

Freetown Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 – 6:30pm  
Police Station Community Room  
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA  
Meeting was held in person and virtually

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
2023 APR 25 AM 9:17

## Call to Order

Selectmen Trevor Mathews at 6:30pm called to order the Freetown Board of Selectmen Meeting. In attendance were Selectmen Jared Zager, Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza, Board of Health Agent Keven Desmarais, Board of Health Member Margaret French, Steven Tripp and via Zoom is Selectmen Carlos Lopes.

This meeting will be recorded and will be available on the towns YouTube page. This is an in person meeting but also being streamed on Zoom and will need to read the following.

The meeting will be available for in person attendance and on Zoom – On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodation, which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide “adequate, alternative” access to remote meetings. This meeting of the Freetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted in person as well via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public can be found on the Town of Freetown’s website, [freetownma.gov](http://freetownma.gov)

For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: downloading Zoom and entering the meeting ID below, calling the number listed below and entering the Meeting ID listed below, or by going to <https://us02web.zoom.us/join> and entering the Meeting ID listed below.

Although in person attendance is available for this meeting every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website and YouTube Channel an audio or video recording, transcript. Or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

## Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87931204037?pwd=cytGRVFiLlVVRTWINZHpnNQmhHeTZKQT09>

Meeting ID: 879 3120 4037

Passcode: 987649

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,87931204037#,,, \*987649# US  
+13092053325,,87931204037#,,, \*987649# US

Dial by your location

+1 305 224 1968 US  
+1 309 205 3325 US  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
+1 646 931 3860 US  
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
+1 507 473 4847 US  
+1 564 217 2000 US  
+1 669 444 9171 US  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
+1 689 278 1000 US  
+1 719 359 4580 US  
+1 253 205 0468 US  
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 360 209 5623 US  
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Meeting ID: 879 3120 4037

Passcode: 987649

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/ksl1x5sPE>

Board of Health:

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Selectmen Zager read the following:

1. Hearing

Continuation of Board of Health Hearing from 3/20/23  
re: Housing Complaint - 41 Locust Street  
Tenant: Barry Marvel  
Landlord: Charles Cromwell  
3/28/23, Police Station Community Room  
15 Memorial Drive  
6:30pm Hearing pursuant to 105 CM:410.850

Selectmen Zager stated the comment portion has been previously closed. This continuation is to be sure of a full, fair and independent inspection report. Board of Health Agent Keven Desmarais stated they hired an outside professional housing inspector to complete the inspection process.

- Motion to deem that this report is fair and complete made by Selectmen Mathews and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes

## **Board of Selectmen**

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

2. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve, not release, the Executive Session Minutes from 3/20/23
  - Motion to approve but not release, the Executive Session Minutes from 3/20/23 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
3. Discussion, and vote whether to have videographer film town events at a rate of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per hour.
 

Selectmen Matthews liked the idea and would like to see highlights of different town events. Ms. Souza stated the Earth Day event is coming up. Highlights of Strawberry Festival, Fireworks & Parade would be good.

  - Motion to approve to have videographer film town events at a rate of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) per hour made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
4. Discussion on school assessment.

With Selectmen Matthews on the Regional Finance Committee Ms. Pettey updated the rest of Board of the school budget of Forty-Five Million, Five Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty Dollars. An increase over last year's budget of Two Million, Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-Nine Dollars for a 5.14% increase in the overall Regional District budget. The towns can only levy an additional 2.5% yearly and this raised alarms. Ms. Pettey began inquiring with the School Committee and the Regional Finance Committee that this is not a sustainable budget. The assessment to the town was Thirteen Million, Twelve Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifteen-Dollars last year. There is also state aid and Lakeville's portion that makes up the difference. They were originally proposing an 8% increase. Ms. Pettey let the School Committee know the town could not do that after last years increase. The assessment right now is 1.1% increase over last years for a total of Thirteen Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-One Dollars to the Town of Freetown. The way they came down on the towns assessment is by using some of the E and D Funds, also the Governor's state aid has increased. The overall budget had decreased from Forty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Five Hundred and Thirty Dollars to Forty-Five Million, Two Hundred and One Thousand, Five Hundred and One Dollars. A decrease of roughly Three Hundred and Sixty-Nine

Thousand Dollars over their original ask. Her concerns are they are using E and D funds to reduce the assessment which is not sustainable. She is still concerned with the overall top number and long-term budget increase. The Governor has increased state aid but if the state should have financial issues in the future they will reduce the state aid and then the town will be liable for those funds. They have worked diligently to get the assessment down for the town. We are still at the bargaining table trying to see if they can cut some other expenses out to get us a more sustainable long-term budget. We do have a good school system in place. Selectmen Matthews stated Lakeville also has the same concerns. We did vote on this and this is the maximum budget. This budget has nothing to do with Bristol Plymouth. This assessment is only for the Freetown–Lakeville Regional School District.

