

**Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, January 5, 2026**

Present: Selectmen Les Babb, Alan Fall, Gary Williams and Stacy Bolduc, Admin. Assistant, who recorded the minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office. Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Absent: Scott Brooks

Also present: Rob Cunio, Rich Lafarrier, Alan Libby, Jennifer Brown and Mark Mckinley

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes

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

Department Head Update-

Transfer station- Alan L. updated the board that Conway will take Freedom's hazardous wastes. The final detail they want to know is how much money Freedom is willing to pay. After a brief discussion it was decided that \$5,000 would be allocated in the budget.

This past weekend was very busy, two full MSW containers were picked up. The container that was repaired was also put into service.

Stickers sales totaled \$4,000. The new compactor heater is defective and to fix it, it needs to be taken apart. This will not be done until the temperature gets warmer. In the meantime, Alan L. is using propane to heat the compactor.

Fire Department- Chief Cunio gave a two-week total:

11 Medical aids, 1 fire alarm, 1 CO alarm, 3 trees down on wires, 1 service call, 1 furnace problem.

Chief is waiting on three quotes for hose and nozzles.

To date the department is already at 39 calls. Les asked if Scott contacted him about putting the 550 on the municipal bidding site. Rob responded yes, but they discovered Scott needs a .gov email. Stacy will reach out to Lakes Region to get Scott set up with an email address. The account can have multiple contacts, but they need an individual email address.

Police- Rich updated that the department has two Sig P-320 firearms that are known for accidental discharges. The manufacturer denies the issue, so they are not buying them back. The department has talked to a local gun shop owner who would buy them for \$100.00 each. He would also buy Chief Lafarriere's gun for \$300.00 and sell them the Glock 47 for \$546.00. Chief Mullen would like to purchase his Glock for \$300.00 as part of his retirement. The total of \$800.00 in selling the current guns would go towards the purchasing of the new guns.

The K9 car has had \$4,000 repairs recently and has 132,000 miles on it. A new car was not requested in the original budget but if one is not requested it could be a year and a half before one has been purchased. Chief considered moving the K9 car to the newer Tahoe (car 2 to car 3) but there is an expense with that because of the dog cage. Because the current cage in car 2 will not fit car 3 there is an expense to swapping out the

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k9 car. There is the potential for a donation for the cage. If the k9-car is out of service, then the department would not have the use of the police k9-Boca. The cage, if not donated, would cost \$5,200 for a new cage and \$3,500- \$4,500 to have it installed. Car 2 would become a part-time vehicle. The last time the police department purchased a car was in 2024. Alan F. questioned, “shouldn’t we take advantage of the donated cage”. Rich said the department has reached out to k-9 United about cage when they considered swapping the K-9 car, he is waiting to hear back from them. Les asked Chief Laferriere to get a price on outfitting a car for radios.

New Business/Old Business Budget Review

Parks & Recreation-

Jennifer Brown reported it has been a good year. She has fifteen kids playing basketball. She gave Stacy the signed waivers to be filed at the office. She posted a request for donations on the Towns website that also got reposted on Facebook resulting in positive feedback and donations for the kids. The money is going into the Parks and Rec Gifts account.

The Skating Rink is done and ready to be opened. It took nine truck loads to fill the rink. Jen asked to be reimbursed for the liner she purchased for the rink. Signs will be put up “skate at your own risk”. She asked if the town could plow a spot to the skating rink.

Jen requested that the ballfield have new dirt put down in the infield. There is no pitching mound, and it needs to be refreshed. Discussion ensued around types of dirt. Jen gave the board a quote of \$3,000.00 to replace the dirt. The quote reflects replacing the dirt with what is already there. The fence also needs to be replaced. The cost is \$4,210.00. Les proposed doing a warrant article to replace both the fence and dirt. The operating budget line would cover the use of the sprinklers and grub removal. The warrant article would be \$7,500.00. Jen also mentioned if the town could maintain the rink to keep it free of trees growing in it.

Stacy will submit for reimbursement for Jen for the liner and other expenses she has incurred.

Mark continued with parks and recreation asking the board if the old fence when replaced can go to the transfer station and he asked if the board still wanted to spray ticks and mosquitoes. The board was good with both.

The parks and recreation budget

Part-time salary will be \$5,000.

All other lines stay the same.

Warrant Article- \$7,500.00 for replacing the infield dirt and fence.

Petition Warrant Article to paint pickle ball lines on the tennis court has been received.

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Government Buildings

Mark reviewed the estimate for painting the Town Hall for \$33,000. Mark tried to get three quotes for the painting. He received one quote higher than the one presented and the other contractor is too busy. Les said the number received can be used for the warrant article but the purchasing policy states that it goes through the bidding process. It will need to be posted in the paper. There was a discussion on the availability of contractors and timelines. Les stated it may not happen next year.

Panel at the Town Hall needs to be replaced for \$3,900.00. Quote from Ed White was reviewed.

Mark reported that the garage on 50 Eaton Rd needs repair. The side door and window need to be replaced as well as some trim above the garage door. Alan F. said the board needs to take a hard look at that property. Alan F. stated the house needs to be raised, and he would like to have test pits dug to see if the property is viable to be used as a cemetery. Gary asked if the repairs should be a warrant article.

