concerned with the ongoing health of the pond.
    - Heather Donahue is going to contact the state regarding testing the water in the pond. It was suggested that both the water near the old landfill and the water in the pond itself be tested.
  - Jim asked what the eta is on the key pass for the fuel at Public Works. Ryan Willette stated that they are waiting for the bids to come back and that he continues to monitor this.
  - Jim asked about Davis Road and the beavers. At this time the road is not accessible.
  - There is a current listing of Roads on e 911.
  - He thinks the historical society has a list of all the cemeteries in Freedom. Tommy Elliot made the list of the cemeteries.

## 5. Public Works:

- Fisher Property: clean-up was completed, Ryan Willette asked that the Select Board take a look at it and let him know if there is anything else they want done. Will it be listed and then brought to a town vote, or have a town vote then list it? Ryan Willette suggested we list it then bring it to a town vote so that the town has real numbers when they vote. The granite has been moved to the historical society site.
- Grader motor is back and it was more expensive than anticipated. It was \$3500 above the estimate. The motor will be put in next week. We anticipate starting our summer roads next week.
- Montville was interested in a personnel and equipment swap. Ryan stated that we may be able to do this later this summer.
- The new sterling has been under repair.
- It may save money to haul our own gravel.
- Ryan Willette suggested changing around the budgeting for public works, we need a plow and wing line as opposed to a supply line. He also suggested having a lubricant line.
- 7 and 8 trucks are good trucks.
- Ryan Willette asked if it is the rec department's responsibility to clean up in the community park and the flagpole area or the public works department. The response was that it is the rec department's responsibility.
  - Laura Greeley suggested that we have a community Sunday and ask that volunteers come and help with park clean up.
  - Samantha Turner offered to make a flyer for this. August 4th is the proposed date at 2-6pm. People bring pot luck.

## 6. Treasurer's Report: Kristy Palmer

- Payroll Warrant = \$6,470.80 A/P Warrant (5-23)= \$10,025.30 A/P(5-31) Warrant = \$ \$8,593.01
- Camden National = \$ 501,327.84
- Laura Greeley was able to add the sweep account to the dashboard and gave a link to Vernice.
- Laura Greeley has reached out to Ron Smith to provide us with our past audit.
- Heather Donahue asked why we were over on our copier expenses, Kristy will look into this and let the Select Board know.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$6,470.80, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the A/P Warrant (6-7)= \$10,025.30 A/P(6-14) Warrant = \$ \$8,593.01, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Ryan asked that there be 10 feet between the flag and the pad for the cable. Ryan Willette will reach out to the cable people and let them know. Cindy Abbott mentioned that they need someone to walk with them

and show them where they can install the shed. Ryan Willette said he would do that.

- The porta potty will be emptied and inspected.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- We still do not have the election results regarding the school board election.
  - Cindy Abbott thanked the people who donated their time to count the election results.
  - The office will be closed Wednesday and Thursday.
  - She asked if someone can be here for the meals on Thursday. Heather Donahue said that she can do it and will be here at the town hall from 11-1pm.
  - Heather Donahue asked about the swearing in papers and Cindy Abbott stated that she has them in a folder at her home. She stated that she will bring them in tomorrow.
  - Laura Greeley asked if we could start using the community bulletin board again.
  - Joanne Knowlton's services will be next Saturday at the church.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Jason Young reported that there was a theft on his property in April. The person was in a white Chevy and it had been reported to the police. There is water coming off the road undermining the foundation. He is concerned that a curtain drain is not going to solve the problem. The culvert south of Pleasant Street appears to be where the problem is starting. Ryan Willette stated that he needs to look at the culvert situation. The building has sunk approximately 11 inches. This was an existing issue prior to Jason Young purchasing the property, per his report. The Select Board stated that it is a property owners' issue that the property owner would typically deal with. Ryan Willette asked why the stabilization request was brought to the town if they knew that there was a drainage issue. Jason Young stated that he had let them know that there was a drainage issue. Ryan Willette stated that this was the first time he is hearing about this issue. Ryan Willette asked why are we just hearing about this now when the stabilization plan has been in place. Jason Young plans to file a tort claim against the town due to the water that is flowing under his foundation due to water coming off of the road. Is there proper ditching on that road? Ryan Willette will come and look at the drainage. Jason Young stated that he is concerned that he will not be able to complete the stabilization prior to the deadline due to the water drainage. Jason Young stated that it is possible to stabilize the building.
  - Elaine Higgins asked if Bob Kurek had contacted Ryan regarding trash. Ryan confirmed that they had spoken but he has not heard back from Bob.
  - Elaine Higgins provided the Select Board information on PFAS and solar panels.

## 9. Review Correspondence

## 10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- 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
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

## 11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
  - Next meeting: July 9th
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
  - Pond Day and Field Day will be combined and occur on August 17th.
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
  - Next reading in July 22nd, Reading from the book Nor'easter.
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee:
- CDAC Committee: Steve Bennett
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
  - Rene Ouellet has some policy suggestions that need to be reviewed.
    - He proposed developing a procedure that works for both the committee and the Select Board for reviewing the proposed changes. He suggested a joint meeting and they can discuss the proposed drafts and make the changes cooperatively.
    - It was suggested that there be a meeting every other month and that it be an official meeting so they can vote. There are 5 policies that are ready to be voted on.
    - Ryan Willette suggested a 5pm meeting prior to a board meeting. They will check with Lexi to see if that will work. July 1st at 5pm.
- Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
- High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:

## 12. Old Business:

- Covid Funds: \$5000 was transferred from the emergency fund to the covid funds. Laura Greeley is waiting for a return email so that she can complete the covid paperwork.
- Jackie will be invited to attend the next workshop
- Second request for social security payments were not paid for tax year 2022. Laura will call the IRS and ask what information they need.

- Beaver Ridge Road was addressed. Ryan Willette would like to meet with all interested parties and discuss the concerns. All parties will be invited to come to a Select Board Workshop to address their concerns on July 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 am.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to vote on and approve the wage sheets for 2024, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.

13. New Business:

- Ryan Willette made a motion to approve the Stipulation drafted by the Town Attorney in the pending lawsuit over the Solar Facilities Moratorium Ordinance extension, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Laura Greeley stated that this was a stipulation not a settlement. Our tax dollars paid these legal fees. It was a lawsuit regarding our commercial solar moratorium. She clarified the process that the Select Board had taken to renew the moratorium. She feels that the result was what was offered so money was wasted in this process.
- Unity Recycling needs an alternate member for recycling.
- Delta Ambulance was \$25 per capita and would increase next year. He has not heard back from Liberty yet. Laura Greeley suggested that we speak with Jim regarding the practicality of Freedom having its own ambulance. She will contact Liberty and then come up with a proposal for the next Select Board Meeting.
- Waldo County Budget Committee/ MMA Legislative Policy Committee: voting on membership for both.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday July 1, 2024. 6pm

15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:30 am on 6-24-2024

16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.