

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 7, 2022– 5:00pm
Police Station Community Room
15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA

RECEIVED
FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2022 APR 20 PM 12: 01

Call to Order

Selectmen Matthews open the meeting at 5:00pm. In attendance were Selectmen Jared Zager, Selectmen George Grunwald, Interim Town Administrator Deborah Pettey, Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza, and Administrative Assistant Lola Furtado. Selectmen Matthews noted we will be going into Executive Session and returning into Open Session. We will be going into Executive Session for the following 3 reasons below and will return to Open Session.

- Motion to enter Executive Session was made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call 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. G.L. c. 30A, sec. 22(g)(2) - Upon request by any person to inspect or copy the minutes of an executive session or any portion thereof, the body shall respond to the request within 10 days following receipt and shall release any such minutes not covered by an exemption under subsection (f); provided, however, that if the body has not performed a review pursuant to paragraph (1), the public body shall perform the review and release the non-exempt minutes, or any portion thereof, not later than the body's next meeting or 30 days, whichever first occurs. A public body shall not assess a fee for the time spent in its review. (Attachment A)
 3. M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21(a)(3) – to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with **the Freetown Police Association and Public Employees Union, Local 1144LIUNA Clerical/Library Union** because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares
- Motion to return from Executive Session and back to Open Session was made at 6:12pm by Selectmen Matthews

In attendance were Gary Martin, Carlos Lopes, Timm McIntosh, Keven Desmarais, Patty Chace, Vicky King and Jeffrey Chandler.

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

4. Rescind the appointment of Chief Gary Silvia on the Building Committee effective 2/16/22.
 5. Rescind the appointment of Selectmen George Grunwald to Regional School Finance Committee effective 3/7/22.
 6. Discussion, and vote, and appoint one Selectmen to be on the Regional School Finance Committee.
 7. Approve the following appointments:
 - a. Jessica M. Coray as Part-Time Signal Operator Trainee effective 3/7/22.
 - b. Elda M. Hague as Part-Time Signal Operator Trainee effective 3/7/2022.
 - c. Harrie Ashley, Jr. to Building Committee, Fire Department Representative effective 2/16/22-6/30/22.
 8. Discussion, and vote on adding a Park & Recreation Director.
This will be discussed during Agenda # 16
 9. Discussion, and vote on Public Employees Union, Local 1144, Clerical/Library Union requesting the Board of Selectmen address the ability of rolling over unused vacation time into next fiscal year.
Selectmen Grunwald said this needs to go to the Union first.
- Motion to accept 4, 5 and 7 a-c made by Selectmen Matthews and seconded by Selectmen Zager
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Motion to appoint Selectmen Matthews to the Regional School Finance Committee 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:

10. Approve the meeting minutes from 2/22/22.
- Motion to accept the meeting minutes from 2/22/22 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
11. Approve the weekly warrants 028-040.
- Motion to approve the weekly warrants 028-040 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
12. Discussion, and vote on approving the Executive Session meeting minutes 1/1/15-1/31/22 listed in Attachment A.

- Motion to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes 1/1/15-1/31/22 listed in Attachment A made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
13. Discussion, and vote to release, partially release or not to release specific dates of Executive Session minutes 1/1/15-1/31/22.
- Motion to approve the release, partially release or not to release specific dates of Executive Session minutes 1/1/15-1/31/22 with the redactions we have made, made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
14. Discussion, and vote on allowing the Tuesday Club of Assonet in association with the Freetown Cultural Council to host the Strawberry Festival on June 19, 2022, 11am-4pm at the Village Bandstand.
- Motion to approve allowing the Tuesday Club of Assonet in association with the Freetown Cultural Council to host the Strawberry Festival on June 19, 2022, 11am-4pm at the Village Bandstand made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
15. Discussion and/or approve/sign the Warrant for the 2022 Annual Town Election – April 4, 2022.
- Motion to approve the Warrant for the 2022 Annual Town Election – April 4, 2022, made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
 - 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 Health Agent Keven Desmarais asked to speak. He stated in cooperation with the Lakeville Board of Health, Public Health Nurse, and Fire Department in Lakeville we received a shipment of Covid home test kits. The Board of Health has distributed them for Freetown Residents to pick up. They are available at Town Hall, Senior Center, Both Libraries, Transfer Station, Police Station, and Fire Station. We ask 4 per household. We received about 1000 in total.

