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Cheryl A. Galletta

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 1, 2021 – 4:00pm
Freetown Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

Call to Order

Executive Session 4:00pm

Selectmen Trevor Matthews call to order the Board of Selectmen Meeting at 4 pm. We will be going into Executive Session and then returning into open session. We are going into Executive Session for the following reasons.

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) - to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares – Excel Recycling, LLC vs. Town of Freetown
2. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) – to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.
3. M.G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) – to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. Executive Assistant.

In attendance are Interim Town Administrator Deborah Pettey, Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen George Grunwald and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza.

- Motion to go into Executive Session made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Grunwald - yes, Selectmen Zager – yes, Selectmen Matthews

Public Hearing 5:00pm

Selectmen Trevor Matthews stated we are back from Executive Session and recess at 5:00pm.

In attendance are Interim Town Administrator Deborah Pettey, Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen George Grunwald and Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza. Administrative Assistant Lola

Furtado, Residents are Phil Rose, David Renaud, Patricia Chase, Transfer Station Supervisor Victoria King, Resident Jim Soares, Seth Wagner, Fire Chief Gary Silva, Chris Whitney, Lisa Lundrigan, Jake Robitaille, Carlos Lopes, Board of Assessors Mike McCue and Highway Surveyor Chuck Macomber.

4. Discussion and vote on Transfer Station hours.

Selectmen Matthews explained the background of the hours of the transfer station were not open on Sunday. We are here to listen to everyone's input and help us make an informed decision going forward.

David Renaud, East Freetown, mentioned a survey to send to residents before we up and change the hours. Five o'clock is early for a meeting, later would help people getting out of work. His neighbors don't like the hours of the transfer station either. We had a four-day week and now we have a five-day week but not open on a Sunday. The town is spending more money being open five days but not on a Sunday. Selectmen Matthews mentioned it's hard to get a fair indication of what people are thinking. We tend to get the people who are passionate about it. We have had trouble in the past getting accurate feedback. If we, do it online that leaves everybody who is not active online.

Mr. Phil Rose suggested taking a survey at the transfer station. Understands the attendant do not want to work on a Sunday, they can alternate, rotate schedules. It is busier on a Sunday other than a Tuesday. You really need to look at the numbers. Selectmen Matthews agrees on needing to look at numbers. Selectmen Grunwald suggested a survey or a poll or both to get as many opinions as possible.

Patty Chace, Assonet, stated at one point Vicky King, Transfer Station Supervisor didn't have help there and didn't have time off for vacations. She absolutely understands that, but now you have hired someone new, full time and you have a per diem person as well. Her question is why couldn't someone else do a Sunday or night hours to help the residents? She thought it was unfair the meeting was at 5pm and people had to leave work early to get here. She wants to know how did this change and why? Selectmen Matthews said at the time of negotiations Vicky King, staff and the former Town Administrator came to this agreement as a retention to keep them there, so they didn't go and find other employment. Ms. Chace stated at that time, there was a job posting clearly stated Wednesday through Sunday. When people applied for the job weren't they aware it was Wednesday through Sunday? Selectmen Matthews found out there were 3 applicants. Ms. Chace says nothing against the staff, but the transfer hours don't work for her. Selectmen Zager suggested evening hours to try and help people. Something they will need to talk about. Ms. Chace asked if it is going to happen this year? Having all this damage everywhere from the storm, is this not going to happen? Where is the per diem person? Can't they do a Sunday? Selectmen Matthews is not aware if he can do a Sundays but will investigate it.

Transfer Station Supervisor Victoria King stated the hours, Tuesday to Saturday, Closed Sundays, and Mondays, they asked us which day was more profitable, Saturday was more profitable than Sunday all year long. Ms. King has been there for 17 years. The previous Town Administrator Peter Jankowski, previous Executive Assistant Timm McIntosh and Selectmen Matthews were all in agreement that it would be a Saturday that they would keep. Ms. Souza looked into other transfer stations around us, and Fall River, Lakeville, Berkley, Middleboro, Wareham, Dighton and Rochester are all closed on Sunday. Ms. Chase stated Westport is open on Sundays, Berkley is open until 6:30 one night, Lakeville is open till 7:45 one night, they are not open on Sundays but have hours where people can get there. Ms. King had proposed a late night to the board. Selectmen Matthews mentioned we are not shutting the door on a solution; it's been like this for four months now. It gets quiet after spring cleanup and then fall comes along. There's not going to be any hours that worked for every single person. We are trying to do as much as we can for as many town people as we can. We can't open on Sunday if we don't have anyone to work it. We will work on this to see if we can have someone open and be there on Sunday.

