



TOWN OF FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019, 10:00am

Board of Assessor's Office – 3 N. Main St., Assonet, MA 02702

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2019 AUG -7 PM 1:00
Ja Brown

10:00am **Call to Order** Chairman Charles B. Sullivan calls the meeting to order at 10:02am. Selectman Lisa A. Pacheco and Selectman George L. Grunwald are present, as is Town Administrator David DeManche and Administrative Assistant Timm McIntosh.

Open Session

1. Building Department Fees for Non-Profits

Selectman Sullivan says this was discussed by the Board previously on April 18th, 2017, and the Board decided at the time to decide this on a case-by-case basis. This is the second time this has come up. Selectman Sullivan provided some documentation on this decision, saying we have to be careful to not subsidize any organization with the fees. He proposes not waiving the fee, which was requested by the Freetown Historical Society, but setting a separate non-profit fee schedule that matches the residential fees. After consulting with the Building Commissioner, the suggestion was limiting the fee schedule to repair permits, not for new construction; new construction would be charged the commercial rate.

Rich Kendrick and Paul Russell of the Historical Society are present. This issue came up as they were being charged the commercial rate for a roof repair. Mr. Kendrick is asking for consistency, as they've been charged a variety of fees over the years as well as had fees waived. Selectman Pacheco recalls the 2017 decision, saying it was something of a compromise between the Town Accountant and Town Counsel, who disagreed on what the Board could do. Selectman Sullivan agrees that it should be more consistent.

Selectman Grunwald has issues with information being handed to him right before a decision is made, asking if the Board could act on this at a later time. Mr. Kendrick says the work is ready to begin, it would be done without a permit if the Board does not act; Selectman Sullivan says we can't allow that to happen.

VOTE: Motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to approve the residential rate of \$50 for this roofing project and to look at a non-profit fee schedule that everyone is comfortable with going forward at a later meeting, passed unanimously.

Selectman Pacheco asks if Town Counsel should weigh in on this, or perhaps find the previous correspondence. She applauds the work the Historical Society does, calling it an attraction for the Town. She wishes the Board were able to waive the fees, but it's just not possible. Selectman Sullivan will keep the Historical Society in the loop on the final decision on this at a later date.

Executive Session

At 10:16am, motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to enter into executive session, under the following exemptions, and not return to open session following. Roll call Chairman Charles B. Sullivan, Selectman Lisa A. Pacheco, Selectman George L. Grunwald; all voted in the affirmative when polled.

2. To investigate and discuss charges of criminal misconduct pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(5)
3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Highway Union pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(3)

At 10:34am, motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to adjourn. Roll call Chairman Charles B. Sullivan, Selectman Lisa A. Pacheco, Selectman George L. Grunwald; all voted in the affirmative when polled.

Respectfully submitted,



Timm McIntosh,
Administrative Assistant

List of documents/exhibits used in this meeting, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 22(a)

- Massachusetts Constitution Articles of Amendment, Article 46, section 2, as amended by Article 103, "The Anti-Aid Amendment"
- Excerpt of Minutes of Board of Selectmen's Meeting on April 18, 2017