

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 13, 2021 – 5:00pm
Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK

2022 JAN -4 AM 9:23

Cheryl A. Furtado

Call to Order

Selectmen Matthews called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Selectmen Grunwald, Selectmen Zager, Interim Town Administrator Deborah Pettey, Jean Fox from MBTA South Coast Rail, Kim Rezendes, Karen Newall, Jessica Elder, and Theresa Feuersanger from Eversource, Public Health Nurse Lori Desmarais, Jose Invencio from LakeCam, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza, and administrative Assistant Lola Furtado were also present.

Selectmen Matthews noted we would be going into Executive Session for reasons one and two listed below and would return to open session.

- Motion to enter Executive Session was made at 5:02pm by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Vote: Selectmen Zager -yes, Selectmen Grunwald – yes, Selectmen Matthews – yes.

Executive Session

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)(6) – 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.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 6:00pm.

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

3. Approve the following appointments:
 - a. Keven Desmarais as Board of Health Agent effective 1/18/22-6/30/22.
 - b. Timm McIntosh as part -time Assessors Senior Clerk effective is 12/20/21-6/30/22
 - c. Courtney Brightman to the Cultural Council effective 12/14/21-12/14/24.
 - d. Sarah Dudley to the Cultural Council effective 12/14/21-12/14/24.
 - e. Alexandra Golz to the Cultural Council effective 12/14/21-12/14/24.

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

Selectmen Grunwald discussed the Board of Health Agent position noting that the appointee did not meet the qualifications of the position. Selectmen Zager noted that the candidate possessed a diverse background including medical, military an Associate's degree and other attributes that helped to qualify him for this position. Selectmen Grunwald noted he was concerned that the job posting did not note that we would be willing to hire and train a candidate for this position. Deb Pettey noted that the job posting had noted that we would train the right candidate. Lu-Ann Souza pulled up the posting and showed it to Selectmen Grunwald who noted he was not aware that was in there and was no longer concerned with the appointment.

- Motion to appoint Keven Desmarais the Board of Health Agent effective 1/18/22-6/30/22 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

4. Adjust the effective end date of the appointment of Deborah L. Pettey to the By-Law Review Committee from 6/30/22 to 3/13/22.

- Motion to adjust the end date of the appointment of Deborah L. Pettey to the By-Law Review Committee from 6/30/22-3/13/22 was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

5. Discussion on letter from Sgt. Edward Dwyer regarding his retirement incentive dated 12/3/21.

Selectmen Grunwald acknowledged the receipt of the letter from Sgt. Dwyer. The Board Chair would like to refer Sgt Dwyer's letter to his Union Rep as this is a Collective Bargaining Agreement matter.

6. Discussion, and vote on the hourly rate to \$16.50/hour for the Cemetery Sexton effective January 1, 2022.

- Motion to increase the hourly rate to \$16.50/hour for the Cemetery Sexton effective January 1, 2022 was 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:

7. Approve the meeting minutes from 11/15/21 & 11/29/21.

- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/15/21 & 11/29/21 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.
8. Presentation from LakeCam on what services they can provide for Freetown regarding our PEG Channels, coverage of meetings etc. in the future.

Jose Invencio presented three options to the Selectmen on what LakeCam would be able to provide for PEG Channels and coverage.

Full-Service Option 3-year Contract (2022, 2023, and 2024) LakeCAM as town's PUBLIC Access, EDUCATIONAL Access, and GOVERNMENT ACCESS provider. In addition to sharing Lakeville's EDU channel, LakeCAM shares Lakeville GOV and PUB Channels with Freetown. LakeCAM covers and airs 5 to 6 Freetown GOVERNMENT meetings per month on average. LakeCAM facilitates production and airing of 4 to 5 Freetown PUBLIC Access programs per month on average.

EDU Channel Only Option (2021*, 2022, and 2023) \$12,500 annually (2021* & 2022) \$15,000 in 2023 (add B-P Tech coverage)

Selectmen Matthews noted that the Board would need time to review this proposal and will decide at a future meeting.

9. Update from M.B.T.A. on M.B.T.A. South Coast Rail project.

Director of Community Engagement Jean Fox gave an update on the progress for the M.B.T.A. South Coast Rail project. She showed a PowerPoint presentation and said she will send the presentation over to the Administrator's office. The rail project is on track, on time, and on budget. It is all state funding, and it is in place. Fall River contract is at 40 percent completed. Assonet Station has the beginnings of the platform. Our stations are not union stations. It is a platform, a parking lot with canopy signs. Freetown received new rails eliminating the clickity clack sound. Midpoint of construction is anticipated for next spring. Fall River's Weaver's Cove and New Bedford's Wamsutta Layovers are overnight locations for cleaning and oiling. Maintenance will be conducted at larger facilities elsewhere. The Assonet River Railroad Bridge is now in place. Crews built the 80-foot bridge off-site and staged it to one side while demolishing the old bridge. Next, they moved the new bridge into place, lowered it to meet the rail elevation, and installed the rail and ties. See the video below for a look on how it was done and in 11 days.

