



**TOWN OF FREETOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
3 North Main Street/P.O. Box 438
Assonet, MA 02702-0438
PHONE: 508-644-2201; FAX: 508-644-3342**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 08, 2013

**FREETOWN TOWN HALL- ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
3 NORTH MAIN ST., ASSONET, MASSACHUSETTS**

12:05 P.M. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul G. Sadeck. Those present: Selectman Lisa A. Pacheco, Selectman Lee J. Baumgartner, Town Accountant Janice Boucher, Treasurer/Tax Collector Anita Howland. Water Commissioner Robert Parker and Keven Desmarais and Water Commissioner Michael. The meeting is being recorded by Chairman Sadeck.

Consent Agenda

Board of Selectmen: Action relative to:

- Discuss Candidates for Treasurer/Tax Collector Position Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) to enter into contract negotiations with Diane Lawless. Passed unanimously. Selectman Pacheco/Sadeck thinks that Mrs. Lawless should be here for a couple of weeks to train. Treasurer/Tax Collector Anita Howland would like to show her things. Town Accountant Janice Boucher says that there are only some things that we do once a month. Selectman Sadeck asks if there is money in the budget to cover Mrs. Lawless this Fiscal Year. Please look at the balance. Selectman Pacheco we will enter into contract negotiations and then go to reserve funds if need be. Ms. Howland says Mrs. Lawless can't sign and do money transfers. Selectman Pacheco still thinks she should train for a couple of days per week for a month. Ms. Howland says she should not touch her money transfers and such. Tax title etc. That is her work. She can sit and observe everything. Mrs. Boucher says we can all work together. Mr. Brown says Mrs. Lawless has done this before. MIIA will only be bonding one person. Selectman Pacheco says by July 1 this will be moved over. Mrs. Boucher says you won't be able to reconcile the statements. Mr. Brown says that you may be needed to come back after the start of the FY to finish and close out passwords with banks. Selectman Sadeck says the safe guy should come in as well to change the combinations. Selectman Sadeck/Pacheco are asking how and when will this person start. Mr. Brown says we are authorizing this person to start in 1 month prior however she doesn't need to be here every day. Whatever our needs warrant. Mrs. Boucher says we need training. Selectman Baumgartner says he is comfortable with whatever Mrs. Boucher and Ms. Howland thinks. Selectman Pacheco asks if everyone is comfortable with Vadar. Yes everyone is in agreement. Mr. Brown will take the lead on this. Mrs. Boucher asks about the Omnibus budget. She asks Selectman Sadeck to correct the school figure and then that will be correct. Also the Audit RFP can we go with Power and Sullivan. All Selectmen are in agreement. Mrs. Boucher will get the contract together.

- Water Department is here to discuss Inter-local Governmental Agreement – Before they proceed with the agreements Mr. Pillarella wants the Selectmen's inputs. On the Assonet/Fall River side we have spent over \$250,000.00 to purify the water. DEP says it is our problem. Once it goes over the line it becomes our problem DEP says. In 2005 DEP changed their regulations and that is when the concerns started. We have been in compliance since then. We have to change our carbon. Selectman Baumgartner asks if Fall River in the contract is supposed to give us potable water why are they not supplying us with it. Mr. Pillarella says that is why we are suing them. He says he wants to go forward with a lawsuit that the Town is going to win. We contracted with a lawyer but then we were stopped by the Board and told to use Town Counsel. I, Keven and Mark Rogers are negotiating with Fall River now for the contract. Selectman Sadeck asks why we don't do it there with our Town Counsel. Mr. Pillarella says because we need to find out what we are working with first. Remember that this started out with a line from Crystal Springs. They sold it to us to use because of Hurricane Bob. The Board never built up a repair budget. If something breaks we can't repair it. All this gets expensive. We pay Fall River a connection fee which we now take out of the contract. Terry Sullivan is the negotiator for Fall River. He wants the word potable out of the contract in Mr. Pillarella's opinion. Selectman Pacheco says when we talk about potable water before the game changed Fall River took an average from wherever in Fall River not Assonet to test for potable water. Mr. Brown says in the language it should be "potable water at the point of entry". Selectman Sadeck asks what they are going to do. Mr. Pillarella says I am trying to do what is best for Freetown. He says he is looking for a new source. They are looking at Exit 8B to start over there however there are lead pipes. DEP won't let them. Fall River is charging us 70% more than their customers. Mr. Pillarella says that nothing should be signed for the next 6 months. Trihalomethanes test is \$125 each test. Fall River used to produce 18 mill gallons per day now they do 11 mill gal per day with the closing of so many factories. DEP says you should flush your pipes however if you do that then it will go to the end of the line. We don't have enough customers to circulate this. Selectman Sadeck asks what the bottom line is. Mr. Pillarella says he is trying to remedy the issues that have been here for awhile. Old meters etc. Selectman Pacheco says we can't go backwards we can only go forwards. Selectman Baumgartner says you have our support. Mr. Pillarella says he would like to bring up another issue. We usually interview the candidates. Selectman Sadeck asks how do you interview the candidates. Selectman Pacheco reiterate that we need continue to move forward. Mr. Pillarella said he was looking for experience in a new commissioner. Selectman Sadeck says the appointment will not change. Mr. Brown says the Board has a responsibility to manage the department's issues. Selectman Pacheco says this was 10 years ago. DEP regulations have changed a lot in that time. Customers etc. We need to rectify this now. Attorney Silverstein may have expertise in this. Mr. Pillarella disagrees he doesn't think that Kopelman and Paige have any experience in this field. Mr. Brown says to use your analogy my PCP refers me to a specialist so then our Counsel will refer us if they don't specialize in that area. Selectman Pacheco says at the same time we should do a short term contract. She knows there is a natural spring over there on our side. Where does that stand? We have our own potential. Mr. Walsh was working on this and former Selectman John Ashley was working on it. Mr. Pillarella says that it will cost us over 1million dollars to do this. This has all fallen off at the wayside. Now there is a ramp there. Selectman Sadeck says that the Water and Sewer Dept. relies on the customers only. This is an Enterprise Fund he thinks this is wrong, it shouldn't be. Mr. Pillarella says that once you choose an enterprise

