

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Freedom Board of Selectmen**  
**Date: 11-4-2024**

*Approved 11-18-2024*

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Brian Murphy, Samantha Turner, Elaine Higgins, Morey Hallett, Joe Freeman, Nathan McCann

**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.
2. Announcements:
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report:
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to approve the minutes from 9-23-2024 as amended, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to enter the minutes from 10-21-2024 as amended, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - The Hunters Breakfast is canceled due to the kitchen not being usable at this time.
  - Jim Waterman provided information on upcoming trainings.
  - There was an ATV fire in Knox.
  - Truck and equipment check tonight at the fire station.
  - Jim Waterman asked if the issue has been resolved with regard to the proposed addresses. It is not yet 180 Ayer Ridge. He has provided addresses for lots in the past.
    - Laura Greeley stated that the individual can apply for a variance. She asked if we have any other lanes in town that are not discontinued roads. Thompson Lane and Getchell Lane both exist but are not discontinued roads.
    - Ryan Willette will contact MMA and ask for an email response.
    - Heather Donahue will contact Atty. Kelly.
  - Brian Murphy asked about the fatalities on 137. Jim said he has not received a follow-up report and that the situation is still being investigated.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
  - 10-28 thru 11-2 repairs were made on vehicles.
  - Grader is doing well.
  - Gravel has been brought back to the shop for turnarounds.
  - Sand deliveries have been coming.
  - Mounted new tires for the trash truck for winter.
  - Finishing the sand pile.

- #6 is getting new springs.
- Grading Town House Road again as well as Raven Road.
- They will try to do the low spots on Rollins next week.
- Rollins and Pleasant Street are targeted to be done next year.
- Greeley Road ditching: there is a plan for cleaning it out temporarily.
- Mitchell Cemetery: Ryan Willette will bring his excavator over and use culverts we already have.
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to do all necessary repairs on the 3 culverts on road next to the Mitchell Hill cemetery, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Ryan Willette asked if the lobby light is off at the Post Office, he will check it out.
- They have requested a laptop for Public Works, Heather Donahue will check with Ryan Vines.
- Ryan Willette made a motion to purchase a laptop new or used for public works not to exceed \$500, Heather Donahue seconded the motion and all approved.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report:

- Payroll Warrant = \$ 11148.19
- AP Warrant= \$516841.33
- Camden National Balance: \$1,314,998.61
- Received checks from:
  - Revenue Sharing \$21417.52
- Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$ 11148.19, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the AP Warrant= \$516841.33, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- The AP warrant is higher due to the school payments being outstanding. Moving forward the school payments will be made on the first Monday of each month. The Select Board will be setting up a binder of due dates for the next Select Board.
- Jim Waterman asked about the chart of accounts line 70. Ryan Willette reviewed this and the Select Board is now aware of the issue.
- Jake from Maine Revenue called and he has been given Contessa's name and contact information. There is now a state of Maine tax portal.
- The state has estimated another 18% increase on tax assessments. Our Select Board is in favor of appealing it. It needs to be filed by November 14th.

#### 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott

- Rapid Renewal: The training will be on the 14th with Dee.
- There are 8 absentee ballots out. They have to be received by 8 am tomorrow morning. We have 638 voters registered.
- Polling time 8am - 8pm.
- Ryan Willette made a motion for [Cindy Abbott](#) to send out the town mailing using the town credit card not to exceed \$70, Heather Donahue seconded the motion and all approved.

## 8. Citizens Issues:

- Veteran's Day: Elaine Higgins has confirmed with the church that it will be available. Ryan Willette will be cleaning the area up on Saturday at 4pm. On Monday, Elaine will be there at 10. Wilson Hess and Steve Bennett will speak.
- Brian Murphy asked about the Unity Ambulance. There will be a meeting this Thursday at the town office in Thorndike. Ryan Willette plans to attend.

## 9. Review Correspondence

- Postcard from Gunner, thanking the town public works for the recent road improvements on Goosepecker.
- Thank you letters from the charitable contributions.
- Morning Sentinel reporter wanting to discuss Freedom.
- Dave Bridges, resident: wrote a letter with concerns regarding Sandy Pond and his opinion about what needs to be done.
- CPV (owners of Beaver Ridge Wind) Have donated \$3000 for heating assistance for any resident needing help.

## 10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
  - Cindy reached out to the Town Atty. and he said that she should have a copy of the consent agreement. She does not have a copy at this time. Atty Kelly should have a copy of the stabilization report and the consent agreement. This is in regard to the Jason Young property. The next step would be to have an executive session and discuss next steps.
  - Laura Greeley asked if we had confirmation that the Greeley property had been served. Cindy said she has a receipt but the date is not viewable on the receipt. She has not had a chance to complete the letter.
    - Samantha Turner expressed concern about the eviction process due to the season.
- 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
  - Meeting on the 12th.
- Recreational Committee: Chair yet to be determined.
  - Great turn out for Trunk or Treat
  - Veterans Day
  - Allysa Brugger has stepped back as the chair of the committee.
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith

- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to provide a key to the annex to Morey Hallett from the Historical Society so that he can access the computer, Heather Donahue seconded the motion and all approved.
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)
  - Had a budget meeting this past week and there will be another next Wednesday.
- CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
  - Public Hearing on November 20th.
  - Meeting on the 6th
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet

12. Old Business:

13. New Business:

- Public Hearing for Solar Ordinance: Monday, December 2 at 6:30 pm in the Annex.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to have a public hearing on December 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm in reference to the commercial solar ordinance, Heather Donahue seconded the motion and all approved.
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to change the time of the Select Board meeting on 12/2/24 to 5:00 pm, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
- The referendum vote for the solar ordinance would then be Tuesday January 21, 2025, Ryan Willette seconded the motion and all approved.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to have the Beaver Ridge Road hearing on the 28th of January at 6pm in the town annex for individuals with last names A- L, Ryan Willette seconded the motion and all approved.
- Heather Donahue made a motion to have a second hearing on Tuesday February 4th 2025 for the Beaver Ridge Road Hearing for citizens with the last name letters M-Z, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday November 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

15. Next Select Board Workshop Monday November 11, 2024 at 7:30 am

16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm, Heather seconded and all approved.