Mr. Rose stepped up to mention people should have been informed earlier before a change happened. No heads up, for example this past July yard waste/brush pile was closed, and we couldn't dump for 2 weeks. There was a sign up in front of the Transfer Station about it. But it would have been better to be able to dump in another area while the contractor worked on the pile, to keep it open for people. Ms. King stated there was not any room, that they were inundated with compost and the brush pile was a three-year pile. The contractor doing the chipping asked that nobody be there near the machines for a reason. Safety first was in mind, as brush sometimes flies out of the machine.

Mr. Rose thinks extending the hours at night is a huge liability to the town because it is going to be dark starting next week at 4 or 5 o'clock. People going there and dumping brush in the dark they can get hurt or run over. As for the change in times and dates, everybody wants their time off and wants Sundays off. Decide and do the best you can. He cautioned the board if you put something up to poll the town, have them put their name on it so there are not 30 comments from the same person. As for the time of the workers that the job application is a fluid application, they are not bound to it. If you change to a Tuesday through Saturday, the person who got hired for Sunday didn't lose their job. That job did not go away it was just the hours were changed.

Jim Soares, East Freetown. A 25-year union employee. Unions have a work-life family balance. He was upset when he heard about the Sunday closure. He went all the time on Sundays. They need time off too. Wants the board to figure out a way to have somebody there on Sundays. Summers, extend the hours. Think about the people taking care of you.

Seth Wagner, East Freetown. There is a lot of people affected by this on Sundays. Tuesday thru Saturday is very good considering other towns around us are opened only two days week. We have a full week service. We can figure something out. Ms. King at the Transfer Station does more for this

town than a lot of people. Trying to replace her and having the new person work on Sundays will be hard to find. She deserves after fifteen years to have Sundays off for family time. She has been without a constant employee for 2 or 3 years to help her. The transfer station is amazing with the extra help, and never looked better. Putting another employee there was the best thing the Board did. Selectmen Matthews suggested a seasonal kind of approach, maybe longer Saturday hours. With three people working there, maybe they can rotate Sundays. We made the error of not having a public hearing before we made the original change, and we are not going to make that mistake again. We will continue the hearing until March 7, 2022, at 6pm. We will do more fact finding, polling surveying, because this does touch almost everyone who lives in town.

- Motion was made to continue this hearing until March 7, 2022 at 6pm by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

5. Acknowledge the resignation of Robin Roche from the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee effective 10/16/21.
6. Acknowledge the resignation of Reserve Officer Seth M. DeMello effective 10/10/2021.
7. Discussion, and vote to withdraw the conditional offer of full-time employment to Seth M. DeMello, based upon his resignation.
 - Motion was made to withdraw the conditional offer of full-time employment to Seth M. DeMello, based upon his resignation. by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
8. Appoint Adam D. Salinaro as student officer effective 11/1/21.
9. Appoint Emily-Anne Dors to the Cultural Council effective 11/1/21-11/1/24.
10. Appoint Emily-Anne Dors to the Library Planning Committee effective 11/1/21-6/30/22.
11. Appoint Linette Langevin-Uzzell as Assistant Treasurer/Assistant Tax Collector effective 11/1/21-6/30/22.
12. Appoint Melanie Foley as Confidential Secretary effective 11/22/21-6/30/22.
 - Motion made on all appointments by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.

- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

13. Discussion, and vote to add an additional Firefighter to cover hours for Firefighter absence due to medical leave.

Fire Chief Gary Silva stated one of his Firefighters is out of work for 6 months. To fill in with over time, it will cost close to fifty thousand dollars. He recommends that we hire a step one Firefighter which would cost about twenty-five thousand dollars, to at least carry us for the six months. Then address it at the end of the six months. We have a lot of overtime for the spring and summer months when the Firefighters take vacation time. If we hire the Firefighter as a floater, that will push it into the next fiscal year and now we have a replacement. I can move the Deputy to an administrative role with me and he can shadow me during the day, and we will have a smooth transition into the next year. Selectmen Grunwald mentioned we will be adding one firefighter full time, permanent. Fire Chief Silvia said yes.

