



**TOWN OF FREETOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.

**FREETOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL- CAFETERIA
43 BULLOCK ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS**

6:30 P.M. Meeting called to order by Chairman Jean C. Fox those present: Selectmen Lisa A. Pacheco, Selectman Paul G. Sadeck and Town Administrator Richard Brown.

**Signing of biweekly payroll/vendor warrants
Weekly Public Discussion period:**

Consent Agenda

Board of Selectmen: Action relative to:

- Storm Debrief with public safety department heads. Selectman Fox thanked everyone involved in Nemo. She is asking the folks in the trenches to discuss how we handled the Blizzard. Starting with Mr. Brown. Mr. Brown begins with thanking everyone for their outstanding efforts during Nemo. He was impressed with the small community and the impact that it had on us, that we can actually accommodate all the tasks we have to do and accomplish it. The storm started late day, there were major power outages with vast amounts of snow. Mr. Macomber cleaned up quickly and efficiently. He coordinated with MEMA/NStar/Police/Fire/Highway/etc. NStar reached out and he was assertive with them. NStar reps showed up on site. Power outages were extensive. The Council on Aging was a warming station/shelter. Fourteen (14) people stayed overnight. They closed Sunday and then other people showed up and they reopened back up until early Monday. We did a lot of things right and no one was hurt. When roads were passable it was great, dispatch and police were amazing. Individual people helped. Getting messaging out was difficult without power. We had no power/phones/ internet. Luckily we didn't have to run the shelter longer. We had no more man power. Reaching out to the community and conducting training programs would help. Dispatch needs a contact when people call. 1st priority is road clearing. Highway Department does a great job. Fire department is able to handle everything on their own but access to Police and COA need to be handled. No fatal flaws.
- Selectman Fox asked Chief Abbott his view. He says that Fire/Highway/Dispatch did an excellent job. It is a learning experience. One of the concerns is from a financial perspective; this causes us to hold back. To assign human resources would help. That causes us pause in making our decisions. One option is checking with us DOR to set up a deficit account. To assure us that if we itemize a cost that the Finance Committee will be able to cover us. Chief

Silvia agrees the financial aspect weighs heavily but we need to move past that. The calls were different than in the past because of its urgent nature like CO calls, chimney fires. We were very busy doing our own things we could not help other communities. Jean said that she understands that we were flat out. Mr. Macomber says that the police were plowed, Fire plowed, back of the COA was plowed, final clean up was the next day. After a 36 hour shift the guys need to sleep. There were 42 units out and 3 equipment failures. We still had the best roads in southeastern mass. He is still dealing with the aftermath of the storm now. They have treated roads every night since Friday. Selectman Fox says they did a great job, NStar was able to restore quicker by what they did. Mr. Demoranville would you please report on status the trees during the Blizzard. Mr. Demoranville states that of trees that came down 80% were healthy trees. He cleared well over 100 trees. NSTAR did not clear them. We cleared them. Mr. Brown says that MEMA is gathering info on initial damage estimate and we will be compiling this information. Dispatch states that from their perspective we took a lot of calls we work together. They stated a lot of calls from non-residents wanting to check on residents. Selectman Sadeck said he listened the night of the storm and he commends the work that was done the work was fabulous! Fantastic! Emergency people are great! Selectman Fox is seconding that. Selectman Fox is saying we had a huge volunteer basis. Which is great? Planning is great. We need that. We need a phone tree etc. I commend all the people that helped. It was great to see. This makes Freetown stand out as a community. We have great people in Freetown. Coordination works very well. Stop and Shop donated food to us. One gentleman brought it to us. They are always very generous to us. Our strength is coordination. NSTAR is not a good strength. Cities are more flexible. Our hardships are greater. Chief Abbott said social media helped. Selectman Pacheco posted updates on social media sites. Selectman Pacheco snow blowers and shovels should go on Capital Improvements budgets then Mr. Macomber doesn't need to be there immediately. The board needs to get together and declare the state of emergency even before the Governor does. No power doesn't help with getting out the message about the shelter/heating center. We need to come up with a plan to get that info out. Selectman Pacheco said we did a great job. Selectman Sadeck says it is difficult to get the word out without power. He says it should be normal protocol for an emergency Board meeting before a big storm. Decisions could have been made ahead of time. Policy made. Messaging is a great idea. Brain storm ideas. We will continue to work on it and think about plans. Congrats no major mishaps, close calls. Great job this is because of the team. Selectman Pacheco wants to know from the Department heads how was the communications from the schools. She said that she checked with the Superintendent and she said she was checking with the facility managers. She wants the superintendent to be calling the Highway Department which Mr. Macomber confirmed she did do. Great communications with the school. Dr. Huizenga reached out to Mr. Brown, Lakeville asked for another day. This must be part of our protocol. We need a go to person. Mr. Lee Baumgartner said that MRE would be a good thing to have on hand. You can buy them cheap and they have a shelf life of three (3) years. We should stock pile 300 of these meals. Long-term thinking would be a good idea. Then there would be access to food in case of an emergency. Selectman Fox had gotten food. She said that would be a great idea. Help the people. This sustains you for awhile.

