



**TOWN OF FREETOWN  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 04, 2017  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
227 CHACE ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MA 02717**

**6:00 P.M.**     **Call to Order** – Selectman Lisa Pacheco calls the meeting to order. Also present are Selectman Robert Jose, Selectman Charles Sullivan, Town Administrator Jack Healey and Administrative Assistant Ali Golz. The meeting is being recorded by Mrs. Golz and FREECAM. Selectman Lisa Pacheco leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Reorganization of the Board**

- Motion (Jose/Sullivan) to nominate Selectman Pacheco as Chairman of the Board of Selectman, Selectman Jose as Chairman of the Personnel Board and Selectman Sullivan as Chairman of the Board of Health. Passed unanimously.

**Weekly Public Discussion**

Chairman Pacheco welcomes Selectman Sullivan to the Board and thanks former Selectman Paul Sadeck for his service. She wants to remind everyone to do what is best for the town and that everyone to be kind to one another. Selectman Sullivan thanks Town Clerk Jacqueline Brown and the election workers for all their work yesterday and all the voters who came out and put their trust in him. He also notes that yesterday was a great day for baseball.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- Vote to accept the Stanton Foundation Grant and discuss when the K9 donation account will can be established by the Town Accountant. Chief Carlton Abbott joins the meeting and explains he was before the board a few meetings ago regarding this. Since that meeting, the Town Accountant has been reluctant to open the donation account for this. He needs Board approval to open it. Selectman Pacheco says her understanding was that by him moving forward, it was to be in FY18, not in FY17, so she is confused. She did say at the last meeting to vote to open a donation account after Town Meeting, contingent on Town Meeting accepting the program; her fear is that once this is set up and accept the grant, we are locked into 3 years, and this needs to move forward because we are locked into this grant. She says if something happens next year, this must go forward, so the department may have to lose an

officer. Chief Abbott says the funding on town meeting floor would cover the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). If that doesn't pass, he's confident it can be worked out. Right now, things are on a fast track; the training with the Boston PD is in April and our K-9 officer has already bonded with the dog. He doesn't think anything negative would happen if we proceed now. Selectman Pacheco thinks we wouldn't see the obstacles now. Selectman Sullivan says you would just have to give the money back if something falls through. Selectman Pacheco disagrees. Selectman Jose says that the only thing the Police Department is going for at town meeting is \$4,000 for overtime, not looking for another position. Chief Abbott agrees with Selectman Jose's assessment, saying that is accurate. Selectman Jose says the donation account can be used for the officer along with sundry items like the cruiser, vet items, etc. He says the first 3 years are under the grant, which we have already been approved for. Officer Long has queried other donation accounts and they are doing very well. Selectman Pacheco wants to make sure that everything is on the table, because if we have to cut everything here and he was an officer that needed to be laid off, what would happen? Chief Abbott says that if the K-9 officer were laid off, the Stanton Foundation will not hold you accountable because they realize it has to be a specifically trained officer. Selectman Pacheco stresses this isn't what she is hoping for. Chief Abbott says you'd be able to bargain with the Foundation. Selectman Pacheco says that if or once the money disappears, we don't have to choose between the program or an officer. Selectman Jose says this would be a good reason to establish the donation account early. There is some confusion about whether or not wages can be paid out of that account, Selectman Pacheco says that should be researched. Selectman Jose asks how long you can hold the check for, Selectman Pacheco says 6 months. Selectman Jose notes that if everything is held until after Town Meeting, the department would miss the training opportunity. Selectman Pacheco says there was a message missed somewhere down the line, Chief Abbott says he takes responsibility for that. Motion (Jose/Sullivan) to start the program now, passed unanimously. Selectman Sullivan says the money is there. Selectman Pacheco says we'll hold off on the donation fund. Selectman Jose says worst case scenario is they have to find \$4,000 somewhere in the budget.