- Motion to add an additional Firefighter to cover hours for Firefighter absence due to medical leave made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

14. Discussion, and vote to approve Patrolman Nathan Melo for G.L. c. 41, 111F, injured on duty status effective 10/14/21.

- Motion to approve Patrolman Nathan Melo for G.L. c. 41, 111F, injured on duty status effective 10/14/21 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

15. Discussion, and vote to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Freetown and Deborah L. Pettey, Interim Town Administrator effective 10/18/21-3/13/22.

- Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Freetown and Deborah L. Pettey, Interim Town Administrator effective 10/18/21-3/13/22 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

16. Discussion, and vote on stipend for Executive Assistant covering for gap in full time Town Administrator.

The Executive Assistant doing double duty for several weeks. The Board would like to give her a stipend of \$500.00 for the 13 weeks that she worked all those extra hours of overtime and responsibilities that went along with it.

- Motion on \$6,500.00 stipend for Executive Assistant covering for gap in full time Town Administrator made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

17. Discussion, and vote to approve the extension of Jessica Thomas' agreement as Department Assistant through 11/30/21.

- Motion to approve the extension of Jessica Thomas' agreement as Department Assistant through 11/30/21 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

18. Discussion, and vote to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Public Employees Union Local 1144 Freetown Highway Department Laborers' International Union of North America AFL-CIO effective 7/1/21-6/30/24.

Interim Town Administrator Ms. Pettey stated in the original agreement there was a line error in it, and we needed to make a clerical correction, we added one of the wage classifications that was left off.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Public Employees Union Local 1144 Freetown Highway Department Laborers' International Union of North America AFL-CIO effective 7/1/21-6/30/24 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

19. Discussion, and vote to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Public Employees Union Local 1144 Clerical/Admin effective 7/1/21-6/30/24.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Public Employees Union Local 1144 Clerical/Admin effective 7/1/21-6/30/24 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

20. Discussion on addition of a Senior Clerk Floater and Senior Clerk for Treasurer/Tax Collector office.

ITA Ms. Pettey stated a few years ago there used to be a Senior Clerk floater position within the town hall that would go to different departments as needed, when needed. Generally, when an opening would come up, they would get absorbed into that department if they applied for it and wanted it. We currently have an after-town meeting position with the Assessors Department where they have funding to get a 20 hour a week Senior Clerk person with benefits. She discussed with the Assessors and Assistant Assessor about taking those 20 hours, adding 16 hours, and creating a full-time position for the Senior Clerk. The additional 16 hours would be funded out of the Selectmen's administrations budget. That additional 16 hours would be a floater for all the other departments that so chose to use the floater. We run into trouble when people are on vacation where we have a single employee, and we must close the department. There are times when different departments are very busy such as today in the tax collector office collecting taxes that are due today. In February the Assessor's office is extremely busy doing excise taxes and abatements. It gives the town hall the flexibility to move somebody around as needed. Also, if someone should be out sick or on vacation, we may be able to utilize this person in that department as well. Selectmen Matthews and Selectmen Zager thinks it can work if there is some structure around it and how its implemented. Selectmen Grunwald would like to table this until we get more detailed information. ITA Pettey mentioned the Assessors will be looking to hire sooner than later. She has already talked to them about how to train that person in the first few weeks. She will put a plan together to see how that will work and look like. There are some downsides to the Assessors department because if a full-time position comes up, they may want to move within the town hall. That will weight heavy on the Assessors to have to retrain somebody, but they are ok with that. It also helps you attract more talent if you are offering a full-time position. Some departments are interested, and some are not. It doesn't work well for a floater because of the nature of their department and what they are doing. Selectmen Matthews would like to see who this person directly reports too during the 16 hours not in the Assessors Department. ITA Pettey stated there are other alternatives and we could budget for next year to get a floater. We will be posting a Senior Clerk position for the Treasurer/Tax Collector this week.

21. Discussion, and vote to set the payrates for Election Workers effective 10/1/21 as follows:

- a. Teller/Inspector \$14.50/hour
- b. Clerk \$15.00/hour
- c. Warden \$15.50/hour

- Motion to set the payrates for Election Workers effective 10/1/21 as follows: Teller/Inspector \$14.50/hour, Clerk \$15.00/hour and Warden \$15.50/hour made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

22. Discussion, and vote to set the payrates for the Board of Registrars, Sandra DiLillo, Mary L. Bowen, & Blessing Rogers, effective 10/1/21 to \$14.50/hour.

