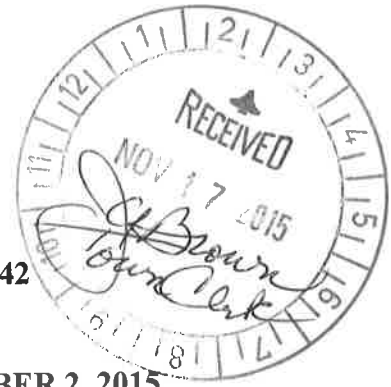




**TOWN OF FREETOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
3 North Main Street/P.O. Box 438
Assonet, MA 02702-0438
PHONE: 508-644-2201; FAX: 508-644-3342**



MINUTES OF MEETING OF MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2015

**COUNCIL ON AGING
227 CHACE ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

- 6:00 P.M.** **Call to Order** Lee J. Baumgartner calls the meeting to order. Others present are Selectmen Paul G. Sadeck and Selectmen Lisa A. Pacheco.
- 6:00 P.M.** Public Hearing: In conjunction with the Board of Assessors relative to selection of the residential factor to determine the percentage of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property. Karen Mello, Assistant Assessor requests that this meeting be continued until November 16 at 6pm because Paul Cupino does not have all the figures. This will give us plenty of time to do the tax bills. Motion (Pacheco/Sadeck) to continue the hearing until November 16th at 6pm.
- 6:15 P.M.** Discussion with Snuggles Way Residents. Tim Vasques, 9 Snuggles Way, says they have been made aware that there is a BAMSI home that has been purchased on the street. We have been in touch with them and we have been in touch with the State Senator as well. We are worried about the use if it can change in the future. Selectman Baumgartner wants to make sure that he understands their concern is only a zoning concern. Mr. Vasques yes but he is also concerned of the changes of the shifts throughout the day and safety is the number one issue. They know this is a state run issue and this is a concern as well. Selectman Pacheco understands the concerns and this doesn't do unnoticed but this is a protective class under Fair Housing Act. She isn't sure which resident got a lengthy email from BAMSI and it did spell out who would be there and that there would be 4 individuals and that there would be someone in house with them at all times. She understands that this is a concern from the residents that in the future this could turn into a sober living facility maybe we can sit down with the planning board in the future and talk about this but there are many group homes in Freetown and we haven't had issues with this. We can make calls but as long as you have open communications with us as well as the facility we don't see it becoming an issue. Selectman Sadeck says he has lived at the same locations for 30 years and Whitney Academy has been there for awhile and only once has there been an issue. The law protects them and we were never even notified that they were going in there. Selectman Baumgartner says from his perspective it is documented now. Mr. Vasques says hopefully there are no issues and I hope that BAMSI meets with us. It would have been nice to have know in advance that this was happening. Derek Gracia, 13 Snuggles Way, says he would think it would be a great thing to put forth a Zoning act and that the Fair Housing Act that wouldn't be violated. The site has 14 parking spaces on it now. Karen Poissant, 16 Snuggles Way, says this may affect the

value of our homes. Selectman Pacheco hears what she is saying but we don't know that yet, but again our building Inspector will insure that these thing will be taking into consideration. Scott Barbato, Building Inspector says this will have to take on the look of a single family home. No bright lights etc. Karen Mello, Assistant Assessor says Assessment is based on sale prices. Selectman Sadeck says this hasn't devalued his home or his area. Jay McMenamy, 14 Snuggles Way, says he is the newest member and he wouldn't have invested the money in this home had he known, so to say it isn't affected isn't fair. Selectman Baumgartner says it isn't in our control, we can't do anything to stop this. You are speaking with Senator Rodrigues as you said, Whitney Academy is my backyard and they have expanded and no one has told him when anything has ever happened. Selectman Pacheco wants Scott Barbato to look at the lighting design. Scott will look at it to make sure it meets the home design of the single family. Jay Correia, 8 Snuggles Way, was the first house on the street he says they all respect these people but his concerns is the 3 shifts of workers and this will be the change of the neighborhood. There are no requirements for fingerprinting just CORI checks, especially considering that this abuts a school. I called the building dept and the told me it was a DMH facility and we need help this needs it to remain the same type of facility and not change. He states he has tried to remain calm about this but the fear of the unknown is there. Some organization needs some commitment. Selectman Pacheco says so the concern is if BAMSI leaves so that is why we need to set up a meeting with the Planning Board. We can look at a Zoning restriction. Now we need to look at speaking to each other but need to be proactive. Mr. Correia says they don't see another one coming to Freetown because they have a mile restriction on new homes. He would like some commitment through BAMSI and Mr. Carvalho from BAMSI has been forthright and we would like to sit down with them. Mike Motta, Board of Assessor, says he has seen more of a chance of a foreclosure happening in your neighborhood than this happening now. Now the state will regulate this you actually have more protection because of this. You should have better experience with this. Mrs. Poissant asks if this is a 4 bedroom approved septic plan how many people can be in there. Kevin Bernardo, Board of Health Agent, says 2 people per bedroom. Scott Bernardo says our Town Counsel says there was a powerpoint presentation done and I will get this to them so they can look this over.