- Annual renewal of Class II Motor Vehicle License:
 - Class II Motor Vehicle Licenses: Alfred R. Montplaisir d/b/a Ray's Garage; David Fouquette, DPF Enterprises. Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Discuss/Review South Coast Technical Assistance Scope of Work Selectman Fox will recues herself. Mr. Brown said this is a grant we received in conjunction with working with SRPEDD. We have already received this. Selectman Sadeck is asking is they gave us \$10,000.00. Mr. Brown states they have. Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) to approve. Passed unanimously.

Board of Health: Selectman Sadeck states the Flu Clinic on February 1st went well.

Personnel Board:

- Approve Change of Status request from Fire Chief Silvia for Firefighter/Paramedic, Mark Brogan, who was awarded an Associates of Science in Fire Science effective February 1, 2013. Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Accept letter of resignation from Casey Pittsley, Library Trustee. Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Selectman Pacheco read the resignation letter. Selectman Fox asks for a letter of appreciation to be sent out from the town. Passed unanimously
- Request from Town Clerk, Jacqueline Brown to appoint Susan Jose and Diane Martin as an Election worker, Inspector/Teller. Motion (Sadeck/Fox) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Approve Change of Status request from Police Chief Abbott for Patrolman Brandon Wixon, effective February 1, 2013. Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Passed unanimously. Chief Abbott says that Patrolman Wixon will be resigning from the position. Selectman Pacheco says she is very sad about this, seconded by Selectman Fox.
- Discuss/Appoint candidate for Planning Technician. Selectman Pacheco explains that the candidate wants to work between the hours to 7:30 and 3:30. She told the Planning Board that she would bring this to the Board however she thinks that this will cause a hiccup. Mr Brown thinks that there will be a little discomfort in accepting this position this way. This is a position that should be open during the normal office hours. It serves the public. The hours that she wants does not serve the public. Mr. Brown would feel comfortable if the union would agree to this. Also the candidate would be able to feel her way around the job once she gets in the position. This does not pose a problem now however it will pose a problem in the future. Selectman Fox said that this position has a lot of meetings however she does not feel comfortable with this. Selectman Sadeck is asking the reason as to why she needs those hours. Selectman Pacheco and Selectman Fox both state that this is a personal issue not to be discussed here. If we do it for one then we will have to do it for all on a case for case basis. She knew this position was 8-4 when she applied. Selectman Sadeck asks if the union steward is supports this or is against it. Selectman Pacheco says the union steward says he understands both sides however he didn't go either way. There is a bigger picture here. Selectman

Sadeck's concern is that they could lose this person. He wants to approve it on 8-4 hours only. He asks if there was a runner up. Mr. Brown says yes but not a close runner up. Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) to approve her at 8-4 Monday-Thursday and 8-12 Friday and in accordance with the union contract. Selectman Fox asked if this was conveyed to her. Passed unanimously.

