



TOWN OF FREETOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, 8:30am

Town Hall (Board of Assessors Office) – 3 North Main Street, Assonet, MA

RECEIVED  
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK  
SEP 18 PM 2:48  
J. Brown

**8:30 A.M.**      **Call to Order** Chairman Charles B. Sullivan calls the meeting to order at 8:33am. Selectman Lisa A. Pacheco and Selectman George L. Grunwald are present. Also present: Town Administrator David DeManche and Administrative Assistant Timm McIntosh. The meeting is being recorded by the Board of Selectmen's office and by Mark Rosofsky, 115 Chace Road.

**Board of Selectmen** – Discussion and/or action on the following topics/items:

1. Snow Plowing Contract Rates for 2019/2020 Snow Season. Mr. DeManche says neighboring communities were surveyed for their current rates, but we found many handle all plowing in house with a Department of Public Works. The rates for Towns that utilize contracts have been provided to the Board; we found that our current rates are pretty much in line. Mr. DeManche would recommend keeping the rates where they are and revisiting them if the need arises. Motion made by Selectman Pacheco (below).

Mr. Rosofsky says he's spoken to current contractors and wants to know which towns were surveyed; Mr. DeManche says we have responses from Rehoboth, Lakeville, Fairhaven, Dighton and others, showing Mr. Rosofsky the response list. Mr. Rosofsky asks the Board if they are aware that the Town previously supplied contractors with cutting edges; Selectman Pacheco says that is true, but it was stopped at the Highway Surveyor's recommendation. Mr. Rosofsky notes that the rate increase is also at the Highway Surveyor's recommendation. He says he has no skin in the game, he's coming at this in the name of safety. He says if the Board meddles in the Highway Department, any consequences are on the Board. Selectman Pacheco takes that as a threat and has objections to Mr. Rosofsky acting as a Selectmen.

Mr. DeManche repeats that his recommendation would be for the Board to revisit the rates if we need to, but he currently sees us as competitive. Selectman Pacheco says the Board can revisit any decision they make, but if we say that now, word is going to go out that we will revisit this later on when we don't get an adequate response. She says she's aware of cutting edges still being paid for by the Highway Department. Selectman Sullivan doesn't like this discussion; Selectman Pacheco says she'll take that off the table and maintains that we'll go with the Town Administrator's recommendation. Selectman Sullivan says we have these issues every year, setting these rates, but says if the rates are based on the CPG Inflation Calculator, as the Highway Surveyor mentioned in his letter, we should just tie it to the calculator. It can then just be approved by the Town Administrator annually; this will keep us competitive.

Selectman Grunwald asks if we've received contracts back yet. Mr. DeManche says they have not gone out yet but are ready once the rates are decided. Mr. McIntosh says the last couple years, the deadline was the first meeting of the Board in November, so contracts would be due around Halloween. Selectman Grunwald seconds the motion.

VOTE: Motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to go along with the Town Administrator's recommendation and keep the rates the same, passed unanimously.

2. Agreement with LightSmart Energy Consulting LLC for the purchase and delivery of LED streetlight consulting. Mr. DeManche says this is a consultant that comes from the on-going LED streetlight conversion process. An audit was performed of streetlights in the Town, and the consultant will help us with the rest of this process, providing technical expertise that Mr. DeManche does not possess. This agreement will be for \$2,700 plus an hourly rate beyond the scope of the agreement, but Mr. DeManche does not anticipate that. There is also grant money available through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) that will cover this cost, in addition to discounts through Eversource. The overall cost of this project to purchase the lights would be around \$35,000-\$38,000 before the grant and discounts are figured in, with the Town breaking even after 3 years. Switching to LED streetlights will save maintenance and energy costs.

Selectman Grunwald asks why we need a consultant to change light bulbs. Mr. DeManche explains the role of the consultant, saying that every other community is also going down this route with MAPC. Selectman Pacheco has issues with the overall cost of the project, saying \$37,000 is a lot of money for 86 lightbulbs. Mr. DeManche says this consultant is largely project management. He believes it is money well spent, nothing that there are many factors involved with LED conversion. Selectman Pacheco asks if this is a service Eversource provides or a discount if they do the work; Mr. DeManche says this would cut Eversource out of the lights, we would just be paying for power afterwards, and they don't want to do this work. Mr. DeManche says after the lights are installed, there is a maintenance contract involved but he's learned it's really only for emergencies. Selectman Sullivan notes that Eversource doesn't maintain the lights correctly or efficiently now. Mr. DeManche says Freetown is not being a trailblazer here, other communities are already moving to this; this is a green community initiative, the state looks positively at this.

VOTE: Motion (Grunwald/Pacheco) to accept the agreement, motion carries two votes to one with Selectman Pacheco opposed.

Selectman Pacheco says she is not opposed to the project, but she doesn't feel like she has enough information. Mr. DeManche will get the full information and go over it with her.

3. Corrective Easement for Eversource at 15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown (New Police Station site). Selectman Pacheco says this easement will allow Eversource to move the overhead wires at

the Police Station site. They will be adding another pole, not relocating the pole. This was looked over and ok'd by the owner's project manager.

VOTE: Motion (Pacheco/Grunwald) to approve, passed unanimously.

4. Minutes: August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

VOTE: Motion (Grunwald/Pacheco) to approve, passed unanimously.

Mr. Rosofsky asks for a public comment period. Selectman Sullivan asks him to wait for Monday's meeting, where one will appear on the agenda.

At 8:57am, motion (Pacheco/Sullivan) to adjourn, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Timm McIntosh,  
Administrative Assistant

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

- Snowplow rate survey results, prepared by the Board of Selectmen's office
- Letter from Highway Surveyor C. Macomber re: snowplow rates.
- Draft agreement between LightSmart Energy Consulting LLC and Town of Freetown
- Letter from Eversource re: corrective easement for 15 Memorial Drive, dated August 19, 2019
- Draft minutes of meeting of the Board of Selectmen on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019