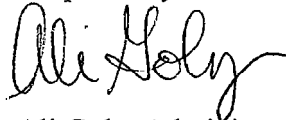
fund you can't go back for awhile. Selectman Sadeck says everything that you do is funded by 600 customers. East Freetown was because of Salt and Assonet was because of Hurricane Bob and these customers are still paying taxpayers. Pacheco says when we look at the spring maybe the spring should come out of the capital outlay plan. We would be thinking long term then. It would not come out of the water customers. Selectman Sadeck says another thing that is on these customers alone is the salaries. Mr. Pillarella says that we haven't gone up on rates in 5 years. Selectman Sadeck says the lawsuit burden was even shifted onto the 600 customers. The taxpayers are not paying it. Selectman Baumgartner asked how many people are not tied into it. What happens when people don't want to pay the fees that you have. Selectman Sadeck asks if our rules allow you to waive those fees? Mr. Pillarella says we have hardship papers. We need to charge this because we have all these fees. Selectman Sadeck asks who sets the rates. Mr. Pillarella says the Water and Sewer Commissioners. Mr. Brown asks what is the difference between the cost and the billing. We bill \$5.00 per CCU and we buy it at \$3.89 per CCU. Mr. Brown says we can't mark up our product like a store does. The cost to run a line is \$100 per foot. You can do that though a betterment loan however the people in Freetown make too much to qualify for those loans. This would raise their property values. Selectman Pacheco says that is why it would be vital to bring in business to South Main St. We need Sewer there. Mr. Pillarella says he has had complaints because he meters fire suppression systems. Mr. Pillarella says there is a lot more involved than what you see. Selectman Baumgartner says he has no idea as to how we can move forward. Mr. Pillarella says if anyone has questions please ask me. I am the Chairman. Selectman Sadeck disagrees with that statement. Mr. Pillarella says that he is being proactive with Lamb's crossing for the Sewer. Selectman Sadeck asks why we are doing this then. Selectman Pacheco says they could negotiate the sewer on their own with New Bedford however if they did this then Freetown would lose money. Mr. Pillarella said we met with Ron LaBelle on another issue and he brought this up. Mr. Brown asked if they could do this without us. Mr. Pillarella said yes they could. Selectman Sadeck said someone asked him about this the other day he thought it was in the paper. Selectman Sadeck asked once the tie in is made who pays for it. Mr. Pillarella says the person who wants to tie in to it. Lamb's Crossing would pick up this cost. The Sewer line on So Main St. will become ours as soon as someone ties into it. Selectman Sadeck asks who paid for this. Private companies? Yes Selectman Pacheco says, this is why we need those quarterly reports. Selectman Pacheco asks if we can have Keven get on the fast track to get his level 2 license. Mr. Pillarella says it would be another 6 months. Selectman Pacheco says that we need an update on the next time for contract negotiations. Selectman Sadeck thinks we need our counsel there. Selectman Baumgartner agrees. Selectman Sadeck/Pacheco says we will pay for counsel to be there. Mr. Brown says with no disrespect that there is a lot of money out there but we need to look at what we can get. Selectman Pacheco says the Freetown Elementary School will be a problem for water. Mr. Brown ask to identify the problem. Selectman Baumgartner says this is way too much information. We cannot move on everything. Selectman Pacheco says we can move on Keven's next license. Mr. Brown asks Mr. Pillarella to send his Agenda and minutes to him. Selectman Pacheco says our floater can work with them. Selectman Baumgartner says he can help with marketing.

- Larry Gaunett request asks for a letter from BOS to maintain the roundabout. Selectman Sadeck says it is costing us \$500 per month for street lights. We can't find any minutes. He thinks the State should give permission especially if something happens. Selectman Pacheco

says when you are at the ceremony you should ask the state about this. Selectman Sadeck says that the state should pay for the lights. Mr. Brown will look into this. He spoke with Jim Hatfield and he doesn't remember anything from the lights the usual procedure is to turn over maintenance to the town. Selectman Pacheco asks who takes care of the other bills throughout towns. Mr. Brown says if we assume maintenance responsibility then we should send Larry Gaunett to MADOT not us. Selectman Pacheco says that she want the roundabout to look nice.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting: at 1:51PM Motion (Pacheco/Baumgartner) Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ali Golz", written in a cursive style.

Ali Golz, Administrative Assistant