

Board of Selectmen
Combined Meeting with Finance Committee Freetown
Meeting Minutes

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Thursday, May 5, 2022– 5:00pm
Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

Call to Order

Selectmen Jared Zager opened the meeting at 5:01pm. He noted he would be running the meeting as Selectmen Trevor Matthews was unable to attend. Selectmen Carlos Lopes, Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza were also present.

- Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote- was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote – Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes

Executive Session

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Public Employees Union, Local 1144 LIUNA (all bargaining units), the Freetown Police Association and the Freetown Full-Time Firefighters Association because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and if the chair so declares
 2. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(6) – to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
- Motion to adjourn the Executive Session was made at 5:19pm by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote- was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote – Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager – yes

Selectmen Zager opened the meeting at 5:20pm.

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

3. Approve the meeting minutes from 4/11/22, & 4/14/22.
- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 4/11/22 & 4/14/22 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved by a unanimous roll call vote

4. Discussion with the Apponequet Junior Football and Cheer Organization regarding unauthorized use of the Long Pond Rd Football field, pets on fields and associated issues.

Lu-Ann Souza let the Board know that the representative from the Football and Cheer Organization was unable to attend the meeting this evening and has asked to be put on a future agenda. Selectmen Zager said that would be fine.

5. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the agreement between The Town of Freetown and Environmental Partners for MS4 Stormwater management.
 - Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Environmental Partners for MS4 Stormwater Management was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
6. Discussion on the Freetown Elementary Schools request for Selectmen visit and Selectmen for a Night Essay Contest.

Selectmen Zager and Selectmen Lopes agreed that they would like to make a visit to the school as requested and have the winners of the essays at the Freetown Elementary School would be Selectmen for a night. Selectmen Zager asked Executive Assistant to check Selectmen Matthews availability and set up this excellent program.

7. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the request from Better Together to hold an event at Hathaway Park on 5/19/22.

Selectmen Zager noted that he had reviewed the request and had no issues with this event. Selectmen Lopes agreed. Deb Pettey suggested to have the group sign an indemnification and ensure that their event will not exceed the capacity that is appropriate for the space. Ms. Pettey noted she had an indemnification document and will have it sent out to this group.

8. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Transfer Request from the FLRSD Debt Middle School/Athletic Facility account in the amount of \$23,267.32 to FLRSD Debt GRAIS School/Pool Area account.
 - Motion to approve the Transfer Request from the FLRSD Debt Middle School/Athletic Facility account in the amount of \$23,267.32 to FLRSD Debt GRAIS School/Pool Area account was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
9. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Transfer Request from Town Insurance account in the amount of \$12,437.65 which has a balance of \$14,316.90 to the Liability Insurance account which has a deficit of \$11,437.32.
 - Motion to approve the Transfer Request from Town Insurance account in the amount of \$12,437.65 which has a balance of \$14,316.90 to the Liability Insurance account which has a deficit of \$11,437.32 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

10. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Water & Sewer's Transfer Request from the Water & Sewer Enterprise Reserve fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 to bring accounts current.
 - Motion to approve the Water & Sewer's Transfer Request from the Water & Sewer Enterprise Reserve fund in the amount of \$50,000.00 to bring accounts current was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
11. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Transfer Request from Town prop Uniform Allowance Budget Account to Town Prop Custodial Overtime Budget Account in the amount of \$100.00 from the Building Commissioner.
 - Motion to approve the Transfer Request from Town prop Uniform Allowance Budget Account to Town Prop Custodial Overtime Budget Account in the amount of \$100.00 from the Building Commissioner was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

12. Discuss and vote on what the charge is for the Library/Senior Center Building sub-committee.
 - Motion to move agenda #12 to the Monday, May 9, 2022, meeting made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
13. Approve the appointment of twelve (12) persons from the list below to the Library/Senior Center Building sub-committee and which area they will represent, effective 5/6/22-6/30/22.
 - i. Bob Alderson
 - ii. Jeffrey Amaral
 - iii. Amanda Barlow
 - iv. Alfred "Sonny" Barros
 - v. Nicole Davignon
 - vi. Cheryl Estrella
 - vii. Mark Fornaciari
 - viii. Linda Fournier
 - ix. Robin Kendrick
 - x. Norman Landreville
 - xi. Paul Lubin
 - xii. Thomas Matthews
 - xiii. Grace Medeiros
 - xiv. Lisa Pacheco
 - xv. Kathy Talbot
 - xvi. Beverly Sadeck

- xvii. Paul Sadeck
- xviii. Kent Wilkins

Selectmen Lopes noted that the Board will not be discussing #13 tonight and will be moving it into a future agenda.

