



**TOWN OF FREETOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**  
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**MEETING OF MEETING OF  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
227 CHACE ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MA 02717**

**5:30 P.M. Call to Order** Chairman Paul Sadeck calls the meeting to order. Others present are Selectman Robert Jose, Selectman Lisa Pacheco and Town Administrator Jack Healey. The meeting is being recorded by Administrative Assistant Ali Golz and by FREECAM.

**Weekly Public Discussion**

**Consent Agenda:**

**Board of Selectmen: Action relative to:**

- Approve Designer Selection Procedures. Selectman Pacheco, chairman of the Building Committee, recaps what this is. As discussed at the Board meeting on October 18, the Designer Selection Procedures outline the requirements for an Owner's Project Manager, but also any future OPMs the town may need in the future. The state Inspector General provides a good model for these procedures, which Town Counsel provided Selectman Pacheco and the rest of the Board. Selectman Jose asks if the Building Committee has any input on this. Selectman Pacheco says they will be discussing that later tonight, but only the Board adopts these procedures. She says the Board meeting can be left open and a vote on this held afterwards. This discussion will be held until after the discussion with the Building Committee. The Board took this vote during the Building Committee meeting. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to accept the Designer Selection Procedures, as provided by Town Counsel. Passed unanimously.

Also during the Building Committee meeting, the Board took a vote on accepting a scope of services from Kelly Engineering on a site plan review for the 50 acre plot of land to be used for new Town buildings. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to sign the scope of services, pending review by KP Law. Passed unanimously. This vote will be re-affirmed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

- Discuss Town Hall computer issues. Selectman Sadeck recaps the recent Town Hall computer issues. On Thursday of last week, the server went down, two (of three) hard

drives died. Charlie Stockwell got the server back up and “limping”, but it wasn’t fully operational. The server set-up we currently have must be 8 years old at this point. The data has been backed up, but the server needs to be replaced. Selectman Sadeck spoke to Town Accountant Kim Fales, who recommended going to the Finance Committee for an Emergency Reserve Fund Transfer for \$10,000 to fix this. Mr. Stockwell put together information on the cost of the hardware needed, using the government rate from Dell. Mr. Stockwell also included information about Exchange Online, which would eliminate our server-related e-mail issues. Currently the Town has an in-house e-mail server, Exchange Online will take that online. Selectman Pacheco says the schools recently switched to all Google products, asking why Microsoft over Google. She wishes Mr. Stockwell was here to speak about this. Selectman Sadeck doesn’t know, but knows the operating system the Town uses is Microsoft. Selectman Pacheco says that is the case at the schools, too. She isn’t sure about the difference between the two. Selectman Sadeck says VADAR runs on Microsoft Access, so he isn’t sure we’d want to change anything with regards to that. Selectman Jose says this is two separate issues: the server and the e-mail. But he agrees that while switching over the server, it’d be a good time to switch over if we wanted to do that. He asks how long it would take, Selectman Sadeck estimates 2 days. Selectman Jose asks if there will be redundancies. Selectman Sadeck says he believes the new server comes with five hard drives. Mrs. Golz provides the Board with new paperwork, reflecting the government rate from Dell, which is substantially less expensive. Selectman Sadeck thinks we should still go in for the full \$10,000 transfer request, even with the lower number. Selectman Jose wants to make sure about the redundancies. Selectman Pacheco agrees, seeing how much was held up by this at the Town Hall. Any way we can prevent this from happening in the future needs to be done. Mrs. Golz points out that more than the \$4,000 is needed because you have to take into account the Exchange Online aspect too, plus installation. Running through the numbers provided by Mr. Stockwell, Selectman Pacheco comes up with an additional \$3,400 on top of the \$4,000, so \$10,000 sounds like a good figure. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to forward a request of \$10,000 to the finance committee. Passed unanimously. Selectman Sadeck asks Mr. Healey to write that up and present it to the Finance Committee.

While on the subject, Selectman Pacheco says this is something we need to look at, come budget time. She would like Mr. Stockwell to be proactive and figure out what we’ll need going forward for the next couple years. We are supposed to be on a plan to upgrade/replace the computers, and we’ve gotten away from that. Selectman Sadeck says the computers are only 2 years old, but the server was not touched.

- Discuss a Town Hall Facebook page. Senior Clerk Timm McIntosh is here to answer questions on a town Facebook page. Selectman Jose thinks a Facebook page would be a

way to get information out to the public beyond the traditional ways. He notes a lot of information decided at meetings aren't getting to the public in a timely/accurate way. There are concerns with a Facebook page as traffic goes two ways there, but he doesn't think it's a bad idea, on Facebook or otherwise. He specifically mentions the controversy that stemmed from mis-information with the new trash contract that could have been rectified with getting more information out. Selectman Pacheco agrees, but also has privacy concerns, asking if there's a way to control negativity without controlling speech. Mr. McIntosh says he thought of the same concern and spoke with the administrator of the West Bridgewater Facebook page, asking them what they've dealt with. They said they haven't had any issues with it, as it's treated as mostly an information-only source. If someone posts incorrect information, the information is corrected right then and there. Selectman Sadeck asks if that means it's a one-way conversation. Mr. McIntosh says there is no way to disable comments, but you can disable posts to the page by others. Comments can still be made on posts by the page, on or off topic, but they can be controlled. Selectman Sadeck has a number of concerns. First, there has to be someone to monitor the page. Second, there are people out there that just want to antagonize. He is not on Facebook, but he hears of all the issues all the time. He notes that people that make the comments on the Freetowners page never come to the meetings to address their concerns. There are already ways, like meetings and the town website, for them to reach out to us, why should we give them another? Selectman Pacheco says she and Selectman Sadeck are of different generations, and she finds the Schools' Facebook page a great tool to give and get information. She says it takes way too long to get the correct information out there, Facebook provides a 'here and now' solution to that. She doesn't see an issue with trying it out on a trial basis, we could always take it down later on. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to try the Facebook page on a 30-day trial basis and have Mr. McIntosh be the administrator of the page. Selectman Sadeck asks if this will be Mr. McIntosh's full time job now, Selectmen Jose & Pacheco don't think it will be that much of a commitment. Motion passes 2-1, with Selectman Sadeck voting no.

