

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 4, 2024, 6:00pm
Police Station Community Room
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 and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza were also present. Selectmen Matthews mentioned we will be going into Executive Session for the reason listed below and return to open session. He also noted that the meeting will be recorded and available on the Town's YouTube Channel.

- Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:02pm 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

Executive Session

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a)(1) – To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.
- Motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to open session was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes at 6:19pm
 - 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:

1. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve, not release, the Executive Session minutes from 2/20/24
- Motion to approve, not release, the Executive Session minutes from 2/20/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
2. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the open session minutes from 2/20/24

- Motion to approve, the Open Session minutes from 2/20/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

3. Presentation from Police Chief Rose on results of the Citizen Survey for Programs and Services

Chief Scott Rose presented the results from the Citizen Survey for Programs and Services to the Board. They received over 400 responses from the community. 90% of the survey were Town of Freetown residents. 30% worked in Freetown. 95% regularly travel through Town. Participation was an equal split between Assonet and East Freetown. The largest age group was over the age of 60. Services: 61% of responses supported a School Resource Officer and 60% of responses supported a FPD Boat Enforcement Unit at the Boat Ramp and Town Beach. 49% of responses supported a FPD Motorcycle Unit. 70% of responses supported a FPD Drone Unit. Responses for The R.A.D. Self Defense Program was around 70%. The FPD Citizens Academy 60%. The Junior Academy was also well received at 70%. The most important services out of all of them were the School Resource Officer and the Drone Unit. Second set of the most important programs listed was the RAD Program and the Junior Police Academy. Board thanked Chief Rose for this presentation and noted that this information is very valuable and will help the Town a great deal.

4. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Tuesday Club of Assonet's request to have exclusive use the bandstand for the annual Strawberry Festival on 6/16/2024, 8am-5pm

- Motion to approve the Tuesday Club of Assonet's request to have exclusive use the bandstand for the annual Strawberry Festival on 6/16/2024, 8am-5pm was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

5. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the request from Rock Hard Racing to utilize town roads for the Mix Tape event on 4/7/24

- Motion to approve the request from Rock Hard Racing to utilize town roads for the Mix Tape event on 4/7/24 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 request from Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path to utilize town roads for the Tour de Crème event on 5/19/24

- Motion to approve the request from Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path to utilize town road for the Tour de Crème event on 5/19/24 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

7. Discussion, and vote on potential locations of Veteran's Chair

The Board discussed potential locations for the Veteran's Chair and decided to leave it at the Town Hall. Bruce Wilbur, Veteran present at the meeting, expressed his happiness with the Board's decision to keep the chair at Town Hall.

- Motion to leave the Veteran's Chair at Town Hall made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

8. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the updated Road Acceptance Procedure document

The Board skipped over this agenda item

9. Discussion, and vote on whether as Road Commissioners the Board of Selectmen:

- a. Intend to approve the acceptance of GM Way (formerly 3 Friend Street)
 - b. Refer this approval to the Planning Road for their action
 - c. Place an article on the next town meeting for acceptance of this road
- Motion to approve the items a-c above was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

10. Discussion, and vote on whether to declare the old plywood shed as surplus and dispose of it to an interested employee

Ms. Pettey let the Board know that the old shed was removed from the boat ramp and is now at the Transfer Station and was not of use to the town.

- Motion to declare the old plywood shed as surplus and dispose of it to an interested employee was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

11. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the proposal from Banner Environmental for Asbestos Abatement Services for Town Hall Bathrooms

Town Administrator Pettey let the Board know that to move the remodel of the Town Hall bathrooms forward, the asbestos would need to be properly removed and it would take a couple of days and would need to be done while Town Hall was closed.

- Motion to approve the proposal from Banner Environmental for Asbestos Abatement Services for Town Hall Bathrooms was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

12. Discussion, and vote on whether to accept the following donations to support the Earth Day Event

- a. Advance Air in the sum of \$100.00
- b. Ahold Delhaize USA, Inc. (Stop 'n Shop) in the sum of \$1,000.00

Selectmen Matthews thanked each of these companies for their generous support of the annual Earth Day Event.

- Motion to accept the donations a-b listed above to support the Earth Day Event was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

13. Discussion, and vote whether to approve the agreement between the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the Town of Freetown

Ms. Pettey stated this is a Clinical Nursing Education Program working with Public Health Nurse Lori Desmarais at the Council on Aging.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the Town of Freetown was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

14. Discussion, and vote on Comparison of Force Main Options for the sewer line engineering project

- Motion to accept the Comparison of Force Main Option 2 for the sewer line engineering project was 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:

15. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the following appointments:

- a. Michael C. Lecuyer as Traffic Controller effective 2/17/24-6/30/24
- b. Kylie Botelho Recording Clerk for the Economic Development Committee, Building Committee, Finance Committee, COA/Library Community Building Committee, By-Law Review Committee and Commission on Disabilities

- Motion to approve appointments a – b above was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

16. Discussion, and vote on procedure to follow when a Sexual Harassment Claim is made

- Motion to approve the procedure to follow when a Sexual Harassment Claim is made was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- 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

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

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 7:25pm by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote was approved by a unanimous roll call vote

Respectfully Submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes for 2/20/24
- Freetown Police Department Citizen Survey-Programs and Services Results
- Letter - The Tuesday Club of Assonet -Annual Strawberry Festival
- Event Notification Form – The Mix Tape – Mixed Terrain Cycling
- Letter & Event Notification Form - Tour de Crème Charity Bike Event
- Email – Veterans Chair
- Road Acceptance Procedure
- Letter – Kenneth R. Rezendes GM Way Subdivision, aka3 Friend Street

- Letter – Planning Board – GM Way (3 Friend Street) Street Acceptance
- Letter – Observation Report #1 – Kenneth Rezendes
- Letter – GM Way – Charles J. Macomber
- Banner Environmental Services Inc.
- Agreement – University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Town of Freetown and Clinical Nursing Education
- Memo – William Yan
- Memo – How to deal with Sexual Harassment Claims