<https://www.mbta.com/projects/south-coast-rail/update/new-asset-river-bridge-installed>

Selectmen Matthews asked about the pay to park revenue. Ms. Fox stated no that the MBTA purchased the property through their acquisition process and all monies will go back to them.

10. Discussion, and vote on whether to amend Eversource's Road Opening Permit to allow work through the winter and discuss the hours of operation for the S. Main Street project.

Deb Pettey recused herself from this conversation and left the meeting. Theresa Feuersanger asked the Board to consider allowing Eversource to work seven (7) days a week through the winter to complete this important infrastructure project on S. Main Street. Ms. Feuersanger noted she had spoken to Deb Pettey and Chuck Macomber who had no issues with the revised schedule. The Selectmen wished Mr. Macomber or Ms. Pettey were able to be at the meeting so they could confer with them. Lu-Ann Souza noted Mr. Macomber had mentioned while in her office that he did not think working on Sunday's was a good idea. Selectmen Matthews asked Jim Rezendes to weigh in on his thoughts as this was an area of expertise. Mr. Rezendes said he still had concerns with the project as he did not think it was possible to dig, backfill and pave daily as he had not seen that done before. The Eversource team assured him that it was. The Board agreed to allow Eversource to work 6 days a week throughout the winter with the stipulation that the Highway Surveyor or Board of Selectmen could shut the project down at any time and that Eversource would not work if there was an impending storm in the forecast. Jessica Elder from Eversource said she would send over an amended Work Order to the Administration Offices on Tuesday for the Board and Town Clerk's signatures.

- Motion to approve the amendment for the road opening permit for Eversource to work on S. Main Street six days a week Monday to Saturday throughout the winter with the Board of Selectmen or Highway Surveyor having the ability to shut down the project was made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Matthews.
- Vote: Selectmen Grunwald yes, Selectmen Zager no, Selectmen Matthews yes

11. Discussion, and vote on closing the Transfer Station at 1pm on Friday December 24, 2021.

- Motion to close the Transfer Station at 1pm on Friday, December 24, 2021, was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

12. Discussion and vote to approve the Liquor License renewals for 2022 listed below.

- a. Circle K Massachusetts LLC d/b/a Circle K #7518
- b. Independence Harbor Inc.
- c. M & H Grandpa's Place, Inc. d/b/a Grandpa's Place
- d. M & H Juniors, Inc. d/b/a Juniors
- e. K & E Liquors inc. d/b/a Crossroad Liquors
- f. Mason Road Food Mart Corp. d/b/a Prime Express
- g. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6643

- Motion to approve the liquor licenses a-g above was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

13. Discussion and vote to approve Class II and Class III license renewals for 2022 listed below.

- a. Alfred R. Montplaisir d/b/a Ray's Garage
- b. Armand R. Clermont d/b/a Clermont's Auto Sales
- c. Basics Equipment, Inc. Basic Used Cars, Trucks and Equipment
- d. Christopher Cabral d/b/a C.J. Auto Sales
- e. Copart of Connecticut, Inc. d/b/a Copart
- f. Craig Cabral, Evolution Auto Sales, Inc.
- g. Deane Markell d/b/a Miller's Auto Sales
- h. DPF Enterprises, Inc.
- i. Mark H. Bullock d/b/a Chipaway Auto Sales
- j. Choppahead Industries Inc. d/b/a Choppahead Kustom Cycles
- k. Michael J Brynes & John Mello d/b/a J.M. Auto Sales
- l. P.J.'s Tires, Inc.
- m. Robert H. Alderson d/b/a Bob's Motor Works
- n. Roger L. Deneault d/b/a Boehler's Garage
- o. San-Man Corp. d/b/a San-Man Auto Sales
- p. Joseph F. Costa III d/b/a J & T Auto Salvage
- q. Milton S. Westgate, Jr. & Milton S. Westgate III d/b/a Westgate Auto
- r. John Broden d/b/a C.S.A. Auto Parts
- s. Jeffrey Reposa d/b/a East Freetown Auto Salvage, LLC
- t. DB Fabrication, Inc. d/b/a Bugs Stevens' Freetown Auto
- u. Big Wheel Truck Sales, Inc.
- v. Daniel Crispim d/b/a Home Town Automotive
- w. Donald F. Mendoza, Jr. & Valdimir Kreshchuk d/b/a D.M. Auto Enterprises
- x. Millis Industries, Inc. d/b/a Pick-n-Pull
- y. John Larondo, Jr d/b/a John's Auto Sales

