

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 20, 2023 – 6:00pm
Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

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2023 JUL 11 AM 11:25

Selectmen Trevor Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. He noted the meeting was going to be recorded, on the Town's YouTube channel and social media. He asked if anyone had any objections. None were noted. Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen Carlos Lopes, Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey, Administrative Assistant Lola Furtado, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza and Selectmen for the Night contest winners Kaitlyn Sesin, Jonah Aponte, Rhienne Smith, Travis Deneault, Keira Murphy, Grayson Robert were also in attendance.

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. Introduce Selectmen for the Night essay contest winners:
 - a. Jonah Aponte
 - b. Travis Deneault
 - c. Keira Murphy
 - d. Grayson Robert
 - e. Kaitlyn Sesin
 - f. Rhienne Smith

Each Selectmen for the Night essay contest winner introduced themselves and said which part of town they lived in.

2. Essay contest winners read their winning essays.

Each Selectmen for the Night essay contest winner each took a turn and read their essays. The audience applauded for each essay once read.

3. Discussion, and vote whether to approve, not release, the executive session minutes from 6/12/23.
 - Motion to approve, not release, the executive session minutes from 6/12/23 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

4. Congratulate the Tuesday Club of Assonet on a successful Strawberry Festival.

Selectmen Matthews noted there was 300 pounds of strawberries, there was 64 quarts of heavy cream, 130 pans of homemade shortbread, which equals 1125 servings and 500 hot dogs sold. Ms. Pettey noted it was a wonderful event for our town and the Tuesday Club did an amazing job throughout the day with the food, vendors and cleanup.

5. Discussion, and vote to close the Town Hall, Libraries, Council on Aging, Highway Department and Transfer Station, for the 4th of July holiday.

- Motion to close the Town Hall, Libraries, Council on Aging, Highway Department and Transfer Station, for the 4th of July holiday was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
6. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Hawker & Peddlers License for the 3rd of July Fireworks in Freetown for Nico's Novelty.
 - Motion to approve the Hawker & Peddlers License for the 3rd of July Fireworks in Freetown for Nico's Novelty made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 7. Discussion, and vote to grant exclusive access to Hathaway Park for the Fourth of July parade and fireworks on July 3rd and 4th, 2023.
 - Motion made to grant exclusive access to Hathaway Park for the Fourth of July parade and fireworks on July 3rd and 4th, 2023
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 8. Discussion, and vote to close Narrows Road, S. Main Street and Water Street for the Fourth of July Parade on July 4, 2023 or rain date if needed.
 - Motion to close Narrows Road, S. Main Street and Water Street for the Fourth of July Parade on July 4, 2023 or rain date if needed made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

9. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the fiscal year 24 appointment list. (Attachment A)
 - Motion to approve the fiscal year 24 appointment list. (Attachment A) made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
10. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the fiscal year 24 payrate increase of two percent for Lock-Up Attendants Lisa Podielsky & Lydia St. Laurent effective 7/1/23.
 - Motion to approve the fiscal year 24 payrate increase of two percent for Lock-Up Attendants Lisa Podielsky & Lydia St. Laurent effective 7/1/23 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
11. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Board of Registrar payrate for fiscal year 24 as \$15.00/hour.

- Motion to approve the Board of Registrar payrate for fiscal year 24 as \$15.00/hour made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
12. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Gatekeeper payrate to be \$15.00/hour effective 5/26/23.
- Motion to approve the Gatekeeper payrate to be \$15.00/hour effective 5/26/23 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
13. Thank Selectmen for a Night winners for assisting in the meeting.
Selectmen Lopes stated everyone did a great job tonight and congratulated them on their essays. Round of applause from family and friends.
- Motion to go into recess until 7pm made by Selectmen Jager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

7pm -

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

14. Discussion, and vote on whether to appoint Deborah L. Pettey as Town Administrator effective 7/1/23-6/30/24
- Motion made to appoint Deborah L. Pettey as Town Administrator effective 7/1/23-6/30/24 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
15. Acknowledge and congratulate the retirements of:
- a. Elton E. Ashley III effective 8/1/23
 - b. Steven E. Abbott effective 7/2/23
 - c. Carlton E. Abbot, Jr effective 7/1/23

Chief Abbott spoke about Officer Ashley III records and accomplishments. He received his retirement ID and his retirement badge from Chief Abbott. He was also present with a Certificate of Appreciation from Selectmen Lopes from the Board of Selectmen.

16. Thank Chief Carlton Abbott, Lieutenant Steve Abbott and Elton Ashley III, for their years of service and congratulate them on their respective retirements.
17. Pinning and swearing in of Sergeants:
- a. Thomas D. Long
 - b. Nickolas J. Drinkwine
 - c. Kaylin A. Jose

Chief Abbott spoke about their respective records and accomplishments. Officer Jose was pinned by her grandmother Sue Jose who was the first female officer in our Police Department in 1975. Officer Drinkwine was pinned by his father Joseph Drinkwine. Officer Long was pinned by his fiancé Julia Robert. Town Clerk Cheryl Estrella administered the Oath of Office.

Chief Abbott spoke about Officer Steven Abbott's record and accomplishments who was not able to attend.

18. Pinning and swearing in of Lieutenant Benjamin Levesque.

Officer Levesque was pinned by his son Andrew. Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office. Chief Abbott presented an American Flag which was raised and lowered today to commemorate the day he was appointed.

19. Pinning and swearing in of Police Chief Scott Rose.

Chief Abbott spoke about Officer Rose record and accomplishments. Officer Rose was pinned by his wife Sarah Rose. Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office. Chief Abbott presented him with an American Flag.

Chief Rose spoke about Chief Abbott record and accomplishments. Presented him with his retirement ID and retirement badge. Selectmen Matthews presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Chief Abbott from the Board of Selectmen. Retired Chief Abbott said a few words.

Old Business:

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

Public Input

The Board signed documents pertaining to this meeting's agenda.

- Motion to adjourn at 7:35pm made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Respectfully Submitted,
Lola Furtado
Administrative Assistant

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

- Agenda
- Winning Essays
 - o Jonah Aponte
 - o Travis Deneault
 - o Keira Murphy

- Grayson Robert
 - Kaitlyn Sesin
 - Rhienne Smith
- Application for Permit – Nico’s Novelty
- FY24 Appointment List (Attachment A)
- Certificate of Appointment – Deborah L. Pettey