Mark will get quotes for the repairs.

Warrant Articles:

Painting the Town Hall \$33,000

Replace the electrical panel at the Town Hall for \$3,900.00

Encumbered Funds

HRA Funds Encumbered for the \$21,436.38

Les made a motion to encumber the HRA funds for \$21,436.38, Gary seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Stacy gave the contracts to the selectboard for the funds that were encumbered last week.

Town Office/ Masonic lodge Update

Alan Fall updated the board that Anne Cunningham will be holding an informal meeting on the School House Hill project. Post cards will be going out to direct people to the Town Website for further information. The latest plan for the layout of both buildings will be available. Alan F. also reported that he has a meeting with Jason Earle on Wednesday morning to discuss numbers for a warrant article for the storm windows and the restoration of the sashes for the Town Office.

Stacy reported that the post office box information needs to be updated. Stacy asked if the board wanted her to be the contact on the box. The board agreed Stacy would be the contact on the box and the board will be added as people who can pick up the mail.

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Minutes-

Gary made a motion to approve the nonpublic minutes and public minutes of 12/8 & 12/15 with the following correction to the 12/8/2025 Minutes of December 8th need to be corrected to remove the line “ Gary confirmed wetland and shoreline permits will need to be obtained for all four trees to be taken down.”, Alan seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Les shared the state bidding site with the board. Les asked what warrant articles Stacy has.

Warrant Articles (Draft)

Department	Item	Amount
Town Office	Website	\$10,000
Town Hall	Service Panel	\$3,900
Town Hall	Painting	\$33,000
Police	New Car	\$71,000 (\$30,000 from CRF)
Fire	Add Full-Time Position	TBD
Highway	Seal Coat Town Roads	\$173,018
Highway	Crack Seal	\$45,000
Highway	Culvert on Cold Brook Rd	\$162,500
Highway	Double Cab Pickup	\$83,400
Transfer Station	Container Covers	\$6,400
Transfer Station	Paving (3 tiers)	\$47,320
Parks & Recreation	Fence & Dirt Replacement	\$7,500
Library	Operating Costs	\$145,338
Library	Trust Fund	\$10,000
Conservation	Forest Maintenance	\$3,500
Conservation	Town Forester	\$8,000
Conservation	Trail/Road Repairs	\$1,200
Conservation	NH Lake Host	\$3,500
Conservation	Milfoil Removal	\$17,500

Les stated when the FCC was in for their review, all the funds were to come from the LUC tax (Land Use Change Tax).

Trust fund for the HRA encumbered HRA Funds and a warrant article for increasing the disabled veteran’s tax.

Les made a motion to enter nonpublic at 8:20 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (a) dismissal, promotion or
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compensation seconded by Alan; Roll call vote:
Babb-Yes
Fall- Yes
Willaims- Yes

Les made the motion to reconvene the public session, motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.
The Board reconvened the public session at 8:30 pm
Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: No
If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Alan Seconded by Gary
_____ *Pending litigation*
_____x_____ *Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or*
_____ *Render the proposed action ineffective*
_____ *Pertain to terrorism.*

Les made a motion to enter nonpublic at 8:30 pm, under RSA 91-A:3, II (l) Legal seconded by Alan; Roll call vote:
Babb-Yes
Fall- Yes
Willaims- Yes

Les made the motion to reconvene the public session, motion seconded by Alan; Motion carried.
The Board reconvened the public session at 8:45 pm
Shall the minutes be publicly disclosed: No
If no the following motion is required:

Motion made by Alan Seconded by Gary
_____x_____ *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.*

Alan updated the board he would be meeting with Megan and Greg Broaderik Wednesday morning at 8:00 am at the Town Office. Alan asked permission to talk to them on behalf of the board. Les and Gary agreed.

Consent Agenda:

Payroll Manifest – week ending – 12/31/2025	Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest – week ending 12/31/2025	Approved
Meeting Minutes 12/8/2025 & 12/15/2025	Approved

Correspondence:

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Drummond Woodsum Hourly Rate Increase Letter	Reviewed
Employment Agreement for Richard Laferreire	Reviewed
Minuteman Press Quotation for Heritage Postcard Mailing	Reviewed
East Ridge Property Maintenance Proposal	Reviewed
Paul Mathieu Library Trust Fund Request	Reviewed
Bonnie Moroney email	Reviewed
Zoning Officer Proposed Fees	Reviewed
Bryant Paving Quote for Transfer Station	Reviewed
Freedom Conservation Letter to Governor Ayotte	Reviewed
Ossipee Lake Alliance Letter to Governor Ayotte	Reviewed
Drummond Woodsum Letter Dated 12/16/2025	Reviewed
E&E Electric Quote for Panel Replacement at the Town Hall	Reviewed
State of New Hampshire Rooms and Meals Tax \$170,420.45	Reviewed
Jacqueline White Email Regarding Hazardous Waste Collection	Reviewed
Lakes Region Planning Commission Hazardous Waste Letter	Reviewed
Warrant Article Language for Replacing Construction Debris Covers	Reviewed
American Red Cross Request for 2026	Reviewed

Being no further input, Babb made a motion to adjourn. Williams seconded. All in favor, the motion passed. Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Alan G. Fall

Gary R. Williams

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