

Freetown Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 17, 2023 – 9:00am
Meeting will be held virtually

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FREETOWN TOWN CLERK
2023 MAR 10 AM 11:47

****Open Session will be recorded and posted to the Town's YouTube Channel****

Call to Order

Selectmen Trevor Matthews called to order the meeting at 9:00am. This meeting will be recorded and available on the towns YouTube page. Executive Assistant Lu-Ann Souza read the Governors' notice due to this being a virtual meeting. Selectmen Carlos Lopes, Interim Town Administrator Deb Pettey, Selectmen Jared Zager were also present.

Board of Selectmen

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

1. Discussion, and vote whether to open the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting Warrants for submissions 2/22/23, 8am – 3/31/23 11am.
 - Motion to open the Annual Town Meeting & Special Town Meeting Warrants for submissions 2/22/23, 8am – 3/31/23 11am, made by Selectmen Zager, seconded by Selectmen Matthews
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes
2. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the following application to snow plow for the winter 2022-2023 season:
 - a. Bobby Amaral
 - b. Heath Chace
 - Motion to approve the following application to snow plow for the winter 2022-2023 season: Bobby Amaral and Heath Chace made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Matthews
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes
3. Discussion, and vote to approved the dates for the Senior Work Off program will run January 1 – October 31.
 - Motion to approved the dates for the Senior Work Off program will run January 1 – October 31 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Matthews
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes
4. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the quote for insurance on the Old Police Station from Cabot Risk.

- Motion to approve the quote for insurance on the Old Police Station from Cabot Risk made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes

5. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Institute for Human Centered Design.

Ms. Pettey stated this is a contract for the ADA Self-Evaluation Transition Plan which will be paid in full by a grant we received. They will go to each Town building and assess them for ADA compliance and create a report. Once this grant is done, we can apply for future grants and projects to make them ADA complaint. It also looks at our open spaces, Porter Pasture, beach area etc.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Institute for Human Centered Design made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes

6. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) for engineering services for South Main Street Bridge.

Ms. Pettey stated this is \$38,000.00 to start the study for the bridge to determine what needs to be done to fix the issues. She was not able to get any state funding for this. Chuck Macomber, the Highway Surveyor has agreed to use Chapter 90 funds to pay for this. She is always trying to find state money but this is extremely difficult because we cannot make it Mass DOT compliant because of the width. The estimate is roughly 1.8 to 2 Million Dollars. This study will look at all the options to fix the bridge. To overlay here are the pros and cons and the costs. We will have to close the road for about 3 months. During June to September. To build a new bridge will take forever. Victoria D'Antoni from Planning is helping as well. Selectmen Lopes would like to look into all our options with Town Counsel for logistic issues with traffic before the need arises.

- Motion to approve the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) for engineering services for South Main Street Bridge and have Town Administrator to reach out to KP Law about hurdles for potential new routes around the bridge made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes

7. Discussion, and vote whether to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI).

8. Discussion, and vote whether to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on documents regarding insuring the Old Police Station.
9. Discussion, and vote whether to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on agreement between the Town of Freetown and Institute for Human Centered Design.
 - Motion to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. (GPI) and on documents regarding ensuring the Old Police Station as well as the agreement between the Town of Freetown and Institute for Human Centered Design made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Matthews - yes
10. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the application to put a house trailer at 11 Pleasant St due to a fire.

Selectmen Matthews asked about a time frame for this. Ms. Souza stated the application states 2/22/23 to 2/22/24 but she did reach out to let them know we were meeting today as opposed to the 21st so that if they wanted to do it today, they could.

- Motion to approve the application to put a house trailer at 11 Pleasant St. due to a fire effective 2/17/23 and ending 2/17/24 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes
11. Discussion, and vote on whether to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on documents related to the trailer for 11 Pleasant St.
 - Motion to have the Interim Town Administrator sign off on documents related to the trailer for 11 Pleasant St. made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
 - Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
 - Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes
 12. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund to Old Colony School Assessment & Transportation in the amount of \$7,763.00.

Ms. Pettey stated they don't give us the bills until October of the year so we do our best to get them as close as possible but we are short on both schools.

- Motion to approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund to Old Colony School Assessment & Transportation in the amount of \$7,763.00 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes

13. Discussion, and vote on whether to approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund to Bristol County Agricultural School Assessment in the amount of \$21,354.56.

- Motion to approve the Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund to Bristol County Agricultural School Assessment in the amount of \$21,354.56 made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes

Board of Health

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion

Personnel Board

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion.

Board of Parks Commission

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

- No topics for discussion.

Town Administrator's Report

Discussion/possible action on the following topics:

Old Business:

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

- Town Buildings

Selectmen Lopes mentioned the Red Building in town now has a hazard sign and red tape around it. Ms. Pettey stated we had to address this issue. She has asked Building Commissioner Carl Bizarro about a demolition permit if we had to go that route. It requires asbestos reporting and rodent mitigation. No one has been in the building for 15 years. Mr. Bizarro took some photos inside of standing water in a crawl space, bulkhead was not boarded up and the roof fell in. It is not safe. She asked him to put up no trespass signs and board up the bulkhead. He put up a caution tape and the orange sign. She is trying to lay the ground work for decisions to be made in the future about what is going to happen with that building. She let Mary Brown know from the Historical Society that it was happening. Selectmen Mathews mentioned about the financial and potential legal risk to the town. If we can auction off this property with stipulations that it has to be

raised within 6 or 3 months and if and when it is rebuilt it has to meet some kind of historic façade to match the character of the town. Ms. Pettey has talked to Town Counsel about selling it with a deed restriction which Town Counsel said we would need to go to town meeting with it. Ms. Pettey disagrees with him because it was a tax taking 30 years ago. The Town Treasurer has the right to auction it off. It will cost the town more to demolish it than a private citizen. This cannot wait until it is an emergency, like the bridge. Information needs to be laid out so we don't have this crisis and be able to make informed decisions.

Public Input

- Motion to adjourn at 9:31am made by Selectmen Zager and seconded by Selectmen Lopes
- Vote: was approved in a unanimous roll call vote
- Selectmen Lopes - yes, Selectmen Zager - yes, Selectmen Mathews - yes

Respectfully submitted



Lola Furtado
Administrative Assistant

List of Documents/Exhibits utilized by the Board during this meeting:

- Meeting Agenda
- Application to Plow Contract – Bobby Amaral
- Application to Plow Contract – Heath Chace
- Senior Citizen Work-Off Program
- Cabot Risk Strategies Insurance Proposal
- Agreement – Institute for Human Centered Design
- Agreement – Greenman-Pedersen Inc.
- Application for Permit – House Trailer
- Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund - \$7,763.00
- Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund - \$21,354.56