

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 9-23-2024
Approved 11-4-2024

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Brian Murphy, Nathan McCann, Samantha Turner, Mike Therrien, Ron Price, Steve Bennett, Willa Smith, Michael Smith, Kirk Thomas, Bruce Cook (Unity Ambulance)

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Announcements:
 - Town office closed last week of October.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Heather Donahue made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and place them on file, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - Jim Waterman asked about submitting bills. Laura Greeley clarified that Contessa will be available during the day on Mondays.
 - Truck One is out of commission. Parts have been ordered. The additional parts will be approximately \$1000.
 - Addressing for 5 acres on 180 Ayer Ridge. Not enough road frontage for 2 driveways. They would like to call it Country View Lane. Then two numbers can be assigned. Discussion ensued regarding the need for a variance.
 - There was a discussion about road frontage and the need for a variance.
 - [Steve Bennett](#) read our ordinance.
 - Samantha Turner read the definition of Road, Street and Lane
 - Ryan Willette stated that the ordinance needs to be more specific.
 - Laura Greeley asked that our CEO look up the ordinance to determine if creating a Lane works in this situation. It can then be determined if a variance is needed.
 - A subdivision is splitting the lot into 3 lots.
 - Glidden Road also needs a new address.
 - DEP Meeting:
 - The ditch was discussed as well as the wetlands behind the station. Can have 1 x 4-300 square feet. The wood can be cut to the edge of the wetlands. He is waiting for a letter from DEP.

- The toll booth around the fair was very successful. It was set up Friday and Saturday at Knox Church. On Sunday it was a bit away from the church.
 - Jim presented the select board with the prospective addressing ordinance for their review.
 - The beavers on Davis Road are gone. The beaver dam is being dismantled.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
- Unity's roads are all graded.
 - [Steve Bennett](#) asked how much revenue we got from doing Unity's roads. We will bill for approximately \$10,000.
 - Truck 6 (the old Sterling) needs a radiator and a hose.
 - They are heading to Town House Road to finish up
 - Goosepecker Ridge Road is on ledge and needs materials. It will cost approximately \$6000.
 - There was discussion about Mill Street and the surface.
 - Samantha Turner asked about the closed bridge in Albion. It is not scheduled to be fixed by the State of Maine until 2026.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to bill the town of Unity for \$10625 for the grading of their roads, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
6. Treasurer's Report:
- Payroll Warrant = \$7,443.61
 - AP Warrant= \$164,937.37 (9-23)
 - Camden National = \$993,655.99 as of 9-23-24
 - Received checks from:
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$7,443.61, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to pay the AP Warrant= \$164,937.37 (9-23), Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
 - Heather Donahue made a motion to acquire a board authorized credit card with a limit of \$2,500, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Taxes are due next Monday, interest starts next Tuesday, 10-01-2024
 - Neighbor for Neighbor applications are available at the town office and on line.
 - Social Security for the town for 2019, had not been reported to the IRS. She has not heard from the town's auditor. Cindy asked why did our town accountant not inform the town office that all they had to do was go to the social security office and it would be corrected.
8. Citizens Issues:
- Kirk Thomas expressed that he has been listening to the planning board meetings. There have been multiple years for the development of the solar panel ordinance. He would like the process to move faster. He requested that the Select Board write the ordinance.
 - Laura Greeley spoke with MMA regarding the 1000-foot setback and they do not feel that would stand up in court.

- Steve Bennett further clarified the 1000-foot setback.
 - Laura Greeley mentioned developing a land use ordinance.
 - Samantha Turner asked how someone who is appointed is also removed. Heather Donahue stated that a just cause hearing would need to occur and the other option is to just not reappoint.
 - Laura Greeley read an email from the Select Board.
 - Nathan McCann: Mentioned that Moscow, Maine has banned solar arrays.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that the Select Board take back the writing of the Commercial Solar Array Ordinance for the Town of Freedom, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- Brian Murphy: Waldo County Regional Mitigation Plan: FEMA compliant, Hazard Mitigation Plan. Ryan Willette provided a road report. The goal is for the reimbursement from grants. Brian Murphy stated that the request of jobs to be completed can be added to.

9. Review Correspondence

10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - A notice of violation was served to folks on the Greeley Road. They need to clean up the mess they made on the neighbor's property. Our town attorney would like a copy of the violation sent to him. It was requested that Cindy send that to the town attorney, on our next business day.
 - Septic System on High Street is being reviewed.
 - A site visit will occur on Friday on multiple properties.
 - Planning Board: an issue with forms and everything being uniformed. Shoreland Zone is within the Planning Boards purview. The Shoreland Zoning application issued to "The Lost Kitchen" does not have an expiration date on it. Generally applications are for one year. Cindy Abbott spoke with Jackie, Jackie gave him approval to start his project.
 - The planning board will be asked to update their forms with expiration dates.
- Assessors Agent: Jackie Robbins
- Health Official: Patricia Ashland
- School Board Director: Eleanor Hess
- General Assistance Officer: Ryan Willette
 - Received email regarding reimbursement.
- Plumbing Inspector: Cindy Abbott
- Solid Waste Director: Phil Bloomstein
- Animal Control Officer: Peter Nerber

11. Town Boards & Committee Reports:

- Planning Board: Tyler Hadyniak
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Planning trunk or treat Oct 26, 2024
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith

- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
- Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)
 - Meeting Scheduled for 10-3-24 at 6pm
- CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
- Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet

12. Old Business:

13. New Business:

- Unity Ambulance (Bruce Cook): Provided the selectboard with a letter regarding an informed community (ICSD) It is a volunteer service and they can no longer have a completely volunteer service. He would like the town to nominate someone to be on the committee. Ryan Willette said he would be interested in joining that committee.
 - Samantha Turner asked if insurance companies reimburse all towns equally. The response was yes.
 - The ambulance meetings will be on Thursday evenings
- Heather Donahue is on an MMA committee that deals with property tax reform.
- Ryan Willette would like to meet with Peter Nerber to put a list of information together for their trash collection for the town of Palermo.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday October 7, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

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

16. Adjourn: Ryan Willette made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.

Zoom Meeting Recording:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/ySxQZdf5DsqmrFPYHuMQs36Umk11vjFD42bR5hIG-3fpsTxc-dvYraw0PEeGHK0.Sq1lgfCUYigjBhhG>

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