6:30 P.M. Discussion relative to Drug epidemic with Chief Abbott and Chief Silvia.

Chief Abbott says there is no doubt that this is a problem and it troubles me when he goes to the scenes. Detective Kelly says in 2014 there were 22 OD's and 2 deaths. 2015 17OD and 5 death. Chief Abbott says some of these things we only have 1 Detective and we have joined a South coast crime unit and we pool our resources together, about 75% start with prescriptions and opiates if we work with the DA's office we will try to get a drop box but it will probably not have a big impact . The White House has been petitioned to label Bristol County as a high drug area and that will bring in more grant money. Chief Abbott believes that a DARE would help but that grant money would have helped but that was taken away also a Resource Officer was taken away too. 39% rise in deaths from 2012 – 2013 50% is coming in from Mexico. This isn't being done on a wide enough basis. This has hit the suburbs. Selectman Baumgartner asks if the message isn't getting through. Chief Abbott says

if you are desensitizing this in the media that doesn't help. Chief Silvia says since 2013 we have done 59 runs the average age is 39. In 2014 there were 40 calls and the average age was 32 and in 2015 and the age is 28 as you can see the age is going down. Selectman Pacheco asks how often you are using Narcan. Chief Silvia says on a monthly basis. Selectman Baumgartner asks if we are doing everything we can. Chief Abbott says we are doing what we can with what we have. Selectman Pacheco says maybe we can get in contact with the State Legislature about this and a School Resource Officer is a great asset. Selectman Pacheco asks if most of his time being sent of this. Det. Kelly says we have a lot to deal with as a Town and he would like to do this but doesn't have the time to devote to it. Bill Lima's son was addicted to opiates and they did research and they sent him out to Pennsylvania and he says the town should promote those facilities. This is a low cost to the Town. Mr. Bernardo says it's middle school age kids to gear the information to, it's important this is a nationwide problem. Addiction is a problem. Selectman Pacheco ask how long the FRO spends in the schools. Get in touch with the Superintendent and ask this if not find out what we should do. Chief Silvia says the Fire Dept is the designated drop off for the Town. Mike Motta says the more we get out this out to the public it is important and this is going on all through the town and this is causing other issues. Selectman Pacheco says we need to know how we can help. Mr. Healey says part of the problem we don't talk enough about this and we need to be more open. Det. Kelly says he sees the same names throughout the years. Mr. Lima asks if the school system teaches. Selectman Pacheco says we need to find these things out. The Board thanks the Chief's and Detective Kelly for coming in.