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

16. Discussion on Beach and Boat Ramp staffing, oversight, surveillance cameras, Police and/or EPA details, power and Wi-Fi, and which system to utilize for payment for parking at Boat Ramp for Summer 2022.

Ms. Pettey stated last summer there were issues at the boat ramp and the beach requiring a lot of police details. People running businesses out of the boat ramp and the beach. People having cookouts, drinking, parking all over the place. Most of this was related to Covid because there weren't much activities people could do. Attendants working, were trying to collect the fees and keep order. Some of the patrons were getting feisty with the attendants. Ms. Souza had to go there multiple times every weekend to try to assist the attendants that were hired to work there. We had Police details every weekend. We have been working on these issues to see what can be done to make it a better experience for everybody.

We reached out to the state because it is a state boat ramp, to make some changes. We asked if we could increase the price of the sticker to help pay for these police details and attendees. We also asked if we could put in a pay app on your phone or a pay kiosk. We did have a meeting with Mr. Cameron from the State, Police Chief Abbott, BOH Keven Desmarais, Myself and Ms. Souza. We discussed raising the fees which we could, to Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per ticket. He was ok with any kind of cashless system that we might propose. He was also ok with us issuing parking tickets to people. We would like to see how we can run the boat ramp smoothly for all involved.

There are two options for the payment systems. Ms. Souza stated we went back to revisit the kiosk option that the Board previously approved using a pay app on your phone. This would require us to put in some infrastructure. Electricity, wi-fi, tablets for the attendants so they will be able to look up who has or has not paid. The parking kiosk is battery operated, does not need wi-fi, it is a stand-alone so that might be a better option. The quote was Twelve Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Dollars (\$12,690.00). BOH Agent Mr. Desmarais said there was Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) in the account. We can charge out of state more. Keep in mind there may be federal funding coming along. There is a need for steady enforcement and early in the season. He visited both sites and mentioned there were a lot of signs, and some of them are counter intuitive. No parking signs, 3 feet off the ground where no one can see them. He feels we can improve on the clarity of the signs, bigger the better for warning people. Signs at the beach are done well. Ms. Pettey feels the underlying issue is who's going to spearhead all this. Last year it was the Town Administrators office. Selectmen Matthews mentioned this has to do with Agenda #8. Ms. Pettey continued that Ms. Souza had to go to the beach and boat ramp every weekend. If Ms. Pettey is still here, she would like to see some one in charge of all this. Selectmen Matthews said it is unfair for it to fall on the Administrative Office. Ms. Pettey asked Mr. Desmarais about what the state is offering us is a stand-alone metal box with slots and envelopes. But someone would have to go down there to check and collect the money. He suggested if we have the money, we should go with the best way right now. One of the units suggested was cash and electronic payment. Selectmen Zager mentioned hopefully at town meeting people will vote on this. Selectmen Matthews wants to hire somebody or have someone working there. Mr. Carlos Lopes, a

representative from the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee working with Chief Abbott and Ms. Souza on a Boat and Beach Working Group, stated once we get a system in place, we are going to have someone there. Put the cash transaction out of the equation because it was not always making it to the coffers or until people who use the boat ramp are used to the system. His concern is by adding one system which is the free one from the state then moving it over to the wi-fi system now we are changing it again, again and again. If we are going to do something, let us do it right the first time and add the infrastructure that we need, the power, wi-fi, solar, electrical for the long term. Then surveillance cameras there for enforcement and then you have a dispatcher seeing something and dispatches an officer out versus having an office strictly always committed to that area. So, the long-term solution is technology. Whether we do it now or later. Mr. Desmarais mentioned something else to consider is season passes. He also mentioned how the Board of Health Agent ended up with any say in this. Back in 1994, The Board of Health Agent was Paul Bourgeois, who was also the Harbor Master for this side of town, who lived over by the boat ramp and they were looking for someone who would be interested in doing it for a stipend and he said he would do it. He doesn't know if the Board of Health or Agent should have anything to do with this. But if it lands in his lap, he will take it up and do the best job he can. But if there is going to be a discussion of Parks and Recreation or another committee overseeing this I would gladly step back and allow them to do their work. Ms. Pettey mentioned this is one of the questions. Is it to be the Open Space and Recreation Committee being a volunteer board may not be able to oversee? Mr. Desmarais stated what we need is hired professionals that answer to somebody and are responsible to the town.

