

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 8-26-2024

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Elaine Higgins, Beth Owen-Mishou, Brian Murphy, Clara Alvarez (via zoom), Eleanor Hess, Kyle Price (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 6:10 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - o Received a check from MMA
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
 - o Truck 1: The truck was taken to Freightliner due to some concerns regarding the tires. \$1400 in parts and \$3200 in labor for a total of \$4756 for the repair of the truck.
 - o Tomorrow is the last day of The Lost Kitchen Farmer's Market.
 - o About \$900 was raised through the Chicken BBQ during Field Day.
 - o Jim Waterman asked about a beaver update. No one has heard from Bill Thompson yet.
 - o They are continuing to work on the kitchen at the fire station.
 - o Jim provided some bills for reimbursement.
 - o The lease agreement is on the warrant for this evening.
 - o Lease payments: Jim Waterman would like to have the payments come out of the Capital Reserve Account. A discussion ensued.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
 - o Surfacing Raven Road currently.
 - o Situation on North Palermo: the state wants to close North Palermo between Town House Road and 137 to address the culverts, for a week.
 - o All the equipment is working well.
 - o Brian Nichols (DOT): will be coming to a morning workshop in September to talk about the bridge repair work on 137. The bridge is still in the design phase. It is a box culvert design.
 - o They will be contacting Kronowskis' regarding winter sand.
 - o Fisher Lot: It has not been done yet. Once they are done with the roads they will address the Fisher Lot.
6. Treasurer's Report: Kristy Palmer
 - o Payroll Warrant = \$7,311.36 AP Warrant (8-16)= \$7,838.79 A/P(8-13) Warrant = \$50,522.23 for a combined total of: \$58,361.02
 - o Camden National = \$642,427.05 as of 8-26-24

- Received checks from:
 - State of Maine for DACF in the amount of \$2077.50
 - State of Maine for Tree Growth in the amount of \$4,930.00.
 - State of Maine for Homestead Tax Exemption in the amount of \$62,543.00
 - State of Maine for Revenue Sharing in the amount of \$18,316.75
 - Pitney Bowes in the amount of \$159.54.
 - Combined total=\$88,026.79
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$7,311.36, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the AP Warrant (8-16)= \$7,838.79, A/P(8-13) Warrant = \$50,522.23 for a combined total of: \$58,361.02, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to put \$500 on the Pitney Bowes account, Heather Donahue seconded and all agreed.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Ryan Willette made a motion to abate Jubal Greenwood Map 11, Lot 21 account 472 in the amount of \$2360.81, due to purchasing the property after April 1, 2024, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to apply a supplemental tax Map 11 Lot 21, Francis Walker in the amount of \$2360.81, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Absentee ballots are now available.
 - 23 Liens: One person has paid and they will be filed by 9/3/24.
 - Monday is a holiday and the office is closed.
 - [Cindy Abbott](#) is requesting PTO time on Thursday morning. Laura Greeley asked if there is a deputy clerk who could substitute when Cindy takes PTO.
 - Heather Donahue asked if anyone has contacted us about Rapid Renewal. We paid for this in April and we have still not heard back from Trio.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Elaine Higgins presented information on the next reading at the Town House.
 - Elaine Higgins: mentioned that she made a small sign that says Town of Freedom Meeting House. She asked if next year the town could put on next year's budget to put up a sign that says Town of Freedom Meeting House. Ryan Willette suggested we get a person to volunteer to make a sign.
 - Timberwood Lane Cemetery (Gould Cemetery). There was another road to a cemetery behind Malady's on the Russell Road, and the road was not passable to get to the cemetery. Neither appeared to have been worked on. Ryan Willette will check with Jeff Holmes.
9. Review Correspondence
- [Laura Greeley](#) spoke with Ron Smith and he said he will reach out to Ron Price and Travis Price and he is insisting that the federal taxes have been

corrected. She also discussed the 2023 withholding taxes need to be paid.

- Ryan Willette completed our asset report and it has been submitted.

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - 2 site visits
 - 1st. A lot of automotive tires and there are still more. In this case the town is willing to take tires, if the individuals reach out to public works to arrange a time and they pay for stickers. A lot of progress has been made and the plan will be reviewed in 30 days.
 - 2nd: DEP did not want to show up without an officer present. Cindy has emailed the individual and Waldo Cap with regard to the leach field. Ryan Willette offered to help the individual with the eviction process. They will return in 30 days to further assess the situation.
 - There is e coli and coliform in the stream.
 - Laura Greeley reminded everyone that we should not be saying citizens' names.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
 - Supt Paul Penna will continue for the next school year unless someone else is hired.
 - Sheldon McCormick stated that Freedom had not heard his proposal for school closures. The document was just for a planning committee. Liberty is now down to 27 students. McCormick wants a delay in the closings for another year.
 - In 2017 the paperwork was filed to close Brooks and Liberty schools and build the new building.
 - The School Board is working on communications. To better inform the communities about happenings.
- 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 Haydiniak
 - Meeting tomorrow evening.
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Field Day went well.
 - Halloween Festivities will be planned.
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)

- [Laura Greeley](#) will reach out to have a meeting within the next two weeks.
 - [Laura Greeley](#) will contact Vernice regarding the spreadsheet she is proposing.
 - CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
12. Old Business:
- Peace Ridge: We will need a special town meeting to appropriate the money to reimburse them for their taxes. Laura would like to invite them to this meeting to share with the community what they do.
13. New Business:
- Heather Donahue made a motion to accept Jackie's municipal evaluation report, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 9, 2024. 6pm
15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:30 am on 9-2-2024
16. Adjourn: Heather Donahue made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

Zoom Recording Information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/FN-867UZsmKq1Kenbfo_1O68wcWwT5azwBvBuiGPN9NIhVk8cOW2YDBbafBaqEN2.8RAO8a0Z1kfwdztm

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