- Motion to set the payrates for the Board of Registrars, Sandra DiLillo, Mary L. Bowen, & Blessing Rogers, effective 10/1/21 to \$14.50/hour made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

23. Discussion, and vote on executing the MOU for Patrolman Fornaciari effective 11/5/21-11/30/21. Patrolman Fornaciari was to retire on 11/5/21 but would like to extend his employment to 11/30/21. Police Chief Carlton Abbott did say given the fact that one of his patrolmen is out on injured duty status and 2 others are attending the police academy this would be helpful for him.

- Motion to executing the MOU for Patrolman Fornaciari effective 11/5/21-11/30/21 made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

24. Approve the meeting minutes from 10/4/21, 10/13/21.

- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/4/21, 10/13/21 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

25. Approve the weekly warrants 019-027.

- Motion to approve the weekly warrants 019-027 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

26. Presentation from LakeCam on what they can do for Freetown regarding our PEG Channels, coverage of meetings etc. in the future.

LakeCam was not able to attend. Agenda item was pushed to a future meeting

27. Discussion, and vote to change the primary tenant from Freetown-Lakeville Athletic Association to Apponequet Youth Football and Cheer Organization for the football field on Long Pond Road, East Freetown.

Chris Whitney, Apponequet Junior Football and Cheer President. Moved here 5 years ago, instantly loved the town, coached soccer, got introduced to this program and fell in love with it.

Lisa Lundrigan, Vice President of Apponequet Junior Football & Cheer and Director of Fundraising for Freetown-Lakeville Athletic Association. Grew up in town, went to school with Deb Pettet. Longtime resident and raised her family here. Has children involved in baseball, football, softball and cheer. Heavily vested in both. Has the honor of serving on the baseball and the football board. She is a huge proponent of seeing kids have great opportunities for athletic programs.

Jake Robitaille, President of Freetown Lakeville Athletic Association and Carlos Lopes, T-Ball Division Director of Freetown-Lakeville Athletic Association. Full disclosure I am also on the Open Space Recreation Advisory Committee and a liaison to both committees to make sure that both ideas get shared in a timely manner.

Mr. Whitney stated they have done a lot of modifications to the field. We have cleaned it up tremendously, it looks amazing. The neighbors are very happy with what has been done. They would like to take the program to the next level. We have a lot of kids, we have been very successful, we are being noticed by other towns and OCYFL (Old Colony Youth Football league) who governs our program. It would be nice to have a place called home. They would like to put lights up, build another building and getting rid of the giant storage container. There is a risk of doing this and it is not in our name. A lot of time, effort, and money that they are putting in this area. By no means are we trying to dismiss baseball out of it. We work with them and talked about doing things down at the field, harvesting a field to give us more room as we transition from Ted Williams. At Ted Williams we were practicing on the other side of the fence. We really did not have anything, even with baseball we were in the outfield, and we did not want to damage those fields as they are nice quality fields to play on. We are all friends, and we want to keep it very civil. We do not want to push them out we just want to secure a little piece of home for ourselves in the community. Start doing something in the spring. Keeping the kids active, healthy, and just being a good productive member of the community.

Selectmen Matthews asked if there is specifically anything preventing you from being the primary tenant of making the improvements that you want to make and how is the agreement written.

Mr. Robitaille stated no, there is nothing that prevents them. We give them full access to do whatever they would like to do for the fields as long as it is in discussion with us which they have done.

Selectmen Matthews asked how much does the seasons overlap each other? Mr. Whitney said not a lot, but we did recently have a T-Ball team down there and it was posing a concern between the T-Ball and our football players. One I do not want a kid to get hurt with a t-ball and two I don't want somebody going on a pass route and hitting a little t-ball player. Now that we have moved entirely down there, we are using quite a bit of the space with cheer and football. We are full.

Selectmen Zager asked if baseball needs more space, then what is over here. Mr. Robitaille said yes, we use the complex here and we use the field of Ted Williams, KRR (K.R. Rezendes Field) and we use Long Pond Field. Long Pond is nice and in the middle and you tend to keep people happy by having practice there. Right now, we only have one field there. Its typically used in the spring. Our fall ball numbers are much smaller because our baseball players are also football players and basketball players. In the fall we have more than enough fields, in the spring we do need them. Selectman Matthews asked is there any consideration by combining these two organizations into one? One primary tenant? That has not been considered. Mr. Robitaille does not know if he would like to consider that, no offense to Chris Whitney. It is tough enough to agree with baseball people.