Ms. Pettey mentions what a seasonal Parks and Recreation Director might look like. Selectmen Matthews suggested having a secondary meeting with the Open Space Committee to talk to them about this and have a more in-depth discussion to figure it out what we should do there.

17. Discussion with Conservation Commission regarding dumping at Porter Pasture.

Selectmen Matthews was wondering why we can't just shut down Porter Pasture entrance and make it accessible to emergency only vehicles. Conservation Commission Chairman Mr. Keven Desmarais for 23 years has heard both sides. Porter Pasture is Conservation Commission owned property. The Conservation Committee has over the years tried to limit access or blocked off paths and cleaned up the cemetery. Also have people go there on a regular basis to pick up trash. It was closed for some time. The Board of Selectmen at that time said no, not to close it. They wanted it open for families and fishing. During Covid the Conservation Commission did keep it open for people to do things outside. They know of the dumping and illicit activities happening there. A gate was purchased by Mr. Desmarais. We had people to open and close it. There was some interest of people who live in the neighborhood to open and close it, but we were cautioned at the time by Town Administrator, Selectmen and Town Counsel that we do not want to put people in a situation where they are trying to do enforcement on a volunteer basis and no liability coverage. We have hired multiple gate keepers for an hour in the morning and in the afternoon every day. Not a lot of money in it but a big commitment. The Conservation Commission is not opposed to a gate being there or keeping it safe for everybody to use. They were always conscientious of folks who have been in this town, lived in this town for a long time. A parking area was made up front, we made sure porter johns were there and the trash collection. They would like to see a plan in place. Mike McCue was appointed to help get grants. He

hopes we have the funds available to get a gate put up. Selectmen Matthews wants people to access it and make it handicap acceptable. A gate would help in stopping trucks from dumping trash. Kudos to Chuck Macomber for cleaning up a truck worth of lumber and siding by 7:30 the next morning. Mr. Desmarais hopes they can work with the Finance Committee and Highway to get a steel tubular gate that will still give access for fire, police, and water rescues.

Town Administrator's Report

18. Update on the following topics:

- a. Parking issues at Town Hall – we have talked about the right side of town hall where some employees do park possibly asphaltting there to make it better to park. A concrete pad will need to come out and then asphaltting it. Employees are parking on the street and besides Fire Station 1 and at the bandstand. Which has been working to accommodate the residents.
- b. Update on radio communication challenges for public safety – We are looking to lease some space on 2 different towers, once we install our equipment, the radio situation should work much better. We also had a presentation on the old Nextel style ATT Push to Talk phone units. They seem to have coverage throughout the town. We will get 8 demos and try it with the Police Dept., Fire Dept., and Highway Dept. and see how it works. If it works it will be a short-term solution to the communication issues, but a very expensive long-term solution.
- c. Update on grant applications – Ms. Pettey applied for a grant with the Shared Street Grant to do the cross walk between the Elementary School and the Fenway Park. A nice crosswalk with a beacon. She also applied for an equipment only grant that would give the Highway Dept., a little machine to plow the sidewalks. Feedback sign and trailer with a sign on it that lights up so if we had an emergency the Chief could put up a message saying road closed, also the signs that blink and say you are going too fast.
- d. Update on COA Sub-Committee and Library Planning Committee plans for building – They had a meeting and voted to work together for one combined building. So, we may at some point be disbanding the COA Sub-Committee. The money that has been voted on and set aside would be reallocated at town meeting. Letting residents know there is a new option, and will they be willing to reallocate it to the new combined building. Right now, they need to go back to the building committee.

7:00 pm Continued Public Hearing from November 1, 2021

"Original Notice"

Notice is hereby given that a discussion on the Transfer Station hours of operation will be held by the Board of Selectmen.

A hearing to consider the above will be held on November 1, 2021, at 5:00pm at the Police Station Community Room 15 Memorial Drive, East Freetown, MA.

Persons interested in commenting may appear at this public hearing **This hearing was continued to March 7, 2022, 7pm.**

Public Hearing was opened by Selectmen Matthews at 7:01pm.

Selectmen Mathews read the results from the Survey.