- Motion to approve the Class II and Class III Motor Vehicle Licenses listed a-y above was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

14. Discussion and vote to approve the licenses listed below:

- a. Entertainment License – Independence Harbor
- b. Entertainment, Jukebox and Automatic Devices Licenses – Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #6643
- c. Auctioneers License – Joseph F. Costa III d/b/a J & T Auto Salvage

d. Motor Vehicle Graveyard License – Millis Industries, Inc. d/b/a Pick-n-Pull

- Motion to approve licenses a-d above was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

15. Discussion, and vote to approve the Renewal Certification form for the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for 2022.

Lu-Ann Souza explained this is a required form where the Town notes who is or is not renewing their liquor licenses. This form is turned into the ABCC yearly.

- Motion to approve the Renewal Certification form for the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) for 2022 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

16. Discussion, and vote to award project based on RFQ received to outfit the Police Station Community Room with recording equipment.

- This agenda item was not discussed.

17. Discussion, and vote to approve the Request for Proposal for Operational Project Manager for Council on Aging.

The Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen have authorized a COA Sub-Committee, next step is to hire a Project Manager. Ms. Pettey stated the State requires it when you have a 1.5-million-dollar project. It talks about having the subcommittee vet the applications and decide which ones will come in for interviews. The start date is January 3, 2022, with proposals back by February 4, 2022, which can be change when the subcommittee is set up. Ms. Pettey wanted to set this in place to send to Town Counsel and to the Board.

- Motion to approve the Request for Proposals for Operational Project Manager for Council on Aging pending general Counsel's approval was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

18. Discussion, and vote to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Comcast for cameras at the Highway Department.

Selectmen Matthews asked if Highway Surveyor Chuck Macomber and the Union have approved it. Ms. Souza said they had.

- Motion to approve the contract between the Town of Freetown and Comcast for cameras at the Highway Department was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

19. Discussion, and vote on whether to conduct an Organizational Study for Town Hall.

Deb Pettey noted that an Organizational Study at Town Hall is crucial to making sure staff are not over or under worked and that we have the right positions to move the Town forward. The Board agreed doing this study would be a great step forward. The next phase would be wage and classification study. This will be funded by the Board of Selectmen and then the next piece of it will need to be funded through Town Meeting.

- Motion to move ahead with an Organizational Study for Town hall was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

20. Discussion, and vote to call and set the date for the next Annual Town Election on Monday, April 4, 2022.

- Motion to set the Annual Town Election on Monday, April 4, 2022, was made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

21. Discussion, and vote on which cable access company to utilize beginning 1/1/22, MCCAM or LakeCam.

Selectmen Matthews noted the Board would need time to digest the earlier presentation and would make this decision at a future meeting.

22. Discussion, and vote on Highway Surveyor's request to increase plow rates for winter 2021-2022 season.

Selectmen Matthews asked what the current fees were Lu-Ann Souza read the current fees and noted the new fees would increase these rates by five dollars per hour. Ms. Souza stated she talked to Mr. Macomber about the budget, and he said they budget for a hundred thousand but usually we spend three hundred thousand depending on the weather. Selectmen Grunwald stated he thought we don't have any other choice since its hard-to-find plow drivers. Selectmen Matthews stated Mr. Macomber wouldn't ask for it if he didn't need it.

- Motion to approve the Highway Surveyor's request to increase plow rates for winter 2021-2022 season was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
23. Discussion, and vote on the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business for Fire Station 3's Comcast bundle with additional Static IPs needed for IMC Integration with the Police Department Communication Center.
- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business for Fire Stations 3's Comcast bundle with additional Static IPs needed for IMC Integration with the Police Department Communication Center was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
24. Discussion, and vote on the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business to install the two landlines needed to operate the alarm system at the Council on Aging.
- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Comcast Business to install the two landlines needed to operate the alarm system at the Council on Aging was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
25. Discussion, and vote to approve the Ambulance Abatements in the amount of \$164,787.06 and Write Offs in the amount of \$7,631.29 totaling \$172,418.35 for the month of November 2021.
- Motion to approve the Ambulance Abatements in the amount of \$164,787.06 and Write Offs in the amount of \$7,631.29 totaling \$172,418.35 for the month of November 2021 was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
26. Discussion, and vote to approve Heath Chace as a plow driver for the winter 2021-2022 season.
- Motion to approve Heath Chace as a plow driver for winter 2021-2022 season was made by Selectmen Grunwald and seconded by Selectmen Zager.
 - Vote: approved in a unanimous roll call vote.