Mr. Whitney is considering about joining the parks and recreation, not only just for this situation, but to help with good ideas throughout the whole town and give us some level balance to have some say in that as well. Where we can work together with good ideas to benefit the whole community and these kids. We are very different programs. We are not trying to oust them out. There will always be a field for them to play on. But as the President, all the time, all the money and everything we would like to do, moving forward, it would just feel good that we have a home. Selectmen Matthews mentioned if there was some type of agreement between the two, to make sure you did have a home without changing the primary tenant. Mr. Robitaille stated we kind of already have that in place with the agreement we have. At our Board meet we brought it up and they decided at this time they would like to see the current contract through. The previous president who was there, we tried to do a project at Long Pond, it did not work out exactly the way we wanted it to do. That may be a bit of the trepidation with them just wanting to hand over the contract. They have no problem with Chris and his group putting up lights and doing everything they want to do. They have taken the fence down for the field primarily for the T-ball. We did not need a fence; we were ok with that. Whatever the organization wants to do. The way the contract is written he can't do all of it and it ends in six years, April 2027. It was a 20-year contract with the Board. Mr. Lopes stated in it we signed over almost full rights to them to do what they want in conjunction with a sub tenant contract with the football organization. Essentially giving them all the authority, they needed, to do all the construction infrastructure plans that they needed. Both programs agree that they are both growing in numbers. Space is always going to be a continuous thing that will be discussed moving forward. Luckily our programs run opposite

ends of the year. One is spring and one in fall. There is occasional overlap as we expand programs there. Currently and the spring we had a massive amount of numbers for T-Ball and everything else. We used those fields quite a bit for both games and practice. But there is a tenant agreement in place, and we do use it quite a bit. As a Board we do not object to any construction going on as long as we are told ahead of time.

Mr. Whitney had a rebuttal to that is, if we do have free reign to do what we want why wouldn't they be respectful enough to kind of slide it over to us and we will be respectful to you to always make sure you have a field to play on and give you the courtesy back that you would be respectful that we have now. We would keep you involved in what we are doing over there and keeping the town involved as well. Saying we need to file permits for lights and building. Lisa Lundrigan added we had a homecoming ceremony this weekend and sent off our eighth graders who are the first group of kids that can call that field home. Selectmen Matthews asked if there should be a carved-out area specifically for football? Mr. Whitney said they were fine with the area being specific for football, but fortunately we still need that field and if we didn't under the current agreement, we could let them take that field as well. As of right now if it isn't broke don't fix it.

We are fine with lights. We have no intention to take anything away. We prefer to keep the lease as is and let it run its course. Selectman Matthews mentioned beefing up the sublease, making it more iron clad that you have the assurance. He plans on reading and researching the contracts thoroughly.

28. Discussion, and vote on Town Hall hours day after Thanksgiving.

Town Hall is open until noon on Fridays. Mike McCue stated in the past that the Board voted to close town hall to the public to give the public the understanding that there is no business to be transacted. Employees may use vacation time or personal time or come to work. The decision to close to the public has been so that the public does not show up there thinking they were going to get service when half the building is empty. Half of town hall employees will come to work, and the other half won't. With schools closed and most of the government buildings closed, other than the post office. You are giving the public notice that rather than have them show up and find the office they want is closed, just not to expect any of the offices to be open that day. Selectmen Zager wants to make sure that the residents know we will be closed on that day. Signs do go up around town and on the door and on Freetown Flash.

- Motion to continue what we have been doing. Having the Town Hall be closed to the public with ample notice, the day after Thanksgiving, for next year we have a policy written regarding the day after holidays or holidays, made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

29. Discussion, and vote on Revolving Fund Transfer Request in the amount of \$10,000 to fund the Police Details, Boat and Beach Attendants costs for May-June 2022.