**How Often do you go to the
Transfer Station?**

**218 surveys received.
Breakdown of those answers
below**

answers to choose from	Once a week	Once a Month	Every other month	Once every six months	never	no answer	Total
# with specific answer	64	60	39	36	15	4	218
percentage of responses	29%	28%	18%	17%	7%	2%	

**Do you have a Transfer Station
sticker?**

**218 surveys received.
Breakdown of those answers
below**

answers to choose from			Yes	No	no answer	Total	
# with specific answer			178	37	2	218	
percentage of responses			82%	17%	1%		

**What Days and times best
meet your needs?**

**218 Surveys received.
Breakdown of answers below**

answers to choose from	Tue-Sat 8am-4pm	Tue 12-8, Wed-Sat 8a-4p	Wed-Sat 8a-4p, Sun 9a-1p	Sun-Thu 8a-4p	Thu-Sun 8a-4p	no answer	Total
# with specific answer	46	10	61	12	66	23	218
percentage of responses	21%	5%	28%	6%	30%	11%	

Patty Chase asked the Selectmen what they thought about the results. Selectmen Grunwald stated most people who responded would like to see it open the full weekend. Selectmen Matthews mentioned it was a relatively small response when we have over 9000 residents. Selectmen Zager mentioned going to later hours on certain days. We are never going to appease the masses. Selectmen Grunwald mentioned leave things the way they were. There were no complaints until we closed on Sundays. Selectmen Matthews said there were staffing issues. Timm McIntosh stated at the 11-1 Meeting he wanted to correct the record that he was not part of the decision making. The idea then was to expand the hours then suddenly it became to contract the hours or move them around. Mrs. Chace mentioned back on June 22, 2021, meeting there was a discussion that Sundays were not very busy from the Transfer Station staff. Selectmen Grunwald stated it is a service that the town provides for resident taxpayers. Gary Martin stated the proposal is not to trade Tuesday for Sunday but to trade Tuesday and Wednesday for Sunday. He suggested a half day on Wednesday and half day on Thursday and then Friday, Saturday and Sunday full day. Ms. Vicky King Transfer Station Supervisor stated they suggested to the Board to do Tuesday and Saturday extended hours from 4pm to 6pm from April until October. It gave 31 weeks of leaf and brush collection. She also said Tuesdays are busy and people have adapted to the Tuesday and Saturday schedule. The old hours were Thursday through Sunday that's 36 hours. According to the union contract they are contracted for 40 hours a week. Tuesday through Saturday are 40 hours. Jeffrey Chandler spoke about Plymouth and Duxbury busiest days are Sundays at the landfill. Mr. Desmarais asked if its because of not having enough staff? Selectmen Matthews said yes. Mr. Desmarais suggested hiring more staff to put on a rotational basis so that staff can have weekend day off. Ms. King stated we have a per diem person.

- Motion to close the public hearing made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Grunwald
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote

19. Discussion and vote on Transfer Station hours.

Selectmen Grunwald would like weekends open and be able to rotate staff. Ms. King wants to talk it over with her staff. Selectmen Matthews would like to see Sundays open at least half day. Ms. King said extended hours of 4pm to 6pm. No increase in the payroll because who ever would cover that 4pm to 6pm would take time off the next day which would probably be a Wednesday. Saturday that person that worked at the extended hours would have the Tuesday off. Selectmen Matthews stated the Board is leaning to see the Transfer Station open at least a half day on Sundays. Selectmen Grunwald stated changing the hours when there is a plan in place and see what we are going to need. Selectmen Matthews suggested maybe another per diem or part-timer because we will get to a half day Sundays at some point soon.

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
- Memo – Regional Finance Committee Time Commitment
- Letter – Police Chief Appointment of Part-Time Probationary Signal Operators
- Certificate of Appointment – Elda M. Hague, Part Time Signal Operator Trainee
- Certificate of Appointment – Jessica M. Coray, Part-Time Signal Operator Trainee
- Certificate of Appointment – Harrie Ashley Jr., Building Committee, Fire Department Representative
- Salaries from other communities
- Meeting Minutes for February 22, 2022
- Memo - Attachment A
- Letter from Tuesday Club of Assonet – Strawberry Festival
- Memo – 2022 Annual Town Election Warrant
- Boat Ramp/Beach Information - Table of Contents
- Agreement between State and Freetown for Boat Ramp
- Letter to State requesting increase fees, cashless online system, and enforcement of parking regulations
- Boat Ramp Budget FY21 vs FY22
- Reply from State to Freetown 's requests
- Sales breakdown summer 2021
- Hours from summer 2021
- Memo - Payment options – Park Mobile on-line payment

- IPS Multi Space Pay Station
- Dumping at Porter Pasture
- Public Notice – Transfer Station Hours

Respectfully submitted,



Lola Furtado
Administrative Assistant