- Discuss/Approve entering into bid for new Electrical Aggregation Program for 2018-2020. Mr. Healey says, as the Board knows, the town entered into the aggregation program almost 2 years ago. The utilities still deliver our power and they want to increase our delivery charges. Our program ends in January of 2018, and our advisers and Scott Durkey in New Bedford says we can take advantage of forward pricing, or power that has been purchased in advance. Looking forward, it looks like we have a dip in the price of power in future years. Mr. Healey says it looks like we have a golden opportunity to lock in a considerably lower rate for 2020-2022. The desire of the group is to go out to bid on April 19<sup>th</sup>, but the two reps we have appointed from Freetown are no longer here. Paul Sadeck and Lee Baumgartner are no longer on the Board, so we need the Board to appoint new reps for the bid opening and be able to sign for this program. Motion (Sullivan/Pacheco) to have Selectman Robert Jose and Mr. Healey represent Freetown, passed unanimously.
- Discuss/Sign renewal contract for Net Metering program. Mr. Healey explains that this was originally on Locust St. and then this went to Carver. He negotiated the 1% bump which saves the town a bunch of money. Robert Patterson checks the records to make sure it saves us and we need to renew his contract at the same amount. Selectman Jose asks if this is the

same amount and asks if he just does the audit. Mr. Healey says this has been vetted by Richard Holland. Selectman Jose doesn't like how this is a gap. Mr. Healey says he is doing this 4-5 times a year. Selectman Pacheco notes this is January - December and he has already started this. Motion (Jose/Sullivan) to renew the contract in the amount of \$1800-2000, not to exceed without the written consent by the Board of Selectmen. Passed unanimously.

- Open/Close Warrant for Annual & Special Town Meeting. Discussion ensues regarding the departments being given enough time to submit articles. Selectman Jose says he always gets push back from the Planning Board on this, because there isn't enough time. Selectman Pacheco says that she doesn't want a lot of articles from the Planning Board that aren't needed, if they are clean up articles then they should be moved to the Fall meeting. Selectman Jose says there are at least three that are marijuana-related articles that need to go on this Town Meeting. Motion (Jose/Sullivan) to open the warrant on Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> and close it on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup>, passed unanimously.
- Town Administrator's Report –Lauren Moreau and Mr. Healey had a meeting with Eversource about Copicut Rd., and they will be adding solar to that area. Town Administrator applications have been coming in and are distributed to the Board as they arrive to review at their leisure. A flag dedication will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at Hathaway Park.

#### **Board of Health:**

#### **Personnel Board:**

- Sign Change of Status form for Thomas Ashley, Sr. and Jordan Costa, as submitted by Charles Macomber, Highway Surveyor. Motion (Pacheco/Sullivan) to approve the change of status form for Thomas Ashley Sr, passed unanimously. Motion (Pacheco/Sullivan) to approve the change of status for Jordan Costa, passed unanimously.
- Appoint/Sign SRPEDD Commission Member. They decline to appoint anyone at this time. Mr. Healey says there may be an article for a grant soon. Motion (Jose/Sullivan) to appoint Lauren Moreau and Mr. Healey to SRPEDD, passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

- Dates for upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings: Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup>, Monday May 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Old Business:**

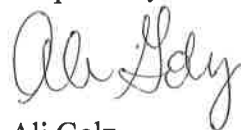
#### **Executive Session:**

At 7:25pm, motion (Jose/Sullivan) to go into Executive Session under the following exemption, and not return to open session afterwards. Roll Call Chairman Lisa Pacheco, Selectman Robert Jose and Selectman Charles Sullivan. All voted in the affirmative when polled.

M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a) 3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Police Union if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

At 7:30pm, motion (Jose/Sullivan) to adjourn. Roll Call Chairman Lisa Pacheco, Selectman Robert Jose and Selectman Charles Sullivan. All voted in the affirmative when polled.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ali Golz".

Ali Golz  
Administrative Assistant