

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, December 8, 2025**

Present: Selectmen Chairman Les Babb, Alan Fall, Gary Williams and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Freedom School

Chairman Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Also, present were Rich Laferriere, Scott Brooks, Anne Cunningham, Jeff Nicol, and Megan Broderick, Don Johnson, Libby Priebe

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

The accounts payable and payroll manifests were reviewed as well as the red folder containing correspondence.

Budget Review

Zoning Board

Les commented that Lindsay's salary was not posted correctly when she works for the Zoning Board. This is reflected in the Zoning Board budget in salaries. This line should also be reflected whenever Lindsay does any work preparing for a zoning board meeting such as postings and packets.

Les made a motion to accept the proposed Zoning Board budget of \$5,500.00 as requested by Chairman Lees, motion seconded by Alan F, motion carried.

Heritage-

Anne Cunningham explained that the Heritage Commission is considering doing a mailing to residents updating them on the School House Project progress. She has gotten two estimates from Minuteman Press for two options. One option would be a card and the least expensive for approximately \$600.00. The other option would be a trifold paper for \$960.00. Given what the Heritage Commission is trying to communicate, Anne didn't think the 8x11 trifold would be necessary. The communication would direct residents to the website for updated information. Anne asked the board to authorize \$700.00 for the mailing with postage. It was discussed that the money could come from the Warrant Article for the design or the Land Building Capital Reserve Fund. Les supports the warrant article for the design because educating people is part of the project.

Department Head Updates

Transfer Station- Alan Libby reported heating issues with the new compactor; Atlantic has been notified, temporary propane tank in use. He is exploring hazardous waste program options with Mt. Washington Valley Waste District and awaiting Wolfboro for cost details.

Police- No Report

Budget Review-

FCC/FAC- Budget remains flat; secretarial line and dues line adjusted. Les requested aquatics dues be listed separately for transparency.

Forest Maintenance- 2026 budget includes \$3,500 for road maintenance; the maintenance fund is nearly depleted. The Town Forester line has increased for the stewardship plan update. Trail access requires tree removal, and permits will be required from the State. Gary confirmed wetland and shoreline permits will need to be obtained for all four trees to be taken down. The controlled burn has been eliminated because the Nature Conservancy is revising their standard operating procedures internally for doing controlled burns on properties they do not own. Les asked that Chief Cunio be informed of the decision.

Milfoil Removal - \$35,000. Megan said the State is still in the bid process.
\$2,700 of the funds will be encumbered for work that could not be done in the fall.

Highway Budget

Highway- Lines that have changed are documented below. All the other lines stay flat.

Summer lines-

Payroll- 2025 - \$121,900/ 2026- \$145,000
Asphalt- 2025- \$2,288 / 2026-\$4,400
Contracted Services- 2025- \$36,974.00/ 2026- \$56,500

Winter-

Highway Winter Full Time- 2025- \$106,781.00 /2026- \$138,521.00
Highways Winter Over Time 2025- \$54,329.00 / 2026- \$72,725.00
Salt 1100 ton \$85.80 \$94,380.00
Sand \$62,000
Rental Equipment and Plowing- 2025-\$17,995.00/2026- \$19,000
Village Snow Removal- 2025-\$1,50.00/ 2026- 2,800.00

General Highway Expense-

Life/Disability-2025- \$5,900/2026- \$6,850.00
Health Ins 2025- \$96,800/2026- \$110,455.00
Uniforms- 2025- \$7,578.00/2026- \$10,230.00
Gasoline- 2025- \$6,920.00/2026- \$8,200.00
Highway Chevy 5500- 2025-\$4,000/2026- \$6,500.00
Grader Maintenance- 2025-\$10,000/2026- \$15,000
Sander Maintenance- 2025-10,000/2026- \$12,000
York Rake- 2025-\$0.00/2026-\$6,000

Proposed Warrant Articles

Seal Coat Town Roads Moulton & Swett Hill Roads- \$173,018.00
Crack Seal Town Roads Shawtown, Moulton, Swett Hill \$45,000
New Culvert on Cold Brook Rd-\$162,500
3500 Double Cab Pickup W/ Fisher XLS snowplow- \$83,400.00
Reconstruction and Pave East Danforth??

There was a brief discussion around putting the 5500 out to bid. Scott will work with Rob to put the truck on the Municipal bidding site.

Scott inquired about reconstruction of East Danforth Road. Les suggested prioritizing Ossipee Lake Road if funds allow. We are still waiting to see if tuition is going down, which will drop the tax rate. Les posed the question if it was possible to shim one year and pave it the next. Scott said it all needs to be done in the same year.

Elections-

Don Johnson presented the Elections Budget.

Election Workers 2025- \$3,885.00/2026- \$5,500.00

Election Supervisors- 2025- \$1,150.00-/2026- \$7,000

Elections Printing- 2025/ \$3,940.00/2026 \$6,025.00

Elections Operating 2025- \$525.00/2026- \$9,987.00

Operating Budget Breakdown:

Two new computers- \$2,000

State Mandated AVS Tablet Programming- \$3,900.00

Audio/ Visual for Town Meeting- \$1,900.00

Snacks- \$150.00 for election workers

10% Contingency- \$1,947.00

Total for Operating Budget- \$9,987.00

Town Clerk-

Town Clerk Costs-

2025- \$9,575.00/2026-\$10,754.00 includes a printer

Deputy Town Clerk- 2025- \$29,800/2026- \$30,000 has a part-time prospect.

Revenue to date for the Town Clerk- \$526,748.66

New/ Old Business

Food Pantry Freezer Donation-

Vicki Mcvitty had someone donate a freezer for the food pantry and would like to house it at the Town Hall. The board agreed that the freezer could be kept at the Town Hall and the old freezer at the town hall will go to the dump.

Gary made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of December 1, 2025, Alan F. seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Public Comment-

Les made a motion to enter non-public at 8:05 pm. under RSA 91-A:3, II (l) legal, seconded by Gary; Roll call vote:

Babb-Yes

Fall- Yes

Willaims- Yes

Les made the motion to reconvene the public session, 8:15 p.m. motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.

The Board reconvened the public session at 8:15 pm.

Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: NO

If no of the following motion is required:

Motion Alan made by Seconded by Gary

Pending litigation.

Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or

Render the proposed action ineffective.

Pertain to terrorism.

Performance reviews were reviewed.

Stacy discussed the agreement for \$350.00 a month for property owner. Les said it was an equitable arrangement.

Dedication of the Town Report was also discussed.

Payroll Manifest – week ending –	12/3/2025	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending	12/5/2025	Approved
Meeting Minutes	12/1/2025	Approved

Correspondence

Yield Tax Levy Map 7 Lot 27	Signed
Yield Tax Levy Map 12 Lot 35-3	Signed
Tax Map Maintenance Proposal	Signed
Intent to Cut Map 15 lot 8	Signed
Map 33- Lot 22 Abatement	Signed
Approved Rate of Pay	Signed
Franco Rossi cai-tech email	Reviewed
Sue Hoople email	Reviewed
North Country Architect email	Reviewed

Being no further input, Fall made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. Williams seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.