Ms. Souza explained the reason for this amount is because we didn't anticipate when we had asked for the Nine Thousand that we were going to have to have the police details at the beach and the boat ramp for this year and we will be continuing those for May and June and need to be able to pay the staff that we have for those two locations for May and June as well. Selectmen Matthews stated we are in a much better situation than we were before we had them. Ms. Souza stated the working group of Carlos Lopes, the Chief of Police and myself are all in agreement, we feel it necessary to keep those Police details, at least when we are starting off May and June of next season. So, we need these funds in order to make that happen.

- Motion on Revolving Fund Transfer Request in the amount of \$10,000 to fund the Police Details, Boat and Beach Attendants costs for May-June 2022 made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

30. Discussion, and vote on request to remove the March 23, 2021, Freetown Candidates' Forum Video from the Town's YouTube.

Selectmen Matthews said this is a gentleman who was a candidate and doesn't want the video up anymore. Selectmen Matthews has no problem taking it down.

- Motion to approve the request to remove the March 23, 2021, Freetown Candidates' Forum Video from the Town's YouTube made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

31. Discussion, and vote to amend the snowplow contract language to remove the requirement to have Commercial General Liability and possibility of raising required insurance levels for fiscal year 2023. Highway Surveyor Chuck Macomber stated its November 1st, and we have zero subcontractors signed up. We need at least 30 subcontractors signed up. If it snows tomorrow the main roads will be plowed, anybody that lives in the subdivisions will not. It's a huge concern. The latest change of insurance seems like we are the only community that's doing that. I think our limits are more restrictive than Mass DOT. Selectmen Matthews mentions it's the requirement that we have for the general liability is over and above what it really needs to be. Mr. Macomber stated from what he has heard from contractors, the five or six who have contacted me, they are looking at roughly an increase of Five Thousand Dollars to their insurance. A landscaping company, a construction company whoever it may be already carries that insurance but say (Mike McCue) who wants to plow snow because he is laid off, might make Fifteen Hundred Dollars plowing snow for me. It is not worth him spending Five Thousand

Dollars to make Fifteen Hundred Dollars. It's not worth him making Five Thousand Dollars to make Five Thousand Dollars. Selectmen Grunwald remembers a couple of years ago this coming up and isn't it the insurance company that says to the plow contractor if you don't the right insurance you are not going to be covered at all? That is his understanding. I know the town's insurance company is saying one thing, of course nobody from the town's insurance company lives in the town. Bottom line is its November 1st and we have zero subcontractors signed up. Ms. Souza stated we actually have 21 trucks signed up, but only one is approved that has the commercial general liability. If that part is removed and then all the others make us the additionally insured, then all the others have the current guidelines. Its # fourteen in the contract that's in your packets where you've added the commercial general liability. Ms. Souza and Ms. Pettey were on a call with MAIA, our insurer, the commercial general liability piece would cover more of the finished product. If they were plowing a road and didn't do a good job and somebody slipped and fell, that would be the end result. But if they are driving the truck and they hit something the liability for the automobile insurance would cover it. The commercial general liability generally covers finished product. Mr. Macomber is out there watching the finished product. Obviously, we want to protect the town as much as possible and that's what the insurance company's intent is, however, with this extra requirement, we can't get plow drivers. She did make some phone calls to other towns; they do not have this requirement. They have the One Hundred Three Hundred. That piece if you were to entertain anything she thinks it could be increased to Two Fifty-Five Hundred or even a Million CSL for very little dollars. We are so late to the game that I would hate to do that now, its something that we can talk about again for next season. We changed the contract to say that we had to be additionally insured is great and that they must have commercial plates is also a good thing. That's where the snow plowing is then covered because you have commercial plates. If you have commercial plates, you don't necessarily have to have commercial general liability. Commercial general liability is extremely expensive. Mr. Macomber said we went to commercial plates about 5 years ago. People were fighting back but then the Registry came out with snow removal plates good from November until May. If we could go back to what it was last year, we're fine. Years ago, we used to give cutting edges for snowplows, then in the industry, we all got away from that. Our pay rates are decent. It's never enough if you ask the subcontractors, but this last little change threw it over the edge. If it all went right back to, the way we were, the people will come. Berkeley is at 50% of the people they normally have. Lakeville and Dighton are fighting to get people to plow. Usually we have 30, 32 subcontractors. We have 19 routes, and he likes to have 2 people on each route and a couple just as spares. He doesn't call them every time. If he has 40 units to plow, and it's a 2-inch storm and its more of a clean-up he may only call half. Then the next 2-inch storm he would call the other half. He tries to keep everybody happy, but they know it is not everybody every time. We spend a lot of money on snow. By far, it is the crew and the subcontractors, we are the best snow and ice operations in this part of the state. Ms. Souza wants to clarify do we or do we not have to have

commercial plates. Mr. Macomber says yes it has been the policy for five to eight years. Snow removal plates are also acceptable.