- Discuss Health Insurance Rates as submitted by MIIA. This has to do with retirees. Walter Sawicki of the Insurance Advisory Board is here as well. Mr. Healey speaks of the changes. Medex 2 is not going up, but Blue Med Rx is going up 17.53%. This makes Medex 2 go up 7.89%. This is the plan with no co-pays. The competition, Managed Blue for Seniors 2, has no increase on Individual but again a 17.53% increase in Blue Med Rx, making the total increase 8.4%. This plan has co-pays. Some retirees may not want to make a change, depending on the number of co-pays they have to pay. Currently, there are 38 on Managed Blue and 43 on Medex 2. This information needs to go out to the people this covers, and Jessica Thomas is prepared to do this. These numbers are pretty new to Mr. Sawicki, and he's posted a meeting for Friday about these. The problem is that the rates need to be accepted by his Board and then the Board of Selectmen and then

transmitted to MIIA by October 31, which isn't enough time. This can't wait until the Board of Selectman's next meeting. As Chairman of the Insurance Advisory Committee, Mr. Sawicki says if the Board of Selectmen are prepared to accept these new rates tonight, it should do so since the Insurance Advisory Committee's input can't be had in time. These rates are mandated by the federal government, so it can't be much different anyway. Seniors can change their plans in the month of November. The reason they are right up against the deadline on this is because in the past couple years, the calendar switched from the Town's fiscal year to a calendar year. Selectman Jose notes the medication price has the same increase on both plans. Mr. Sawicki says he believes this is the case because it's mandated. Selectman Pacheco doesn't want to step on Mr. Sawicki's Board's power. Mr. Sawicki says there's a meeting scheduled either way, it's up to the Board of Selectman. Selectman Jose suggests a provisional vote. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to provisionally approve the new rates as presented. Selectman Sadeck clarifies, if the Insurance Advisory Board votes these numbers as well and doesn't change anything, the Selectmen's vote becomes valid. Motion passes unanimously.

- Approval of Board of Selectman Minutes from October 3, 2016. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to approve minutes as presented. Passed unanimously.
- Discuss Lynn Rocha's letter asking for increase in pay for her videotaping. This item held until after the Building Committee meeting. Selectman Sadeck reads the letter from Ms. Rocha. Selectman Pacheco asks Mrs. Golz where Ms. Rocha is paid from, where that money is budgeted, but Mrs. Golz will have to check. Selectman Jose asks about when the Freetown meetings are even aired on the public access channel. It's not clear at all and is very confusing. Selectman Sadeck, speaking from memory, says that they previously explored joining up with Lakeville, but the cost was too prohibitive. Selectman Pacheco suggests that perhaps when the new Police Station is being constructed, we set up the community use meeting room as a studio, like Lakeville has, to make recording the meetings easier. Selectman Sadeck asks Ms. Rocha when the meetings are shown on Middleboro's channel. She says on the weekends, but isn't sure of the times. Ms. Rocha says she edits the videos ASAP and uploads it in time for Friday, there is no delay on airing the meetings. Selectman Sadeck says if you asked 100 people in town where to watch these meetings, less than 10 would know. Ms. Rocha says that's cable in general. Selectman Pacheco says she isn't going to wait until Saturday to watch a video, she'll go to Youtube to watch the video. Selectman Jose says the guide on TV doesn't even say what's on when. Ms. Rocha says if you wanted a channel's like Lakeville's or Middleboro's, you'd have to hire enough people to run a station, it couldn't be like it is now. Selectman Sadeck says that's why the cost was so high years ago. Selectman Pacheco says if we go ahead with setting up the community room like this, we'd have to make sure it's aired correctly. Selectman Jose says this ties into the

Facebook discussion earlier, with how easy information can be had. Selectman Pacheco asks Mr. Healey to find where the money for Lynn comes from. Mrs. Golz believes the money comes from Cable Public Access, and there is plenty of money in that account. Selectman Jose asks how many assignments Ms. Rocha has a year. She says she takes the winter off, so it's hard to tell. Selectman Pacheco estimates 30 meetings a year, 3/month. Selectman Jose asks about the fill-in for the 2 months Ms. Rocha takes off, Selectman Pacheco says she should be paid the old rate because of how long Ms. Rocha has been working with us. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to grant Ms. Rocha's, and only Ms. Rocha's, request for a raise. Passed unanimously.

**Personnel Board:**

- Discuss/Appoint Denise Charland as Library Technician, effective October 26, 2016. This item held until after the Building Committee meeting. Selectman Pacheco says Ms. Charland was selected by the Library Interview Committee by unanimous decision. She scored the highest on their interview sheets. Motion (Sadeck/Jose) to appoint Ms. Charland. Passed unanimously.

The Board of Selectmen do not go into recess during the Building Committee meeting, but the minutes of that meeting are kept separately. Please see those Minutes for that portion of this meeting.

Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to adjourn at 7:55pm, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timmothy McIntosh".

Timmothy McIntosh, Senior Clerk  
Minutes recorded from Mrs. Golz's audio  
recording