

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

**In attendance:** Laura Greeley, Heather Donahue, Ryan Willette, Bob Kenzler, Cindy Abbott, Jim Waterman, Beth Owen-Mishou, Brian Murphy, Nathan McCann, Samantha Turner, Kim Holmes, Steve Holmes, Mike Therrien

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

1. Call Meeting to Order / Finalize Agenda: Laura Greeley called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
2. Announcements:
  - The town office will be closed the last week of October. Anyone who has absentee ballots should send them in before then.
3. Review and Approve Minutes: Secretary's Report: Ryan Willette made a motion to accept the minutes as amended, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
4. Fire Chief & EMA Director Reports: Jim Waterman
  - Mill Street is repaired.
  - Addressing: The town does not have an ordinance regarding E 911 addressing. Jim Waterman would like permission to write an ordinance pertaining to E 911 addressing and present it to the select board for their review.
    - The board was in favor of this. Jim Waterman will develop this and present it to the board for review.
  - \$5500 for Truck One. It is a 22-year-old truck. He is over budget for that truck.
  - Shelf Food: There is food available for those in need.
  - Three new firefighter personnel.
  - One accident over the weekend.
  - Heather Donahue asked about the book budget and that it was over. Jim Waterman stated that it is the compliance books.
  - Jeff would like to have permission to do some wood cutting for a larger parking lot at the fire department. He would not charge for this but would like the wood. Jim Waterman will be talking to the DEP regarding how far back it can go due to the pond.
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to buy signs that say no thru trucks for Pleasant Street, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Heather Donahue made a motion to buy a carry in, carry out sign for the boat landing, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.

- Heather Donahue made a motion to purchase a new sign for Cellar Kitchen Lane to correct from Cellar Kitchen Road, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
5. Public Works: Ryan Willette
- Raven Road has all the materials in and needs to be graded again.
  - The state is working on the culverts on North Palermo this week.
  - Maintenance on trucks is occurring and materials are being hauled.
  - The hydrant on Mill Street broke and has been repaired.
  - Some ditching still needs to be done.
  - The cemetery on Mitchell Rd has granite marker posts that are falling due to the ditching. Ryan Willette will look into it.
  - Laura Greeley asked if a letter was ever received from Montville regarding Goosepecker Ridge Road. They have not received a letter. Ryan Willette said that he will send Isiah there tomorrow to grade it. Ryan Willette will call John Thornhill.
6. Treasurer's Report: Kristy Palmer, last day today. [Laura Greeley](#) expressed gratitude for all her work.
- Payroll Warrant = \$10,462.29 AP Warrant (9-9)= \$22,325.26 for a combined total of: \$22,325.26
  - Camden National = \$605,680.67 as of 9-9-2024
  - Received checks from:
    - Black Hills Corp. \$70.20
    - Maine Municipal Assoc. \$1013
    - United States Postal Service \$884.17
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the Payroll Warrant = \$10,462.29, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to pay the AP Warrant (9-9)= \$22,325.26, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Contessa Mancini: is the treasurer for the town of Knox and Morrill. She has experience being a treasurer and with Trio. She was interviewed by the Select Board for our treasurer position.
    - Heather Donahue made a motion to hire Contessa Mancini as the Town of Freedom's new treasurer, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
7. Town Clerk & Tax Collector Report: Cindy Abbott
- Abatement requests have been sent to Jackie.
  - Cindy Abbott will be on vacation from 10-28 thru 11-5.
  - [Cindy Abbott](#) provided cash receipt reports and trash sticker reports.
  - An excise report was also provided.
  - 2022 taxes, there are 20 outstanding accounts. February 10th of 2025 is automatic foreclosure.
  - Liens have been filed for 2023. 33 bills are outstanding.
  - 2024, 441 accounts are outstanding. Interest starts on Tuesday 10-1-2024.
  - Pre payments were also presented.
  - The Rapid Renewal people are working with Trio.

