

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 10-7-2024

Approved 10-21-2024

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Elaine Higgins, Samantha Turner, Brian Murphy, Jim Waterman, Ellie Hess, Ryan Willette (via phone), [Cindy Abbott](#), Ron Littlefield, Sam Violette

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the Public Hearing to order at 6:01 pm.
 - Residents to share input and comments toward the extension of the commercial moratorium.
 - Ellie Hess: expressed concern about the maximum 21 kw per panel.
 - Laura Greeley asked if her concerns were related to the moratorium of the ordinance itself, as the ordinance is still being developed. If this moratorium is extended then there are only 180 days. Rene has offered to proofread the ordinance.
 - Elaine Higgins asked when it was anticipated that the ordinance would be completed. [Laura Greeley](#) stated that she would like it to be completed at the next workshop. Then Rene would complete the proofreading. Anyone is welcome to join the workshop.
 - Samantha Turner thanked the Select Board for their work and is in favor of the moratorium.
 - Laura Greeley called the hearing for the commercial solar array moratorium to a close.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to extend the commercial moratorium for another 180 days, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the Public Hearing to order at 6:08 pm.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
 - The revision on the minutes for the meeting on 9-23-24 will be held until the 10-21-24 meeting.
 - Heather made a motion to complete the minute revisions for the 9-23-2024 meeting on 10-21-2024, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Truck One is back, the fuel heater replacement could not be found so they by-passed it.

- Waiting for Ayer Ridge addressing.
 - The Lost Kitchen will be having their last market on Saturday October 12, 2024
 - The Thanksgiving and Christmas basket applications are on the website and a paper app is at the town office.
 - \$7000 (approx) was raised at the toll booth fundraiser
 - Ryan Willette asked if Jim found the cones and Jim responded that yes he had.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
- Town House Road is finished.
 - Some turn-arounds are being fixed on the way to Rollins.
 - Smithton needs some grading.
 - Working on sand bids
 - Heather Donahue asked about the ditching on Greeley Road. Ryan Willette reported that they are aware of it and are looking into it, but he did not feel that it was an issue at this time.
 - Laura Greeley asked about the cement on Mitchell by the cemetery. The plan is to take a look at it and assess what needs to be done.
6. Treasurer's Report:
- All of the charitable donations have been done except for 2 that they are having difficulty finding the contact information for. All the other will be going out.
 - Payroll Warrant = \$ 10324.03
 - AP Warrant= \$ 78718.49
 - Camden National = \$
 - Received checks from:
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the payroll warrant \$10324.03 , Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the AP warrant in the amount of \$78718.49, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- 3 Abatement requests:
 - Heather Donahe made a motion to make an abatement for Map 4 Lot 4-1 account 156 in the amount of \$298, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahe made a motion to make an abatement for Map 3 Lot 21-1 in the amount of \$8.51, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahe made a motion to make an abatement for Map 4 Lot 19-1 in the amount of \$259.31 due to there being no building on the property yet a building was assessed, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.
 - Laura Greeley and Heather Donahue asked [Cindy Abbott](#) why citizens only had a year to request an abatement when it is difficult for them to determine what is being assessed without the entire

assessment being provided. Cindy stated that it is also the citizens responsibility to ask for clarification if they are concerned.

- Cindy provided a report on tax receipts for September and year to date.
- She also provided a trash receipt report.
- She reminded everyone that dogs need to be licensed by the end of January and they can start as of October 15th
- 22 taxes, last day to pay is Feb, 9, 2025. There are 17 bills outstanding.
- 23 taxes, 29 bills,
- 24 taxes, 180 bills remaining.
- Pre payments:
- Excise reports for this year and one for last year.
- Absentee ballots are available

8. Citizens Issues:

- Citizen: Issue regarding a subdivision. Resident had reached out to Cindy and the planning board. It has been 6 weeks and he has not heard back from the planning board. August 27 an email was sent to the planning board and he has not received any response. Laura Greeley stated that she would bring it up with the planning board at the meeting on the next evening.
- Elaine Higgins: Trunk or Treat on October 26th she asked the time. Response was 2-4 pm. She also asked about the Veterans celebration. Elaine will check with Paul Flynn regarding organizing the celebration. Elaine Higgins asked for the town to explore a speaker. She also asked about the Veteran posters on signs for Freedom. Laura Greeley said she would reach out to Paul Flynn regarding Veterans day. The rec committee typically does refreshments for this.
- Ron Littlefield asked how he could make a bid on the sand. Ryan Willette suggested he stop by the public works and submit a bid. There is not a procedure in place for submitting bids. We have been taking them informally. The question arose as to whether they had to be advertised. Ryan Willette has contacted area sand pits and gotten bids from those interested. By the 17th all bids should be submitted.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to go into executive session for 1 (msra) for personnel matters, Laura Greeley seconded the motion and all approved.

9. Review Correspondence

- A letter from Dave Bridges regarding the Sandy Pond Dam. Laura Greeley sent a copy to Ryan Willette and Ryan will reach out or go visit with Dave to take a look at it. Ryan stated that there is a plan to address the concerns.
- Cindy got a call regarding the ambulance company. The first meeting will be on the 17th at 6pm at the Thorndike town office. That does conflict with the first budget meeting. Ryan asked if the budget meeting could start at 7.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
 - Closing of the Liberty School and Walker: Cost to keep them open is \$380,000 (approx) Morris: \$579,000 (approx), to keep it open. There will be public hearings to discuss the information provided by the state. December 16th is the target date for the vote. Only the 3 towns that are being affected will be voting.
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - One application which did not go through.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
 - Mtg 6pm Tuesday
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Planning trunk or treat Oct 26, 2024
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to provide candy for the children of Freedom up to \$200, Laura Greeley made a second and all approved.
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)
 - 7pm next Thursday, 10/17
- CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet

12. Old Business:

13. New Business:

- Warrant for a special town meeting and hearing for Monday the 21, 2024. [Laura Greeley](#) will reach out to them regarding the statutory interest and their taking our animals to them. Ryan will for
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to post a warrant for a special town meeting and hearing on Monday Oct 21, 2024 at 6pm, Ryan Willette seconded the motion and all approved.
 - Samantha Turner asked for clarification regarding Peace Ridge. Laura Greeley will make a copy of a letter from one of the commissioners.
- Letter from the state saying that they are increasing our assessment, in Freedom another 18% next year.

- Sample Survey of Polermo's survey for the development of a comprehensive plan. Our comprehensive plan needs to be revised. It was suggested that these be available on election day.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to reproduce the survey and make it available to the citizens of the Town of Freedom as of election day, [Laura Greeley](#) seconded and all approved.
 - They came out of the executive session.
 - Laura Greeley made a motion to increase our 2 public works employees salary by 2 hours per hour, making one the director of road maintenance and repair, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

15. Next Select Board Workshop Monday October 28, 2024 at 7:30 am

16. Adjourn: Heather Donahue made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm, Heather seconded and all approved.