

Freetown Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 – 5:30pm  
Police Station Community Room  
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2023 JAN 11 AM 9:05

**Call to Order**

Selectmen Zager called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Selectmen Lopes, Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey, and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza were also present. Selectmen Matthews was unable to attend the meeting. Selectmen Zager noted the meeting was being recorded and would be available on the Town's YouTube channel.

**Board of Selectmen**

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the weekly warrants 028-053.
  - Motion to approve the weekly warrants 028-053 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
2. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the meeting minutes from 11/28/22, 12/5/22 & 12/12/22.
  - Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/28/22, 12/5/22 & 12/12/22 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
3. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business for internet for community room camera equipment.
  - Motion to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business for internet for community room camera equipment was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
4. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the Town Administrator to sign off on contracts with Comcast.
  - Motion to approve Town Administrator to sign off on contracts with Comcast was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
5. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the ambulance abatements & write offs for September 2022 in the amount of \$114,227.45.
  - Motion to approve the ambulance abatements and write offs for September 2022 in the amount of \$114,227.45 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
6. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the ambulance abatements & write offs for October 2022 in the amount of \$117,855.49.
    - Motion to approve the ambulance abatements & write offs for October 2022 in the amount of \$117,855.49 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
    - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
  7. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses for
    - a. Copart of Connecticut Inc. d/b/a Copart.
    - b. Alfred R. Montplaisir d/b/a Ray's Garage
    - c. John Laronda Jr., d/b/a John's Auto Body & Sales
    - d. Deane E. Markell d/b/a Miller's Auto Sales
    - e. DPF Enterprises, Inc.
    - Motion to approve the Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses for the list above was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
    - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
  8. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the snowplow agreement for Russell Sherman for winter 2022-2023.

Selectmen Zager asked if all necessary paperwork was submitted. Executive Assistant, Lu-Ann Souza replied that everything was in order.

- Motion to approve the snowplow agreement for Russell Sherman for winter 2022-2023 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 accept the donation in the amount of three hundred dollars from the Lions' Club for food for the Council on Aging.
    - Motion to accept the donation in the amount of three hundred dollars from the Lions' Club for food for the Council on Aging 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 permanent one-way direction of Forge Road.

Selectmen Zager noted that this change was recommended by the Police Chief and is necessary for safety reasons as the previous traffic pattern required motorists to stop on the railroad tracks in order to see oncoming traffic.

- Motion to approve the permanent one-way direction of Forge Road was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

11. Discussion, and vote to determine that Fire Chief Harrie Ashley, Jr., participation in payroll submissions, union negotiations and budget preparation is not so substantial that it will affect his integrity to the Town of Freetown due to having immediate family members in his employ that may have a financial benefit in those processes.

Selectmen Zager and Lopes agreed that Chief Ashley's integrity would not be affected by having immediate family members in his employ.

- Motion was made that Chief Ashley can participate in Payroll submissions, union negotiations and budget preparation and his integrity would not be affected by having immediate family members in his employ was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

12. Presentation from Town Clerk on early in person voting.

This agenda item was not discussed. It was noted it will be on a future meeting.

#### **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**

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion

#### **Personnel Board**

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

13. Discussion, and vote whether to appoint Victoria D'Antoni as Planning and Land Use Administrator effective 1/3/2023 -6/30/2023.

- Motion to appoint Victoria D'Antoni as Planning and Land Use Administrator effective 1/3/2023-6/30/2023 was made by Selectmen Lopes and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

14. Thank you for twenty-four years of service to the Town of Freetown for Sargent Edward J. Dwyer.

Chief Abbott spoke about Sgt. Dwyer's impressive career and thanked him for his service to the Town of Freetown. Selectmen Zager presented Sgt Dwyer with a certificate and Rep. Paul Schmid and a representative from Senator Rodrigues office awarded citations to Sgt Dwyer.

15. Thank you for forty-one years of service to the Town of Freetown for Fire Chief Gary Silvia.

Chief Harrie Ashley spoke about Chief Silvia's forty-one-year career on the Freetown Fire Department and thanked him for his service to the Town of Freetown. Selectmen Lopes presented Chief Silvia with a certificate and Rep. Paul Schmid and a representative from Senator Rodrigues office awarded citations to Chief Silvia.

16. Swearing in of new Fire Chief Harrie Ashley, Jr. by the Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Cheryl Estrella swore in Fire Chief Harrie Ashley, Jr.

17. Pinning ceremony for new Fire Chief Harrie Ashley, Jr.

Chief Ashley's wife, Amy Ashley pinned him as the new Fire Chief.


#### **Old Business:**

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

#### **Public Input**

#### **ARPA**

Respectfully Submitted,



Lu-Ann Souza

Executive Assistant

List of Documents/Exhibits utilized by the board in this meeting:

- Agenda
- Meeting minutes from 11/28/22, 12/5/22 & 12/12/22
- Comcast Agreement
- Ambulance Abatement letters for September & October 2022
- Class II Motor Vehicle licenses & paperwork for, Copart of Connecticut, Alfred R. Montplaisir d/b/a Ray's Garage, John Laronda Jr. d/b/a John's Auto Body & Sales, Deane Markell d/b/a Miller's Auto Sales and DPF Enterprises, Inc.
- Plow agreement Russell Sherman
- Forge Road one-way recommendation letter from Police Chief
- Letters to Selectmen from Chief Harrie Ashley re: no conflict with family members in his employ for Payroll, Union negotiations and Budget.
- Appointment slip Victoria D'Antoni as Planning and Land Use Administrator
- Run of show document outlining the awards portion of meeting