## 8. Citizens Issues:

- Samantha Turner expressed concern regarding the disposal of excrement near the neighbors' wells. She asked what the time frame is for the completion of the tasks that have been required for that property by the town. Cindy Abbott reported that the tank has been pumped. Ryan Willette stated that the waste is the biggest issue for the town. Laura Greeley asked if Patty's report has been sent to the CDC. Cindy will reach out to Brad (from DEP) tomorrow. Samantha Turner asked if the town can come inspect without informing the owner. Cindy responded that they can unless told by the owner that they cannot. Laura Greeley will call Patty (the health officer) and Brad.
- Brian Murphy asked what happened to Freedom General Store. Ryan Willette explained.

## 9. Review Correspondence

## 10. Town Officials Reports

- Code Enforcement: Cindy Abbott
  - Situations are pending.
  - Michael Dutton will be speaking with the planning board about the bathrooms.
  - Greeley Road: [Laura Greeley](#) asked about the driveway on the property. There will not be a driveway there; it appears that it is a one-time access way. There were questions regarding the "puddle" The response was that, if it is a man-made vernal pool it is not an issue. The contractor will not be doing any more work until a representative from DEP views the property.
    - What are the rules in town regarding clear cutting? Ryan Willette responded that it is the state's rules. He believed it is 5 acres and if it is over that they need a forestry plan.
- 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
  - Tomorrow night 9-10-2024 meeting, there will be a busy agenda.
- Recreational Committee: Alyssa Brugger
  - Planning trunk or treat for Oct 26, 2024
- Appeals Board: Michael Smith
- Historical Society: Wilson Hess
- Cemetery Committee: Steve Holmes
  - Laura Greeley reported that the town's liability does not cover accidents in the cemetery. The town's liability does not cover the cemetery.

- Levi: This is in regard to a Freedom Service member. He was paid by the state not the government. Two quotes were received, one for \$1800 one for \$1600. Markers are \$400 each.
      - [Laura Greeley](#) asked if a story could be written about Levi Temple.
    - Budget Committee: [Laura Greeley](#)
    - CDAC Committee: Lissa Widoff
    - Broadband Committee: Phil Bloomstein
    - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Rene Ouellet
12. Old Business:
- Laura Greeley has reached out to Ron Smith regarding taxes.
    - [Cindy Abbott](#) asked about Travis Price's 2019 social security taxes and that she had not had any taxes reported.
  - Camden National, Ashley apologizes regarding the credit card.
  - Laura left a message for Melissa and Daniella at Peace Ridge to see if they could come up for a tour. [Laura Greeley](#) asked them about our bringing strays and for them to attend the special town meeting.
  - A resident wanted to rent the Old Townhouse. Underwriting said that we can rent it but the renter would need a million-dollar rider and we would need the town atty to write a rental contract. Ryan Willette suggested that it be a town vote. It was suggested that it be presented to the town during a special town meeting.
13. New Business:
- Laura Greeley made a motion to have the Select Board Meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month starting in October, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Laura Greeley made a motion to authorize the treasurer every other week to process payroll and the Select Board Member will come in to sign the payroll and it will then be placed on the warrant for the following Select Board meeting, Ryan Willette seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to post and advertise for a cleaning job at the town hall, Heather Donahue seconded and all approved.
  - Ryan Willette made a motion to increase the cleaning job payment to \$20 per hour, Heather Donahue seconded the motion and all approved.
14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday September 23, 2024. 6:00pm
15. Next Select Board Workshop 7:30 am on 9-30-2024
16. Adjourn: Heather Donahue made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, Laura Greeley seconded and all approved.

Zoom Meeting Recording link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/2ZGrr9DCcfCXrlpJXsaq0GvoT11\\_e0eS-WuBi7Qe6tdmQgHWSmwPuQ42ixYINtZT.C9nXs3w0B8pruyW](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/2ZGrr9DCcfCXrlpJXsaq0GvoT11_e0eS-WuBi7Qe6tdmQgHWSmwPuQ42ixYINtZT.C9nXs3w0B8pruyW)

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