



**TOWN OF FREETOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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JJB

**MINUTES OF
MEETING OF MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016**

**COUNCIL ON AGING
227 CHACE ROAD, EAST FREETOWN, MA 02717**

6:00 P.M. Call to Order Paul Sadeck calls the meeting to order. Others present are Selectman Bob Jose and Selectman Lisa Pacheco. The meeting is being recorded by FREECAM, Selectman Sadeck, Administrative Assistant Ali Golz, Channel 12 and WBSM and Marty Guber of the Standard Times

Weekly Public Discussion – Brad Paiva wants to speak about postcards in the mail, re: Excel Recycling. Selectmen Sadeck says Excel is located at 18 Ridge Hill Road in Assonet. They went through extensive DEP approval. And they have a license from the Board of Selectmen.

Consent Agenda:

Board of Selectmen: Action relative to:

- Approve Abatements for the Month of July, August, September, October, November, and December of 2014. Paul explains once they exhaust the insurance they abate this. Motion(Pacheco/Jose) to approve in the amount of \$80,088.89. Passed unanimously.
- Sign/Approve Reserve fund transfer request for Legal Counsel as submitted by Town Administrator. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to approve transfer and send to the Finance Committee. Passed unanimously.
- Sign/Approve Interdepartmental Line Item transfer Life Insurance premiums as submitted by Interim Treasurer/Collector. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to approve \$71.56 transfer and send to the Finance Committee. Passed unanimously.
- Sign/Approve Interdepartmental Line Item transfer for Waste Removal & Disposal, as submitted by Health Agent. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to approve \$5,000.00 transfer and send to the Finance Committee. Passed unanimously.

- Sign/Approve Interdepartmental Line Item transfer and Reserve Fund Transfer request, as submitted by Building Inspector. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to approve \$950.00 transfer and send to the Finance Committee. Motion (Pacheco/Jose) to move \$5,000 to fund Electrical Inspector Salaries. Both motions passed unanimously.

Board of Health:

Personnel Board:

- Sign Addendum to Re-Appointments for Fiscal Year 17. Motion to appoint Selectmen Robert Jose to the Building Committee, the Economic Development Committee, EMA and Public Safety, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Soil Board and SRTA (Sadeck/Pacheco), motion passes 2-0 with Selectmen Jose abstaining. Motion to appoint Selectmen Paul Sadeck as delegate to Bristol County Advisory Board, EMA – Radio Operator, Sexual Harrassment Officer and a member of the Building Committee, Economic Development Committee, Health Insurance Advisory Committee, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Regional School Committee, Soil Board and Taxation Relief Committee (Jose/Pacheco), motion passes 2-0 with Selectmen Sadeck abstaining. Motion to appoint Mark A. Jose as Harbormaster/Shell Fish Warden (Sadeck/Pacheco), motion passes 2-0 with Selectmen Jose abstaining.
- Sign Change of Status form for Robert Klevecka, effective July 1, 2016. Motion (Sadeck/Jose) to sign. Passed unanimously.

New Business

- Dates for upcoming Board of Selectmen Meetings; Monday July 11th, Monday July 25th, Monday August 8th, Monday August 22nd.

Old Business:

- Water Agreement

Leonard Avenue House Party Discussion

- Discuss house party at 18 Leonard Ave with Police Chief, Fire Chief and concerned residents. Selectmen Sadeck states he would like to have an open discussion about this party that happened. Selectmen Sadeck is limiting this discussion to Freetown residents only, to 3 minutes only, and no redundancy. He starts the discussion by saying that Leonard Ave is a fairly large area, but this party was overwhelming, and that no one was ready for this, asking

what we can do to prevent this in the future. He would like this to be a productive meeting. He asks Chief Carlton Abbott to come to the front of the room for the discussion.