- Motion to amend the snowplow contract language to remove the requirement to have Commercial General Liability and possibility of raising required insurance levels for fiscal year 2022 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Chuck mentioned the FYAA football fields

There is a large parcel of property down at KRR that was originally designated, when we built those fields for soccer fields. Its untapped. The back left hand corner. That section that was undeveloped was 10 acres, but then we dissected that section when we put the bypass road in. But the section must be six or seven acres. That would entertain a couple of football fields or a couple of baseball fields, whatever they wanted to do. They did mention how convenient Long Pond is in the center of town for everyone. Years ago, it was designated in the thought process to make them soccer fields. They even went out and bought nets, but it just never took off.

32. Discussion, and vote to approve entering the lease agreement for Ambulance with EKG, Pumper Engine Firetruck and three Police Cruisers with All American Investment Group, LLC.

- Motion to approve entering the lease agreement for Ambulance with EKG, Pumper Engine Firetruck and three Police Cruisers with All American Investment Group, LLC. made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

33. Discussion, and vote on the insurance rates for retirees.

We have some recommendations on what these should be from the Insurance Advisory Committee for the year 2022. Commencing on January 1, 2022, the committee voted unanimously to recommend the Board of Selectmen that the new rate increase of 1.38 % for the Medex 2 plan and 3.30% for the Managed Blue for Seniors 2 plan be approved.

- Motion to approve the insurance rates for retirees made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

34. Discussion, and vote on the revised Comcast agreements for internet at Fire Stations 1 & 2.

Ms. Souza explained when the contracts were signed, they sent them back to us, because its governmental for fire stations, it's x amount cheaper for each one.

- Motion to approve the revised Comcast agreements for internet at Fire Stations 1 & 2 made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Board of Health

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

No topics for discussion

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

35. Discussion, and vote on stickers for Beach for 2022, fees to charge, what location(s) covered with sticker and how many stickers should be sold.

The Selectmen decided to push this discussion to a future meeting.

Town Administrator's Report

Please note: The Board may take up any other business to properly come before the Board that was not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before this meeting.

Old Business:

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

- Council on Aging building and staffing

Motion to adjourn made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald

Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

Respectfully submitted,



Lola Furtado

Administrative Assistant

Documents/Exhibits used by the Board during this meeting

- Public Notice -Transfer Station Hours
- Resignation of Robin Roche from Open Space Recreation Advisory Committee
- Resignation of Reserve Police Officer Seth M. DeMello
- Change of Status – Student Officer
- Certificate of Appointment – Adam D, Salinaro Student Officer
- Certificate of Appointment - Emily-Anne Dors Cultural Council
- Certificate of Appointment - Emily-Anne Dors Library Planning Committee
- Certificate of Appointment - Linette Langevin-Uzzell Assistant Treasurer/Tax Collector
- Certificate of Appointment - Melanie Foley Confidential Secretary
- Memorandum - Firefighter Out on Extended Sick Leave
- Memo - Injury – Patrolmen Nathan Melo
- Amendment to Employment Agreement – Deborah L. Pettey
- Service Agreement - Jessica Thomas
- MOA - Town of Freetown & Public Employees Union - Highway
- MOA - Town of Freetown & Public Employees Union - Clerical/Library
- Memo – Election Worker Compensation
- Memo – Board of Registrars Compensation
- Retirement of Patrolmen Mark Fornaciari
- Meeting Minutes of October 4, 2021
- Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2021
- Memo – LakeCam service pitch
- Memo – Apponequet Youth Football & Cheer Organization
- Memo – Day after Thanksgiving Town Hall Schedule
- Revolving Fund Increase in Spending
- Memo – Request to remove Candidate Forum from Town’s YouTube
- Memo – Revisions to the 2021-2022 Snowplow Application
- All American Investment Group, LLC
- Insurance Advisory Committee – Health Insurance Rates
- Comcast Business – East Freetown Fire Department 1 & 2
- 2021 Local Beach Pass Prices