Weekly Public Discussion

Mrs. Macomber wants to speak about Algonquin/Spectra coming into the area. She says this is a 50' area that nothing can be grown on and what is even worse is that this will carry gas that will be shipped to Maine and NH. They are doing this because they think we are stupid. If this blows then there won't be anything left for 50 miles. In the 70's there wasn't anything left in New Bedford after a gas leak. Although this is just a survey that means this is just the beginning. Remember this will be a 50' area and then a 300'. Selectman Baumgartner says he spoke with Congressman Kennedy this past weekend and he said congress won't be voting on this it is Federal and that we need energy. I did walk with one of our employees to see where this is and we do have paperwork in front of us to see if the Board will sign for this survey. Mr. Egnacio says the easement is a lot of land that Algonquin wants. Selectman Baumgartner says we are just looking out for our land. Joanne Ashley spoke about her opinion against this and Mr. Egnacio disagrees with the signing of this as well. Selectman Baumgartner says if the Dept of Energy approve this it will give them all the power to do this. Joe Carvalho says this company has 54 violations and the other piece of this is if they go forward with 3 miles of this they have had 23 gas leaks in MA and why don't all of these get fixed and I am paying for this and this is all about money. This is just like Exxon Mobile. Selectman Baumgartner says we need to stay on track. Mr. Lima is from Acushnet he says this will change the entire character of Acushnet and this will affect the public safety and the property values. Mr. Egnacio wants to know if this is in stone. Selectman Baumgartner says this is proposed.

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

- Discuss/Approve Spectra Energy (Algonquin) access to Freetown property. Selectman Baumgartner asks for a motion. Hearing none the Motion is dead. Motion (Pacheco/Sadeck) to deny access to the property. Selectman Pacheco says when they first came here they said they were going to first just walk the property and then they handed us a paper and so we had our Town Counsel look at it, but it also came to our attention that some of the property was given to us and it was to be kept as a wildlife sanctuary. This was gifted to us and for that reason I can't move forward. Selectman Sadeck says when we first got the info it didn't seem like a big deal and now I see all my neighbors against this and I am not going to vote for this, but I do think Algonquin is going to get a permit. Once they get a permit I don't think they are going to give up on this and they will take it by eminent domain. Mrs. Ashley says they haven't told us what the size of the pipe will be.
- Discuss Holiday Schedule for Town Offices. Motion (Pacheco/Sadeck) to do what we have done in years past. Passed unanimously.

Board of Health:

- Discuss Proposed New Health Regulations with Health Agent Kevin Bernardo. Mr. Bernardo explains the letter he sent to the board. He would like to add language regarding tagging animals. 50' from property lines. Selectman Sadeck asks how close to the nearest neighbors. This is on the property line. This came about from one individual. Selectman Sadeck says if we already have this regulation why would we add this? Mr. Bernardo says because we would make it 50'. Selectman Sadeck says this is an awful situation but he is concerned because we would enact a rule for one situation. A resident speaks and says this gentleman hung it for more than 14 days. Mr. Bernardo says yes he did hang it but he did speak with Environmental Police and because of the harsh winter it was allowed. Mr. Bernardo says when he spoke with the Environmental Police they can bury it but they can toss it on the property if they have a large amount of property. Put this on the next Agenda. Selectman Sadeck asks what would happen if we pass this and he gets fined. Mr. Bernardo says he would be brought to court if he doesn't pay.

Personnel Board:

- Discuss/Approve Sick leave carry over for Kimberley Fales. Motion (Sadeck/Baumgartner) Passed unanimously.
- Sign all Change of Status forms submitted by department heads for all by-law employees and Elected Officials as approved at Special Town Meeting on October 27, 2015, effective July 1, 2015. Selectman Pacheco reads aloud all the change of status forms. Motion (Baumgartner/Sadeck) Passed unanimously. Motion (Baumgartner/Sadeck) to approve all call Firefighters. Passed unanimously. Selectman Pacheco says there was a major discussion

at Town meeting and she has been doing a comparison and for example in Lakeville they have do all the cemeteries as well as the ball fields and more. I will send you it once I am done.

- Discuss Assistant Treasurer's Position. Motion (Sadeck/Baumgartner) Passed unanimously.
- Appoint Terry Shaw and Marjorie Laporte as Election Workers, as submitted by Jacqueline Brown effective November 02, 2015. Motion (Sadeck/Baumgartner) Passed unanimously.

New Business

- Dates for upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings, November 16th, December 14th.

Old Business:

- Water Agreement

Executive Session: M.G.L. c30A, Sec.21(a)

- Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) to go into Executive Session and not return at 7:53pm. In preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Police Chief Carlton. Roll Call. All voted in the affirmative when polled.

Respectfully submitted,



Ali Golz, Administrative Assistant