5. Discussion, and vote whether to increase the number of committee spaces for Parade & Fireworks Committee to thirteen (13) members.
  - Motion to increase the number of committee spaces for Parade & Fireworks Committee to thirteen (13) members made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
6. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the MS4 General Permit Assistance plan for years five & six from Environmental Partners.
  - Motion to approve the MS4 General Permit Assistance plan for years five & six from Environmental Partners made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
7. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the informational sheet for ballot question and authorization to post on Town website and Facebook.
  - Motion to approve the informational sheet for ballot question and authorization to post on Town website and Facebook made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
8. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Interim Town Administrator to negotiate the OPM contract for the Fire Station Addition/Renovation.
  - Motion to approve the Interim Town Administrator to negotiate the OPM contract for the Fire Station Addition/Renovation made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

## **Personnel Board**

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

9. Discussion, and vote whether to appoint Dean M Guimares as Signal Operator- Full-Time and start him at Step 3 based on prior experience effective 4/10/23-6/30/23.
  - Motion to appoint Dean M Guimares as Signal Operator- Full-Time and start him at Step 3 based on prior experience effective 4/10/23-6/30/23 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
10. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the following appointments:
  - a. Rebecca Frias as Council on Aging Director, Citizens for Citizens Freetown Rep and Public Records Clerk-COA effective 3/29/23-6/30/23.
  - b. Alyssa J. Silva as Programming and Outreach Librarian effective 3/16/23-6/30/23.
  - c. Trevor Matthews to Master Plan Committee – Board of Selectmen Representative effective 3/29/23-6/30/23.
  - d. Carlos Lopes, Samantha Downs and Amanda Farmer to Parade & Fireworks Committee effective 3/29/23-6/30/23.
  - e. Deborah L. Pettey & Victoria D’Antoni as SRPEDD Commission Member - Freetown Representative effective 5/24/23-5/22/24.
  - Motion to approve appointments 10a and 10b Rebecca Frias as Council on Aging Director, Citizens for Citizens Freetown Rep and Public Records Clerk-COA effective 3/29/23-6/30/23 and Alyssa J. Silva as Programming and Outreach Librarian effective 3/16/23-6/30/23 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
  - Motion to approve 10e Deborah L. Pettey & Victoria D’Antoni as SRPEDD Commission Member - Freetown Representative effective 5/24/23-5/22/24 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
  - Motion to approve 10c Trevor Matthews to Master Plan Committee – Board of Selectmen Representative effective 3/29/23-6/30/23 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
  - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
  - Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes

- Motion to approve 10d Carlos Lopes, Samantha Downs and Amanda Farmer to Parade & Fireworks Committee effective 3/29/23-6/30/23 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Matthews
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

11. Discussion, and vote whether to sign off on the following policies:

- a. Backing Fire Apparatus Policy (Fire)
- b. Equal Employment Opportunity, Discrimination and Sexual Harassment (Police)
- c. Workplace Harassment (Police)
- Motion to approve a-c policies made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

12. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the disclosure form from Public Health Nurse also being a call firefighter/EMT.

- Motion to approve the disclosure form from Public Health Nurse also being a call firefighter/EMT made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

### **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:

#### **Old Business:**

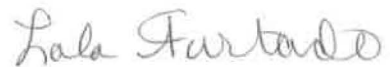
Potential discussion on pending items – action will not be taken at this meeting:

#### **Public Input**

Selectmen Matthews and Selectmen Zager signed documents associated with this evening's meeting.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08pm was made by Selectmen Zager, and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes

Respectfully Submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant

List of Documents/Exhibits utilized by the Board during this meeting:

- Agenda
- Board of Health Hearing – 41 Locust St
- School Assessment
- Memo – Recording Town Events
- Parade & Fireworks Committee Recommendations
- Environmental Partners
- Information regarding the 4/3/2023 Ballot Question
- Letter - Communications Department Signal Operator Full Time
- Certificate of Appointments
  - o Dean M. Guimares
  - o Rebecca Frias
  - o Alyssa J. Silva
  - o Trevor Matthews
  - o Carlos Lopes
  - o Samantha Downs
  - o Amanda Farmer
  - o Deborah L. Pettey
  - o Victoria D’Antoni
- Memo – Policies to submit to MIIA Rewards for Credits
- Disclosure by Municipal Employee