Board of Health

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

27. Discussion, and vote on new fee structure for Board of Health Licenses & Permits.

- Motion to approve the new fee structure for Board of Health Licenses & Permits effective 1/1/2022 was made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald.
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

28. Public Health Nurse update including current COVID19 protocols.

Public Health Nurse Lori Desmarais gave an update on COVID19. She noted the positivity rate in Freetown is currently at 13.08% which is very high. Total active cases-86. Total confirmed cases-1459. Case counts for the last 2 weeks-127. We are the highest in percentage for our area in Bristol County right now. Case counts by month September 90 cases 1 hospitalized. October 79 cases 2 hospitalized. November 177 cases with 4 hospitalized and December 118 cases with 2 hospitalized. Those that are hospitalized are usually unvaccinated residents. Vaccinated residents are seeing milder symptoms. 72% of residents vaccinated with one dose. 65% of residents are fully vaccinated. As of December, Freetown Elementary School has 6 new cases, George R. Austin Intermediate School 1 case, Freetown Lakeville Middle School 1 case and Apponequet Regional High School 2 cases. 2020 -2021 School year total is 226 cases including Freetown, Lakeville and staff. The Cares money will be ending as of December 31. Massachusetts Health Board Association has said Freetown will be getting money to help with Covid. The money can be used for vaccines, contact tracing, materials, and supplies. Money can be use up to June of 2022. In July of 2022 we will need to make a report on what we spent the money on. Freetown does not qualify for state rapid testing kits. Bristol Community College and New Bedford Airport are still free testing sites.

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Town Administrator's Report

29. Acknowledgement of grants the Town of Freetown has been recently awarded.

Deb Pettey noted that several employees have gone above and beyond their roles and got grants for the Town and she wanted the Board to be aware that. The Highway Surveyor Chuck Macomber and Mike McCue applied for a five-thousand-dollar wellness grant which will be used to purchase an electronic sign for notify residents of emergencies and such. Vicky King of the Transfer Station applied for a recycling grant and the town was awarded a seven thousand eight-hundred-dollars grant to help dispose of the mattresses. Fire Chief Silvia and Police Chief Abbott among others have successfully applied for and obtained grants for the Town of Freetown.

30. Request for applicants from each precinct to sit on COA Sub-Committee.

Deb Pettey noted that we are looking for members to join the COA Sub-Committee and wanted residents to know this opportunity is available and anyone interested please send in a letter of interest to the Selectmen's office. She would also like to see applicants from each precinct to sit on the COA Sub-Committee so that we can get started and move forward with the project.

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald at 7:50pm.
- Vote: was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

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

List of documents/exhibits used by the Board during this meeting

- Agenda
- Appointment slips for Keven Desmarais, Timm McIntosh, Courtney Brightman, Sarah Dudley, Deb Pettey & Alexandra Golz.
- Letter from Board of Assessors recommending Timm McIntosh
- Email from Courtney Brightman requesting placement on Cultural Council
- Email from Sarah Dudley requesting placement on Cultural Council
- Email from Alexandra Golz requesting placement on Cultural Council
- Letter from Chief Abbott regarding Sgt Dwyer's retirement incentive
- Letter from Sgt Dwyer regarding retirement incentive
- Letter from Cemetery Commission regarding Sexton pay rate.
- Meeting minutes 11/15/21 & 11/29/21
- LakeCam offer for cable access
- MCCAM offer for cable access
- Email from Town Accountant on available cable access monies
- Eversource Underground Infrastructure Upgrades South Main St. Project
- ABCC renewal form
- Quotes for all bidders for Police Station Community Room project
- Request for Proposal documents for OPM for COA project
- Agreements from Comcast for Fire Station 3, Highway Dept and COA
- Scope of Work from Collins Center regarding Organizational Study
- MEMO from Town Clerk requesting 2022 Election date to be set.

- Letter from Highway Surveyor requesting plow hourly wage increase
- Ambulance Abatement & Write Off document
- Health Chace's snowplow application packet
- Board of Health Fee Sheet

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lola Furtado". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lola Furtado
Administrative Assistant