- Memorandum of Agreement between Town of Freetown and Public Employees Union, Local 1144, LIUNA. Selectman Pacheco is stating that this should be done in Executive Session. We can call an emergency meeting. They need to look at the revision themselves. Chief Abbott is explaining the Training stipend. He communicated with Mr. Brown and Selectman Pacheco. Mr. Brown said that we are still taking action before the bargaining unit has not agreed. They need to ratify this first. The union. This is an executive session subject. Selectman Sadeck is asking about funding without Special Town Meeting. Per Selectman Pacheco she spoke with Joe Fair and no it needs to go to Special Town Meeting. His answer is you can't set the town up before a vote. You can't go back. This is probably a drop in the bucket. They will all get paid retro. Brad Paiva asked how much money is it between 9-10K Selectman Pacheco said it's not about the money it's about the process. A Selectpersons job to do it the correct way. Brenda wants to talk about things in executive session. How about we set a meeting for Wednesday. We can ratify it. Meeting, Wednesday Feb. 20 at Town Hall 9:00am. No action taken.
- Memorandum of Agreement between Town of Freetown and Freetown Police Officers, Public Employees Local Union. Chief Abbott he is explaining the part-time officers failed to meet that obligation we have two (2) options. The first is to dismiss or second to give them extra time. Failing to due to will result in their discharge. Union Agrees. Selectman Sadeck comments that we have to give them a good opportunity to do. Motion (Sadeck/Fox) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Approve change of Status request from COA for John Pye effective January 14, 2013. Motion (Sadeck/Fox) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Accept Intention of Retirement Letter from Anita Howland, Treasurer/Collector. Selectman Sadeck accepts March 18-22 to have someone on board by April. He would like the entire Board sit in on all interviews. Motion (Fox/Pacheco) to approve. Passed unanimously, with regret.
- Selectman Pacheco states we have two (2) items that are not on the agenda. Suzee Clark Giglio appointment Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Selectman Sadeck says thirty (30) applicants eight (8) interviewed. Paul Bourgeois is satisfied with the appointment.
- Linette Langivin- Uzelle –Senior Clerk/Floater Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to approve. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Discuss Cable issue. Selectman Fox is stating that Lakeville is upset with us. She met with Mr. Marshall and they were going to pull our two (2) channels. What we can do is see how much Middleboro would work with us to host the educational channel only we have a balance of \$25,000 Mr. Brown is saying there is a confusion about the fees. License fee and Franchise fee. The license fee we can put that in the general fund. We have money earmarked for cable. That will get us through all of this. Middleboro requires a full year. Selectman Sadeck is asking how they have the right to pull our channels. Selectman Fox said yes they can pull it because we are not paying for them. This is a service they provide. We have paid for them in the past. Mr. Brown says we have use of channel 95 through Middleboro. Selectman Sadeck says that Lakeville changes their tune after they know what they have to match. Selectman Fox ask if we can consider purchasing this channel. Can we start Freecam? It would cost \$75,000. She states we already have a studio at the Freetown Elementary School. Selectman Pacheco's feeling is that having video is a huge thing but when we are looking at other things her priority isn't \$125,000 but she would spend \$5,000. Selectman Pacheco isn't glued to 95 but this is a huge service to the community. We need it. Work this out with Bob Marshall. Selectman Pacheco wants to know when this would begin. Selectman Fox said he would have to ask. Bob's board asks him to ask us when we would start. It would have to be one (1) year. Selectman Sadeck asks why we don't put it in next year's budget. Mr. Brown is saying the terms would be flexible. Mr. Brown will work it out. Motion (Pacheco/Sadeck) to pursue an agreement for the educational channel. Selectman Sadeck states that we don't have the ability to do get the word out like the schools do.
- Mr. Lubin sent us a letter asking that the Gurney Road Bridge be named the Donald Gurney Bridge. Selectman Pacheco said that last time we met we asked from a response from Mary Resendez-Brown. Mr. Brown will follow up on this. We will keep this for next meeting to discuss.
- Discussing the letter from Don Remedis railroad crossing tracks. The trains can't even go that fast This Board could contact MA DOT to do some work there however we need permission. We need a warning sign for this area. Reach out to John Ray. Generate a letter to Mr. Remedis.
- Abatement for Ambulance Motion (Sadeck/Pacheco) to approve. Passed unanimously.
- Notice from a parent regarding the school budget.
- Selectman Pacheco would like to propose to set up budget meetings with the Finance Committee. It is easier to do it to together at once with the departments so we can ask all the questions at once. More time consuming however she thinks it is easier. Selectman Fox had already asked for this. Departments individually. Brad Paiva says we can get moving. Thursday is best for them. Selectman Sadeck wants to comment Janice Boucher on her great work. Outstanding, we couldn't ask for better. Selectman Pacheco asks we start every other Wednesday with a Budget meeting starting with March 6th. Mr. Brown will set up.

- Capital Equipment and Building Update – We will update as we go along in our discussion.
- Mr. Brown we need to set up a meeting with the Safety Committee Selectman Pacheco wants to be there.
- Library Painting? Before Memorial Day would be great Selectman Pacheco states
- Pond levels discussion with Middleboro, Rep Kieko Orrell but we haven't heard back, we need to flex muscle. Selectman Sadeck doesn't think it looks that high at all. Selectman Pacheco thinks the Pond was high before the floods. Middleboro is the one component that does not want to do that. Have Paul Bourgeois and Rep Keiko Orrell at our next meeting. There is a fundraiser at the VFW this weekend maybe on the Town signs.
- 1.2 million for 502K for the bridges.
- Dates for upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings: Monday February 25th, March 11th, March 25th, April 8th, and April 22nd.

Old Business:

- Old Colony & Bristol Aggie
- Water Department-Fall River
- Employee Handbook/Safety Committee
- Possible retention of a Town planner

At 8:22 Motion (Fox/Sadeck) to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ali Golz, Administrative Assistant