A number of citizens take turns to address the Board and Chief Abbott, and members of the Freetown Police Department that are in attendance. Briefly:

- Craig Viera, 14 Leonard Ave – He gives a report. He believes the Police Department did a good job. His question is why the road wasn't shut down at 9pm.
- Chet Quinn, 15 Leonard Ave. – There was a car in his driveway it wasn't moved and they damaged his car and filed a report.
- Katherine Adams, 4 Adams Ave - her concern was what would have happened if she needed to be taken out of her house, because she has needed a rescue in the past
- Matt Cummings, 10 Leonard Ave. – The Police Department said they couldn't get to him. If they needed help they couldn't get it. What will happen in the future to prevent this?
- Jeff McGee, 15 Adams Ave. – He thanks the Freetown Police for doing a fine job. He was watching 9 children at the time. They hunkered down when his daughter got out and walked toward the street. The rave took control of the neighborhood. It took control of the police department and made them powerless to do anything.
- Thomas Louise, 16 Leonard Ave. – They want this to not happen again and want a policy in place.
- Tracy Brunette, 16 Wing Ave. – She feared to the safety for the police department and for the whole Town because the whole Town was in jeopardy. She thinks this is a whole Town issue. She thinks this was the only choice they had.
- Val Teixeira, 69 Locust St. – He thought the PD was doing the correct thing but there was no police officer in that car. This was the most disrespectful thing ever.

Selectmen Sadeck wants to thank everyone for coming to voice their concerns, and he also wants to have a plan in place. Selectmen Jose says we live here and we want to make sure that this will prevent this from happening again. Selectmen Pacheco says there is no wrong and we were misled but this could have been ugly and much worse and the way the Freetown Police handled this should be commended. She wants to be proactive, to make sure what rules are set forth we can live with. Selectmen Jose says we have been in contact individually with our Reps and Senator because these groups are picking small towns to do this in. We need to look at this.

Chief Abbott says the detail officer was on the street between 10 Leonard Ave and the property. He presents a PowerPoint presentation, going through the timeline. He said what we had was a loud party, not a riot; we didn't have violence, there wasn't danger. Therefore, there wasn't a need for the use of force, that would have been unacceptable. The Sergeant on duty that night approached the homeowners to shut it down and they

wouldn't. We needed to decide what to do: do we escalate the situation and call in reinforcement? Other points raised by Chief Abbott in his presentation: There was a real and present danger to the officers; The topography was also dangerous; We would only have had about 100 officers after calling reinforcements; The only place for the people to go would have been into the officer going into the neighborhood; We had Mutual Aid come in; There were no injuries and no property damage; We couldn't make an arrest because that would have taken 2 officers off the street; There were an estimated 1,000 people at the party; Chief Silvia says 12 Ambulances were available.

Chief Abbott would like appropriate by-laws so this doesn't happen again and justice is a little slow. They are looking at potential charges for disturbing the peace, serving liquor. In terms of future preventative actions, to request a detail officer you will now have to sign under the penalty of the perjury, declare entertainment, etc. The issue will be some people won't care and won't do this. We will look at noise by-law. We have considered a crowd by-law. We also need technology to effectively monitor social media. Detective Shane Kelly says the recommended software ranges from \$15K - 20K per year, but they are still looking at options. Chief Abbott sticks by what they did, though acknowledges with warning, they could have shut it down earlier. Mr Viera asks how the Police plan to get the next 1000+ people out next time; Chief Abbott says to call the next time you think there is an out of control party. Mr Texeira said they did the best they could, but it is a situation learned, but their concerns should be known.

Residents Jeff McGee and Steve Martin expressed concern about what would have happened if the situation escalated and violence. Chief Abbott said they would have activated the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Consortium, an organization of around 36 communities, and within 2 hours had a command post set up and looking at operational plans. He says with regards to the State Police, the ones currently on the road would have responded and more could be requested, but he estimates that it would be around the same timeline. So Chief Abbott says more could have been done if it was necessary, but doing so would have taken time and certainly would have caused a conflict. A resident wants to know if there will be extra patrol on because she doesn't feel safe anymore, now that all these people know how the neighborhood is laid out. Chief Abbott says the patrols are out in full force, and were in the very neighborhood tonight.

Sgt Elton Ashley, the Sergeant on duty that night, states that it was an ambush, and he was protecting and doing the best they could and dealing with everything that night. We just wanted everyone to be safe and able to be here tonight.

Selectmen Sadeck says everyone did the right thing that night. He urges all Town residents to please call immediately if you see something. Mr. Teixeira described the crowd by saying they came in like water. Mrs. Laura Veira says what happens if the calls come in late and you can't shut it down. Chief Abbott says if the calls come in early, then we can hopefully shut down. Sgt Ashley says this was more than a battalion out there. The police department was simply overwhelmed.

Selectmen Sadeck thanks everyone for coming out tonight to be heard. Motion (Jose/Pacheco) to adjourn at 7:21 pm, passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ali Golz".

Ali Golz, Administrative Assistant