

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 6:00pm
Police Station Community Room & Virtually
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

Call to order

Selectmen Trevor Matthews called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen Carlos Lopes, Town Administrator Deb Pettey, Executive Assistance Lu-Ann Souza and Administrative Assistant Lola Furtado were also present. Selectmen Matthews stated this meeting will be recorded and available on our YouTube page and read the following statement.

The meeting will be available for in person attendance and on Zoom – On March 29, 2023 Governor Healey signed into law Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2025. 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

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/86327842475?pwd=cDJGQS9TN280RWZsOFB1VFgrVk96UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 2784 2475
Passcode: 848961

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88653237962#,*672206# US (New York)

+16469313860,,88653237962#,*672206# US

• +1 689 278 1000 US

Dial By Location

• +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

• +1 646 931 3860 US

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

• +1 305 224 1968 US

• +1 309 205 3325 US

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

• +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

• +1 719 359 4580 US

• +1 253 205 0468 US

• +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

• +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

1 564 217 2000 US

1 386 347 5053 US

1 507 473 4847 US

1 669 444 9171 US

Public Hearing *(will be continued to 12/4/23, 6pm Police Station Community Room 15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA)*

November 21, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWN OF FREETOWN

The Freetown Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the Board of Assessors, will conduct a public hearing relative to selection of a residential factor that will determine the percentages of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property for Fiscal Year 2024. The hearing will be conducted at the Police Station Community Room, 15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA 02717, on **Wednesday, November 29, 2023**, at 6pm. The meeting will also be available virtually, meeting information listed below.

Meeting information and further agenda information will be posted on or before the close of business on November 27, 2023.

FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Trevor R. Matthews, Chairman

Jared C. Zager

Carlos A. Lopes

1. In conjunction with the Board of Assessors, relative to selection of the residential factor to determine the percentage of the tax burden to be borne by each class of property
 - Motion to continue this hearing to Monday December 4th, 2023 at 6pm at the Police Station Community Room made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was carried 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. Presentation and public input on Hazard Mitigation Plan
Craig Pereira, Senior Planner with the Horsey Whitten Group and Project Manager working with the town and Victoria Alfaro-Duran, Planning and Land Use Administrator on the towns hazard mitigation plan. This is the first public workshop of two. The town does not have a hazard mitigation plan in place. The town will develop, complete and adopt the plan, to be eligible for federal funding, should there be a federally declared disaster, over the next five years which is the planning horizon for a hazard mitigation plan.
3. Discussion, and vote on whether to declare the items on *Attachment A* as surplus and what to do with each item
 - Motion to declare the items on *Attachment A* as surplus and to go forward with the recommended actions for those items made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was carried in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager– yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes
4. Discussion and vote on solar on roof of Police Station vs. canopy design
Ms. Pettey stated the solar company we were working with said it was not feasible for them to do the canopy that we discussed and voted on. They want to put the whole solar array on the rooftop of the police station. It does save money for the town but there are issues with the police roof. She would like to hold off and do more homework on the roof before we put solar panels on it.
5. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the snowplow application for winter 2024 from Barry Amaral
 - Motion to approve the snowplow application for winter 2024 from Barry Amaral made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was carried in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager– yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes
6. Discussion, and vote whether to authorize the Town Administrator to approve requests for FMLA, Leave of Absences, and/or other medical requests
 - Motion made to authorize the Town Administrator to approve requests for FMLA, Leave of Absences, and/or other medical requests by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was carried in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager– yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes
7. Discussion and vote to allow the Town Administrator to sign the contract for Industrial Communications to install radio equipment on the Radio Communication Towers.

- Motion to allow the Town Administrator to sign the contract for Industrial Communications to install radio equipment on the Radio Communication Towers was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was carried 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:

8. Acknowledge the resignation of Kobey Imbert as Signal Operator effective 12/3/23
 - Selectmen Lopes acknowledged the resignation of Kobey Imbert Signal Operator effective 12/3/23
9. Discussion, and vote on the following appointments:
 - a. Maria Russo-Amaral to Commission on Disabilities effective 11/30/23-11/30/25
 - b. James Frates to Sewer Line Extension Committee – Planning Board Rep effective 11/30/23-6/30/24
 - Motion to approve a and b appointments was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was carried in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Vote: Selectmen Lopes – yes, Selectmen Zager– yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes
10. Discussion, and vote on whether to utilize ARPA funds in the sum of \$10,000.00 to hire a part-time senior clerk for the Accounting Office
 - Motion to utilize ARPA funds in the sum of \$10,000.00 to hire a part-time senior clerk for the Accounting Office was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was carried 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:

11. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the ballfield leases between the Town of Freetown and:
 - a. Apponequet Junior Football, Inc.
 - b. FreeLake Youth Softball Association, Inc.
 - c. Freetown-Lakeville Athletic Association, Inc.
 - d. Freetown-Lakeville Soccer Club, Inc.
 - Selectmen Zager decided to push this discussion to a future meeting
12. Discussion, and vote to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the ballfield leases

- Selectmen Zager decided to push this discussion to a future meeting

Town Administrator's Report

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

13. Update on recent grants received by the Town:

- a. Victoria Alfaro Duran applied for and received funding for a Kayak rack at Hathaway Park
 - b. Chief Rose applied for and received a grant for the Police Department to purchase protective equipment and perform school safety training
 - c. Rebecca Frias at the Council on Aging to receive The Empowerment Grant from Senator Rodrigues to help start a nutritional program
 - d. Update on Radio Communication Project
- Ms. Pettey praised a thru d on receiving grants to help better the town and appreciates all their hard work. All 3 Selectmen agreed and thanked them as well.

Old Business:

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

Public Input

The Board signed documents associated with tonight's meeting.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:21pm by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: approved by 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
- Public Notice
- Attachment A - surplus items
- Application to Plow – Barry Amaral

- Resignation – Kobey Imbert
- Certificate of Appointment – Maria Russo-Amaral
- Certificate of Appointment – James Frates
- Memo - Ball Field Leases – Field Hockey
- License Agreement – Apponequet Junior Football Inc
- License Agreement – FreeLake Youth Softball Association Inc.
- License Agreement – Freetown Youth Athletic Association Inc.
- License Agreement – Freetown-Lakeville Soccer Club Inc.
- Exhibit A
- Exhibit B – Football Field