14. Approve the appointment of Tim Dacey as Cemetery Sexton effective 5/6/22-6/30/22.

- Motion to approve the appointment of Tim Dacey as Cemetery Sexton effective 5/6/22-6/30/22 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

15. Approve the appointment of Deborah L. Pettey as SRPEDD Commission Member effective 5/25/22-6/30/22.

- Motion to approve the appointment of Deborah L. Pettey as SRPEDD Commission Member effective 5/25/22-6/30/22 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

16. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the pay rate for the Temporary Indexer position to be \$18.45/hour up to 16 hours/week.

- Motion to approve the pay rate for the Temporary Indexer position to be \$18.45/hour up to 16 hours/week was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Board of Health

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion

Town Administrator's Report

17. Discussion on Council on Aging addition/renovation

Ms. Pettey stated this is on hold because of the discussion needed on the addition, renovation, or combined buildings. A lot of people are interested in the sub-committee. With Selectmen Matthews not here we should wait until Monday. The Board of Selectmen need to be involved. The Town Hall needs to be included somewhere. We need everyone to regroup and figure out where we are going forward. On Monday night you will see them on the warrants that we are looking to get feasibility study money for the 52-acre campus that sits here near the Police Station. There is a second article to do a feasibility study for the town buildings. These will

point out that we have three important buildings that need to be redone. The libraries have no bathrooms. The COA building is way undersized for effective programming for the seniors and a town hall that is just falling down. We need a comprehensive review of the three buildings. There are many scenarios on how this can be accomplished. Whether it is one new building that houses all three up in this campus area. We keep the Town Hall and renovate it, we annex to the COA and build a new COA /Library. Whether we put an addition on the COA and build a new Library/Town Hall. There are many pieces to this. We may want to pause this and really think about it, so that we don't spend money in the wrong direction. We need to look into budgets because we don't have infinite money, and nobody wants their taxes to go up. Ms. Pettey continued, she is doing preliminary work with budgets and how we can afford this. An outside firm will give the Board good direction on how to move forward. Selectmen Zager would like to see everyone on the same page and have the same goals, so everyone can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Selectmen Lopes wants us to let all parties involved know we are not putting things on hold. We are making sure that we take care of people from the COA, and the library. We are making the best decision for tomorrow. We don't want to rush things. Wayne Jaye of East Freetown, member of the now disbanded COA sub-committee, calling to their attention 11/10/2021 Selectmen's Meeting when that exact proposal was made. Since then, a COA sub-committee and a library planning sub-committee was formulated. The two committees meet and came together and decided they would like a joint effort and move forward and now he is hearing all that was for naught. They why were the sub-committees even created? Personal efforts and time went into it. Back to November minutes there is a statement there that noted a feasibility study proposed one large building as a possibility and all offices library, COA, Police and all town groups voted against the plan. Selectmen Jager remembered a conversation on doing one building for each department and at that point it didn't seem feasible. Combining the 2 or 3 will be cost saving in the end.

and Grace Medeiros from East Freetown had a concern with Article 3 of the November meeting. It was voted by the townspeople for Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars to add to the original Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars for the Senior Center back in 2019. We have been waiting two years. Then this Article 3 gave us the go ahead to start, and now we are not planning for a COA building. The Seniors said 2 years ago we need a new Senior Center. The Library is now saying they need a new building and now Town Hall too. Now we are told we need to wait for all these others and it's not fair. Three years is a long time in the life of a Senior Citizen. The Seniors feel they won't be around to see a new building.

18. Discussion on Council on Aging/Library combined facility.

This agenda item has been moved to May 9, 2022, Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Combined Meeting with Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Margaret French at 6:05 called the Finance Meeting to order.

Selectmen Zager announced we will start with Assessors and only need to know about any major increase/changes.

19. Omnibus Fiscal Year 23 Budget Review with Finance Committee. It is anticipated that Departments listed below will be reviewed. Others may be discussed as may come up or as they relate.

a. Assessors

- b. Board of Health
- c. Conservation
- d. Cultural Council
- e. Highway
- f. Planning
- g. Police
- h. Town Clerk
- i. Transfer Station
- j. Water & Sewer

Assessors, Robert Sadeck:

All contractual increases. Section 141: Assessors-personnel are up by Three Thousand, Twenty-Nine Dollars. Section 142: Assessors Reveal- data licenses are up and cost of evaluations.

Water & Sewer, Robert Sadeck:

Town Accountant Kimberley Fales mentioned Department 450, but it being a special article for their operating budget there is a special packet for it being an enterprise fund. Regular gross overtime if they work more than 40 hours, and they wish to get paid for that time in that specific pay period. There is a provision within the collective bargaining agreement that they can accumulate their comp time up to 40 hours and get paid for that at the end of the year. It is tracked separately for budget purposes.

Highway, Chuck Macomber:

Section 420: Highways & Streets-Significant increase in repairs and maintenance of roadways. Contractual increases. Highway Other Purchased Services increased. Section 423: Snow and Ice Removal asking for Fifty Thousand more for a total of Two Hundred Thousand. They plowed 6 times and we had 42 inches of snow throughout the entire season. Most of this is for sand and salt. Section 424 Street Lighting- With new streetlights installed and running more efficient there is a decrease in this area.

