



Freetown Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2020 – 4:30pm

Meeting Will Be Held Virtually

4:30 P.M. Joint Meeting with the Building Committee

Chairman Lisa A. Pacheco calls the meeting to order at 4:30pm. Present: Selectman George L. Grunwald and Selectman Trevor R. Matthews. Also present: Town Administrator David DeManche, Administrative Assistant Timm McIntosh, Council on Aging Board Member Bruce Wilbur and members of the Freetown Building Committee: Charles Sullivan, Paul Lubin, Jeannette Tisdelle, Robert Jose, Paul Sadeck, Mike McCue and Jacqueline Brown (note: Selectman Grunwald and Mr. DeManche are also members of the Building Committee, and Selectman Pacheco is also the Chair of the Building Committee). The meeting was livestreamed at freetownma.gov/FREECAM and youtube.com/FreetownMA.

Chairman Pacheco asks Mr. McIntosh to read the following statement: “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions on the Open Meeting Law, G.L. chapter 30A, section 19, and the Governor’s March 15th, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Freetown Board of Selectmen and Building Committee is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort is being made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by accessing the live stream of this meeting on the Town’s YouTube channel, youtube.com/FreetownMA, or accessible by visiting freetownma.gov/FREECAM. In the event the live stream is unsuccessful, I am recording this meeting, and the recording will be posted to the Town’s YouTube channel as soon as I am able to following the conclusion of this meeting.”

Selectman Pacheco asked for this meeting to make sure everyone is on the same page on the Police Station, the Old Police Station and on the Senior Center addition. Selectman Pacheco says they are planning an open house at some point down the line due to COVID, but there will be an opening ceremony sometime soon. She invites anyone on the Building Committee to set up an appointment with the Town Administrator if they’d like to tour the building.

Selectman Pacheco gives a brief history of the decisions made by the Building Committee, where they previously decided to look at a combination Senior Center/Library as the next town building. She says since that decision was made, the Council on Aging Board put forth a petition article and secured \$550,000 in funding for an addition to the Senior Center. Mr. Wilbur says that the Committee was supposed to visit area combination buildings and that didn’t happen, and the Board

of Selectmen were not responsive to the COA Board's requests to move forward, so they opted with the petition route. Selectman Pacheco asks what the COA Board expects to get for \$550,000; Mr. Wilbur says that funding will get a complete 340 square foot addition, including an elevator and new septic system. Selectman Pacheco says there is a procedure that must be followed, according to Massachusetts General Laws, not a process we just made up. She would like to hear from the Building Committee to see how they feel about this situation.

Selectman Grunwald believes we should be proceeding with an architectural drawing, so we can put this out to bid and determine the real cost. He believes the Town just keeps pushing this back with no will to move forward, and that needs to change; once we have the drawings, we can vote on that. He says the law is clear, the first step is an architectural drawing.

The Board and Building Committee discuss the previous votes of the Building Committee, the cost of the Police Station, the appetite of the Town for another major capital project, the process being followed, and the general need for these projects. Mr. Wilbur departs during the discussion for a prior engagement.

Mr. Jose suggests doing a design or feasibility study on all three options and then the Building Committee can decide on how to proceed; without any information on the options, it's hard for this Committee to make any decisions. The Building Committee votes on a motion made by Mr. Jose, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to do a design or feasibility study on an addition to the Senior Center, a new Senior Center and a combination Senior Center/Library, to get data for the Building Committee to make a decision on. The vote carries nine votes to none, with Ms. Tisdelle abstaining and Mrs. Brown voted in the affirmative after the fact, as she was having audio issues at the time of the vote). The Building Committee will meet again soon and adjourns their meeting and the members depart.

At 5:25pm, motion (Matthews/Grunwald) to adjourn; motion carries unanimously after a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Timm McIntosh
Administrative Assistant

The Board does not utilize any supplemental materials in this meeting.

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2020 OCT 21 PM 12:24
[Signature]