

Meeting Minutes
Freedom Board of Selectmen
Date: 4-22-2024
Approved 5-6-2024

In attendance: Laura Greeley, Ryan Willette, Heather Donahue, Beth Owen-Mishou, Cindy Abbott, Kristy Palmer, Jim Waterman, Nathan Mc Cann, Samantha Turner, Jasmine Willette, Jubal Greenwood, Meredith Coffin, Joe Freeman, Tim Turner

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:
 - Heather Donahue asked for a moment of silence for Doug Brown and his health.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion that the minutes be accepted as amended and placed on file, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
 - There is going to be a change coming up to the OSHA regulations for Volunteer Fire Departments. The changes are open to comment until June 21, 2024. Regulations regarding PPE/Turnout gear will be changing. PFAS free turn out gear will be greater than \$3,300. The storage of the equipment will be different. Fire apparatus will need to be changed every 20 years. The training requirements will also be changing. There will be medical questionnaires for the volunteers. There will be new health standards depending on the job the volunteer is doing. Citizens can make comments. They are estimating that these changes will cost approximately \$2 million each year to implement. Jim suggests sending letters to our state and federal representatives. He has a sample letter that can be submitted. He provided this to the select board.

The bureau of labor will be the enforcers of this new regulation.
National Volunteer Fire Organization is doing a survey regarding these recommendations.

 - Laura Greeley suggested that the town of Freedom's residents submit comments.
 - Samantha Turner asked if the Town Charter (home rule) will trump these new rules? She also asked if there were members of the fire department who could work to make public comments.
 - Heather Donahue asked when the final decisions would be made. Jim Waterman stated that it could be as soon as August or September. He will put together a compliance booklet.

- The Select Board members participated in a training with Dale Rowley.
- 5. Public Works:
 - Isaiah graded the dirt roads.
 - Grader is being repaired.
 - Trash truck is stickered
 - F350 is done and stickered
 - #5 is going in for repairs
 - Lauren is working on equipment and repairs on trucks
 - Ordered culverts for summer road work, Rollins/Raven Roads
 - Going to stockpile materials behind public works, so it can be used when needed
 - Ryan Willette asked if we wanted to sweep the roads this year?
 - Ryan will call and find the price for rental of a sweeper.
 - They will be working on cleaning up Main Street.
 - He has not gotten a definitive answer on the bridge replacement.
 - Clean up is needed on the Fisher lot to prepare it for sale.
 - Ryan Willette suggested putting some gravel on the boat launch road.
 - Meredith Coffin asked if there had been any requests from other towns for grading services?
 - Ryan Willette's response was yes.
 - Ryan Willette stated that they are going to bulk order some orange cones.
 - He also suggested that we also purchase some road closed barricades.
- 6. Treasurer's Report: Kristi Palmer
 - Payroll Warrant = \$8606.36 A/P Warrant (4-12) = \$ 8244.63 A/P Warrant (4-19) = \$17,967.60
 - Camden National = \$499,996.08
 - Received check from Knox= \$12,000 for fire protection.
 - US Cellular refund \$11.19
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$8606.36 A/P Warrant (4-12) = \$ 8244.63 A/P Warrant (4-19) = \$17,967.60, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
- 7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
 - An order is going to be placed for cemetery flags
 - Ryan Willette said that there are cemetery signs at public works.
 - They will need people to be designated to put up and take down the flags. Ryan Willette stated that he will help out with this.
 - Citizen called about trees down. These citizens are looking for people to remove the trees.
 - An individual in town called for an ambulance for another resident and they discovered that they could not request Delta. Ryan Willette stated that dispatch let us know that individuals can request. Ryan Willette will call dispatch and ask for clarification.
 - She asked about the cane. Ryan Willette is working on the placard.

8. Citizens Issues:
 - Jubal Greenwood: bought two acres near Pleasant Street. A guideline support pole will need to be across the street from his driveway. Ryan Willette offered to come down and talk about it with the power company.
9. Review Correspondence
10. Town Officials Reports
 - Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
 - Cindy Abbott created a form and presented it to the select board
 - There are issues that need to be addressed.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion to allow Cindy Abbot to contact Atty Kelley directly regarding a property on North Palermo Road, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Cindy Abbott asked Jackie about a property on the Greeley Road. They suggested that there be a certified letter presented.
 - Old school house road property is all set.
 - 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 Haydiniak
 - Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
 - Appeals Board: Michael Smith
 - Cindy Abbot is working on determining what the terms are for these members. Laura Greeley asked who would be the primary contact person to reach out to.
 - Ryan Willette stated that all board members need to go through FOIA training within 120 days of joining.
 - At this time the appeals board does not have a general form. Laura Greeley has two forms that were created by Atty Kelly that she has presented to the appeals board members.
 - Historical Society: Wilson Hess
 - Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
 - Budget Committee:
 - Will be meeting once Vernice returns to work.
 - CDAC Committee: Steve Bennett
 - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
 - Alexis sent out drafts
 - Ad Hoc Education Committee: Laura Greeley
 - High Impact Transmission Line Ad Hoc Committee: Heather Donahue:

12. Old Business:
 - Rapid Renewal: ARPA funds can be used for this under general government.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that they set up the Rapid Renewal through Trio in the amount \$1487.50 using ARPA funds, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Laura Greeley has sent out emails and left a message for Camden National regarding the debit card account and has not yet heard back from them. Waiting on e-sign documents for a sweep account so they can add Vernice's name to it and to determine what the interest rate is for the checking account.
 - The excise tax agreement has been signed with the town of Montville.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that they stop using the 2-part carbon copy building permit book and that they start to use an office made form, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - Solar Array moratorium ends on Saturday. There needs to be a hearing and vote on Friday at 6pm.
 - Ryan Willette made a motion that there be a special select board meeting to address the solar facility moratorium ordinance for a hearing and vote on Friday April 26, 2024, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
 - The CDAC put out bids for the cannery lot. Haley Ward Company won the bid and the contract was sent out to Atty Kelly. It was then sent out to Alexis and Steve Bennett and the contract was sent on to the Haley Ward Company.
 - Laura Greeley made a motion to not adjourn this evening but to extend the selectmen's meeting until 6pm tomorrow evening where they will sign the amended contract with the Haley Ward Company, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
13. New Business:
 - Cindy Abbot received a letter from Trio with an update about changes and upgrades that will need to occur. The letter was reviewed. The select board will review this with Vernice and request an upgrade quote.
 - Laura Greeley encouraged town members to come out to the school board budget meeting. Perhaps the meeting is the 29th of May.
 - Samantha Turner expressed concern regarding how the principles were creating the budget for their schools.
14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday May 6, 2024. 6pm
15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:00 am on 4-29-2024
16. Adjourn: the meeting was not adjourned.