Board of Health, Keven Desmarais:

Section 433: Trash Collection and Disposal-Contract and cost increases and fixed costs. Trash bag revenue goes into the general fund. Section 510 Health Inspection Services, Clerk & contractual increases. Full time and part time Inspectors are needed. Fifteen Thousand Dollars went into Other Property Related Services for Town Beach improvements. The Beach attendant is covered by the Revolving Fund. Town Accountant Kimberley Fales suggested they could transfer this Fifteen Thousand Dollar amount to the Revolving Fund would be a better place for it to go. It would just need to be a voted transfer, then it would go into the Long Pond revolving fund. Then you could increase the authorization to spend. Ms. Pettey said it would be useful there because we have a lot of expenses at the boat ramp. Ms. Fales stated to call it a transfer to special revenue for Long Pond revolving fund. Mr. Desmarais agreed. Health Professional and Technical Services and Fees went up. Mr. Desmarais anticipating some oversight testing, hiring engineers dealing with Excel.

Ground, well, water, storm water, air, sound testing needing to keep Excel in compliance and help mitigate issues that a business like that potentially could have. Ms. Pettey stated testing like this could range from Twenty to Thirty Thousand Dollars, and she recommended having Fifty Thousand Dollars in the Board of Health budget for any type of tested needed. Ms. Fales mentioned the revenue source of the tipping fee is added into the budget for local receipts. The Seventy-Five Thousand is a local receipt. That will offset what tax burden is being paid by Excel. The Twenty-Five Thousand will be subject to the Board's discretion as a gift so that is not part of the general fund revenue. Excel is contributing to cover this cost.

Conservation Commission, Victoria D'Antoni:

Section 171: Clerical hours increase 12 to 16 hours. Requesting to hire a part-time consulting agent to help with investigating complaints, wetland violations, inspecting construction sites, daily guidance to clerical staff and monitoring ongoing projects. In state travel increase. Dues and Membership increase.

Planning Board, Victoria D'Antoni for Robert Jose:

Section 175: Planning Meetings & Training Seminars increased. Town Planner Position. Section 177: Soil Board, all level funded.

Town Clerk, Cheryl Estrella:

Section 163: Registration- \$33.00 Increase. Section 162: Primaries and Elections- three elections planned for FY 2023. Salary and wages increased for coverage of the three elections. Professional and Technical increased for poll pad maintenance. Food supplies went up. Section 161: Town Clerk Salary increased, Clerical increase for an additional part-time employee at 19 hours a week at a step one rate. Town Clerk meetings and training seminars increased. Purchased Services increased. Town Clerk in-state travel increased.

Police, Chief Carlton Abbott:

Section 210: Police Chief salary contractual increase. Police Retirement-Sick Buy Back increased. Training stipends increased. Confidential Secretary increase of hours from 32 to 36 hours and add a two percent increase. Police Additional Gross Overtime decreased. Section 215: Communications-Full-Time Dispatch Supervisor contractual wage increased. Full time Dispatchers increased. Holiday Worked Regular Wages increased. In-Service Training increased. Additional Gross Overtime Training increased. Repair and Maintenance Equipment increased. Meetings and Training Seminars increased. Section 950: Town-Wide Fueling increased.

Cultural Council: No questions on this budget

Transfer Station Deb Pettey for Victoria King:

Section 434: Transfer Station hours have increased, now opened 6 days a week. Operator Part-Time Salary/Wages increased. Supervisor, Operator and Longevity are contractual increases. Additional Gross Overtime increased for snow days. Heating and Fuel was increased.

- Motion to adjourn made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
- Motion to adjourn made by Katie Calheta and seconded by Robert Alderson
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion

Town Administrator's Report

Please note: The Board may take up any other business to properly come before the Board that was not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before this meeting.

Old Business:

Potential discussion on pending items – action will not be taken at this meeting:

- Council on Aging building

Exhibits and/or documents utilized by the Board during this meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting minutes from 4/11/22 & 4/14/22
- Agreement from Environmental Partners
- Memo: Selectmen for a Night School Essay Contest
- Email from Town Clerk with flyer from Better Together group requesting to use Hathaway Park for event.
- Budget requests for Freetown Lakeville School District, Town Insurance, Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund, Facilities
- List of interested people to serve on the Library/Senior Center Building Sub-Committee
- Letter from Freetown Cemetery Commission recommending Tim Dacey for Sexton position
- Appointment slip for Tim Dacey as Cemetery Sexton
- Appointment slip for Deborah L. Petty as SRPEDD Commission Member
- Appointment form from SRPEDD to appointing Deborah L. Petty as SRPEDD Commission Member

Respectfully submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant