

TOWN OF FREEDOM, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MINUTES FROM TOWN MEETING MARCH 10, 2026
(abridged)

The Moderator, Donald Johnson, opened the polls at 9:00 am for voting by written ballot for the election of town and school officers and for the written Planning Board articles downstairs at the Freedom Town Hall, then proceeded upstairs to commence Town Meeting.

Mr. Johnson welcomed all present and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m.

The Election Officials were introduced: Supervisors of the Checklist, Maureen Brooks and Pat McCoy upstairs – Carol Stanswell downstairs at the polls. The officials seated at the table in front were introduced: Kali Eldridge, Deputy Town Clerk, Libby Priebe, Town Clerk, Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator, our three selectmen: Alan Fall, Les Babb and Gary Williams – and the town’s attorney, Matt Serve.

Mr. Johnson noted that the Annual School District Meeting for the Town of Freedom had taken place the night before on Monday, March 9th, 2026, and the budget in the total amount of \$4,489,406.00 had been voted on and appropriated.

Mr. Johnson directed the meeting to the Dedication in the front of the Town Report to the Town Clerk, Libby Priebe and In Memory of tributes for Dotty Brooks and Bill Elliott, very valuable community members who we lost during the year. Mr. Johnson also directed the meeting to Page 110 in the Town Report for a list of all lost during the year – and then called for a moment of silence in their honor. Mr. Johnson then led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Johnson read the following: “Welcome to Town Meeting: We come together to make decisions about our community. As we deliberate, let us advocate for our positions, but not at the expense of others. Let us remember that there is an immense gap between saying ‘I am right’ and saying ‘I believe I am right’. And that our neighbors with whom we disagree are good people with hopes and dreams as true and as high as ours. And let us always remember that, in the end, caring for each other in this community, is of far greater importance than any difference we may have. Welcome.”

Mr. Johnson then proceeded to read the Warrant into the minutes:

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Freedom in the County of Carroll in said state, qualified to vote in Town Affairs:

You are hereby notified that the 2026 Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Freedom will be held at the Freedom Town Hall on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, for voting by Official Ballot for the election of Town Officers and for the adoption of Zoning Amendments. The polls will open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. unless there is a vote to keep the polls open to a later hour. The ballots will be counted after the polls close. Town Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. at which time all other warrant articles will be presented, discussed and acted upon.

For the purposes of these minutes, the election results are included in Warrant order. A candidate must have received five (05) or more votes or have been declared the winner to have his/her name included in the results.

There were 1312 registered voters on the Checklist at the time the meeting opened. Fourteen (14) new voters registered on this day. There was a total of 210 Voters casting ballots – for a voter turnout of 16%.

Article 1 (To vote by Official Ballot): To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year.

TOWN ELECTION RESULTS

Selectman, Three Year Term – (Vote for one)	LESLIE R. BABB	187 VOTES
---	----------------	-----------

Leslie R. Babb declared the winner.

Moderator, Two Year Term – (Vote for one)	DONALD G. JOHNSON	197 VOTES
---	-------------------	-----------

Donald G. Johnson declared the winner.

Supervisor of the Checklist, Six Year Term – (Vote for one)	PATRICIA E. MCCOY	193 VOTES
--	-------------------	-----------

Patricia E. McCoy declared the winner.

Trustee of the Trust Funds, Three Year Term – (Vote for one)	GREG BRODERICK (write-in)	7 VOTES
---	------------------------------	---------

Greg Broderick declared the winner.

Cemetery Trustee, Three Year Term – (Vote for one)	ALAN FALL (write-in)	10 VOTES
---	-------------------------	----------

Alan Fall declared the winner.

Library Trustee, Three Year term – (Vote for two)	JILL BOCKMAN	189 VOTES
	ROBIN C. WATERS	186 VOTES

Jill Bockman and Robin C. Waters declared the winners.

Planning Board Members, Three Year Term (Vote for two)	DARWIN MOULTON	174 VOTES
	ROBERT P. RAFFERTY	158 VOTES

Darwin Moulton and Robert P. Rafferty declared the winners.

SCHOOL ELECTION RESULTS

School District Moderator, One Year Term (Vote for One) DONALD G. JOHNSON 194 VOTES

Donald G. Johnson declared the winner.

School Board Members, Three Year Term (Vote for two)

FOSTER MAXWELL 105 VOTES

ADRIENNE PITTS 114 VOTES

JOYCE MARIE WATSON 138 VOTES

Adrienne Pitts and Joyce Marie Watson declared the winners.

School Auditor, One Year Term (Vote for one) MICHAEL GAUDETTE 12 VOTES
(write in)

Michael Gaudette declared the winner.

School Clerk, One Year (Vote for One) KIMBERLY A. REIS 193 VOTES

Kimberly A. Reis declared the winner.

Mr. Johnson noted and reviewed Warrant Articles 2 through 7, pointing out that these articles are on a written ballot being voted on at the polls in the downstairs of the Town Hall at this time. No discussion.

Article 2 (To vote by official ballot): (Planning Board vote 7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 1 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 1 revises Article 3 "DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT REGULATIONS," Section 304.6 to authorize the Town Zoning Officer to approve erosion and sedimentation control plans on projects which require no other ZBA action.

RESULTS: 160 YES 39 NO

Article 2 passes.

Article 3 (To vote by official ballot): (Planning Board vote 7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 2, pursuant to RSA 674:16, revises Article 24 "DEFINITIONS," Section 2402 to update "family, unrelated" and add Sections 1108.1 and 1108.2 to Article 11 "RESIDENTIAL USES"

to limit occupants per bedroom, ensure septic systems can support dwellings with more than four occupants, and update parking requirements in accordance with updated “family, unrelated” definition.

RESULTS: 154 YES 45 NO

Article 3 passes.

Article 4 (To vote by official ballot): Planning Board vote 7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town’s zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 3, pursuant to RSA 674:16 and :72, revises Article 11 “RESIDENTIAL USES,” Sections 1102.1.6 and 1103.2.4 to update parking requirements for elderly/senior independent and group residences and updates Article 10 “OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS,” to reflect revised Sections 1102.1.6 and 1103.2.4 and reduces parking requirements for single and multi-family dwellings.

RESULTS: 150 YES 49 NO

Article 4 passes.

Article 5 (To vote by official ballot): (Planning Board vote 7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town’s zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 4, pursuant to RSA 674:77 and :78, revises Article 3 “DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT REGULATIONS,” Table 304.4, to make “multi-family housing” a permitted use in the Town’s Residential/Light Commercial District.

RESULTS: 137 YES 61 NO

Article 5 passes.

Article 6 (Planning Board Vote 7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 5 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town’s zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 5 revises Article 11 “RESIDENTIAL USES” by repealing the text of Section 1104 in its entirety and replacing it with accessory dwelling unit regulation pursuant to RSA 674:71 - :73 and additionally prohibits accessory dwelling units associated with multiple-single family dwellings attached to each other and limits the size of accessory dwelling units to two (2) bedrooms.

RESULTS: 141 YES 53 NO

Article 6 passes.

Article 7 (Planning Board Vote (7-0-0)

Are you in favor of the adoption of Amendment 6 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town’s zoning ordinance as follows: Amendment 6 revises Article 3 “DISTRICTS AND DISTRICT REGULATIONS,” Section 307.2 to allow 12” or less roof overhangs to project into a lot’s setback in all districts except the Shore Front District.

RESULTS: 138 YES 60 NO

Article 7 passes.

Article 8

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,998,917 (Three Million Nine Hundred Ninety-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventeen dollars) for general municipal operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately. Funds raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Darwin Moulton

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article and made a motion to AMEND the existing highway rental equipment line by adding \$157,900.00 to cover the cost of replacing the backhoe/loader; SECONDED by Anne Cunningham.

Discussion on the Amendment: repairs too expensive on the old backhoe/loader – makes more sense to purchase new; best quote from CAT. Old one to be traded.

No further discussion on Amendment. VOTE ON MOTION to amend Article 8 by increasing the bottom line by \$157,900 from \$3,998,917 to \$4,156,817.

YES: MOTION TO AMEND carries.

Discussion continued on Article 8 as amended, section by section – commencing with Total Government (Page 28) for \$928,678.00. No discussion.

Public Safey - \$1,011,443.00: Discussion.

Highway Department – line had been \$1,249,560 raised by amendment by \$157,900 – now \$1,407,460. No discussion.

Sanitation: \$528,548.00: No discussion.

Health: \$16,242.00: Jane Davidson made a motion to amend this section by deleting the amount of \$1,433.00 to Carroll County Mental Health; seconded by Sarah Butterfield. Discussion.

VOTE on MOTION TO AMEND: NO, the motion to amend FAILS.

Welfare: \$22,600.00. Bill Carney inquired as to the amount allocated for the Food Pantry? Selectman Babb stated it had been raised from \$5000 to \$6000.00. Mr. Carney then asked Vicki McVitty, the Food Pantry Director, if that amount is adequate? Ms. McVitty said an additional \$1000 would be helpful due to the demand on the food pantry. Discussion on the amendment.

Vicki McVitty MADE A MOTION TO AMEND this line item up by \$1,000.00 making this line item \$23,600.00; SECONDED by Bill Carney.

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND the bottom line for welfare from \$22,600 to \$23,600, with the additional amount intended to bring the Food Pantry portion to \$7000.00.

YES, MOTION TO AMEND carries. The bottom line for Article 8 is now \$4,157,817.00 as amended.

Culture and Recreation: \$29,150. No discussion.

Conservation: \$10,850. No discussion.

Debt Services: \$201,846. No Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 8 AS amended to \$4,157,817.00: YES, Article 8 carries.

Article 9

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$131,250 (One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand Two-Hundred Fifty dollars) for the annual appropriation for the library. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Paul Mathieu

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting that Paul Mathieu had worked hard on the budget and he hope the towns supports the article. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 9: YES, Article 9 carries.

Article 10

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$173,018 (One Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Eighteen dollars) to seal Town roads. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Scott Brooks, Sr.

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 10: YES, Article 10 carries.

Article 11

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000 (Forty-Five Thousand dollars) to crack seal Town roads. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Scott Brooks, Sr.

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting this is for maintenance of the roads. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 11: YES, Article 11 carries.

Article 12

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$64,000 (Sixty-Four Thousand dollars) for the purpose of restoration and repair of the window sashes and purchasing and installing storm windows for the Town Office. Funds to come from the Municipal Land and Building Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Anne Cunningham

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting this will be helpful to the staff and will help mitigate the cost of heating the building. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 12: YES, Article 12 carries.

Article 13

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$68,667 (Sixty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Sixty-Seven dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new Cruiser for the Police Department and to withdraw 30,000 (Thirty Thousand dollars) from the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established). \$38,667 (Thirty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven dollars) to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Rob Cunio

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article. This is part of the rotation plan for vehicles. The police cruisers are on a two-year replacement schedule. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 13: YES, Article 13 carries.

Article 14

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,469 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Nine dollars) for the purpose of taking part in a county wide initiative for purchasing a software upgrade to the Internal Management and Control data software (IMC) used by the Police Department. The implementation cost for 2026 is \$2,469.00 (Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty-Nine dollars). Future payments are to be in the Town Budget over the next four years for a total of \$28,126 (Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Six dollars). There is an opt out clause. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Rob Cunio

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article, noting that this is a system that has been put in place by the county. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 14: YES, Article 14 carries.

Article 15

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to establish a health reimbursement Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of offsetting insurance costs for certain employees and to raise and appropriate \$21,436 (Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Six dollars). This amount to come from unassigned fund balance, said funds being the balance of the 2025 budget for this purpose; further to name the Selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. No taxes to be raised with this warrant article. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Joyce Watson

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 15: YES, Article 15 carries.

Article 16

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$17,000 (Seventeen Thousand dollars) for the purpose of painting the Town Hall located at 16 Elm St. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Kate Chaput.

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting that it has been twenty years and time for a facelift. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 16: YES, Article 16 carries.

Article 17

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$7,500 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred dollars) for the purpose of replacing the fence and dirt in the infield at the Ball Field. Funds to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Susan Hoople

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting the fencing needs to be replaced for safety and the plan is to add 64 yards of stone dust to the infield. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 17: YES, Article 17 carries.

Article 18

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$10,000 (Ten Thousand dollars) to share in the cost with Ossipee NH for the Independence Day fireworks. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Vicki McVitty

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 18: NO, Article 18 fails.

Article 19

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$12,000 (Twelve Thousand dollars) for the purpose of placing guide steel under the container to protect the concrete and the container at the Transfer Station. \$6,000 (Six Thousand dollars) to come from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established and \$6,000 (Six Thousand dollars) to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Paul Lindahl

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article – necessary to keep the containers from being damaged. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 19: YES, Article 19 carries.

Article 20

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,400 (Six Thousand Four Hundred dollars) for the purpose of building 2 covers over the construction debris containers. Doing this will eliminate snow and ice from entering the containers, which adds to the disposal cost when containers are weighed. Funds to come from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Rob Cunio

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting this will protect the contains from collecting snow and ice and the town pays for removal based on the weight; no need to pay for snow and ice. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 20: YES, Article 20 carries.

Article 21

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,500 (Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred dollars) for the purpose of paving the entrance at the Transfer Station. Funds to come from taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Joyce Watson

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting the original proposal called for more paving, but it has been scaled back to this section as it has the highest maintenance cost. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 21: YES, Article 21 carries.

Article 22

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 (Thirty-Five Thousand dollars) for milfoil treatment in Danforth Ponds, and other Freedom lakes and streams as needed. The sum of \$17,500 (Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred dollars) to come from the Exotic Aquatic Weed Control Project Grant. The remainder of \$17,500 (Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred dollars) is to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Jeff Nicoll

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article – noting this amount is for continuing treatment. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 22: YES, Article 22 carries.

Article 23

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,000 (Eight Thousand dollars) for a licensed forester to oversee the administration of forestry activities in the Town Forest for the ensuing year with said funds to be withdrawn from the FCC Land Use Tax Account (LUCT). (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Paul Olzerowicz

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article noting the town forest has 5,247 acres and having a forester has proved helpful. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 23: YES, Article 23 carries.

Article 24

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 (Three Thousand Five Hundred dollars) for the purpose of road and water-bar maintenance, culvert replacement, and general activities in the Town Forest for the ensuing year with said funds to be withdrawn from the FCC Land Use Tax Account (LUCT). (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Jeff Nicoll

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article noting this is for erosion control. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 24: YES, Article 24 carries.

Article 25

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,500 (Three Thousand Five Hundred dollars) for the purpose of funding the NH Lake Host Program. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Brian Taylor

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting that the Lake Host program – inspecting the boats - has proven effective. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 25: YES, Article 25 carries.

Article 26

(Selectmen Recommend 0-3-0)

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the “Town Forest Trails/Roads and Easement Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund,” for the purpose of funding maintenance, repair, and improvements to the Town Forest access trails/roads and for other activities required by the State of New Hampshire as easement holder.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred dollars) to be placed in the “Town Forest Trails/Roads and Easement Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund” The Board of

Selectmen shall be designated as agents to expend from the fund. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

Initially Moderator Johnson had read the first paragraph of the Article only, Gary Williams made the Motion in favor, seconded by Brian Taylor. It was pointed out to Mr. Johnson that he needed to include the second paragraph also – so he then went back and read the Article in its entirety. Both Gary Williams and Brian Taylor confirmed their MOTION and SECOND positions were meant for the Article in its entirety.

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Brian Taylor

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting that due to expenditures this fund will be helpful. Discussion.

Jane Davidson made a motion to MOVE THE QUESTION. Vote on motion to move: YES, the motion to move the question carries.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 26: YES, Article 26 carries.

Article 27

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will Vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$18,000 (Eighteen Thousand dollars) for the purpose of water erosion mitigation by constructing and infiltration trench, installing Ecoraster and fencing along Ossipee Lake Road, west of the Danforth Bay Bridge. The sum of \$13,000 (Thirteen Thousand Dollars) to come from NH Department of Environmental Service Grant. The remainder of \$5,000 (Five Thousand dollars) to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Joyce Watson

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting that in a nutshell the need to mitigate the runoff protects our greatest asset: Ossipee Lake and its tributaries. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 27: YES, Article 27 carries.

Article 28

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of increasing Fire members stipends for response from \$35,000 to \$40,000. The last increase was in 2018. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Rob Cunio

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article stating the article is self-explanatory. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 28: YES, Article 28 carries.

Article 29

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$125,000 (One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand dollars) to be added to the Town Infrastructure Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Funds come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Scott Brooks, Sr.

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 29: YES, Article 29 carries.

Article 30

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand dollars) to be added to the Police Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Rob Cunio

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article, noting this amount replaces some money used to purchase the new cruiser in a previous article, initially the plan was to ask for the full \$30,000. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 30: YES, Article 30 carries.

Article 31

(Selectmen Recommend 0-3-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand dollars) to be added to the Freedom Public Library Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Gary Williams

SECONDED: Paul Mathieu

Selectman Williams spoke to the Article, noting that this Article is not supported by the Selectmen as this capital reserve fund has an existing balance of \$57,483.31.

Paul Mathieu spoke in favor of the Article, noting the library trustees are trying to build the capital reserve fund to set off future expenses. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 31: YES, Article 31 carries.

Article 32

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 (Eighty Thousand dollars) to be added to the Highway Drainage Structures Improvement Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Scott Brooks, Sr.

Selectman Babb spoke to the Article. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 32: YES, Article 32 carries.

Article 33

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand dollars) to be added to the Town Hall and Office Capital Reserve Fund previously established with funds to come from unassigned fund balance. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Anne Cunningham

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting there is currently \$29,390.01 in the existing account. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 33: YES, Article 33 carries.

Article 34

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

Shall the Town of Freedom vote in accordance with RSA 72:27-a to modify the provisions of RSA 72:35, previously adopted, for an optional tax credit of \$1,650.00 (One Thousand Six Hundred Fifty dollars) for a Service-Connected Total and Permanent Disability? If approved, this article shall take effect for the final property tax bill of the 2026 property tax year. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Maureen Brooks

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting this is technically a re-adoption, as the tax credit currently exists. Discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 34: YES, Article 34 carries.

Article 35

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

(Submitted by Petition). To see if the Town will vote and raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 (Two Thousand Five Hundred dollars). For the purpose of painting two sets of pickleball lines to be painted on the current usable Town of Freedom Tennis Court and acquiring two portable pickleball nets. Further to authorize the Selectboard to accept such grants, bequests, and donations from public or private sources for such purpose. If approved, the lines to be painted would be different colors than the tennis court lines and would not hinder what already exists. The portable nets would be moved to the side of the tennis court when not in use. Funds to be raised by taxation. (Majority vote required)

MOTION: Les Babb

SECONDED: Joyce Watson

Stephanie Krebs spoke to the Article, noting that there is a group of about 20 people presently using three courts at the school. No discussion.

VOTE ON ARTICLE 35: YES, Article 35 carries.

Article 36

(Selectmen Recommend 3-0-0)

Are you in favor of authorizing the Board of Selectmen to appoint a Treasurer to a (3) year term and to discontinue the election of the Treasurer. If passed, this will take effect at the next annual election as provided by RSA 669:17d. (Majority vote required)

Moderator Johnson noted that a written request of five or more registered voters can require an article to have a secret ballot – and he has received a request for a secret ballot (yes – no) on this Article signed by twelve people – so this Article will be voted on by secret ballot after the discussion ends.

MOTION: Alan Fall

SECONDED: Paul Lindahl

Selectman Fall spoke to the Article, noting that the Selectmen were looking forward, as this position has always been an elected position, noting that three-four years ago the Tax Collector position was made appointed instead of elected. Discussion.

RESULTS OF THE YES/NO written ballots: 30 YES 41 NO

ARTICLE 36 fails.

Article 37

To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Jennifer Brown, the Recreation Department Director, thanked the town for its support.

Jerry Knirk asked if the Selectmen would stagger the timing for town meeting so that the polls would be open one day and town meeting held at another time.

Moderator Johnson noted that the state sets the election dates for State and Federal Elections and there is a State statute mandating that the town voting take place on the 2nd Tuesday of March. The Selectmen do have an option to have a bi-focated meeting – to have the voting on the required Tuesday and to have Town Meeting on a different day and time.

Vicki McVitty, the Food Pantry Director, thanked everybody for their support and received a round of applause. Doris Sirois was acknowledged and thanked for her 19 years of service to the Food Pantry.

Laura Robinson requested that the Library provide more transparency and include detailed budget and financial statements for the town report, as had been done previously. Selectman Babb noted that it would be up to the Library Trustees.

Bill Carney asked as a follow up to Jerry Knirk’s question: what might work for town meeting? Rotate the dates – try for more participation?

Selectman Fall noted that over the years the Selectmen have gone back and forth: stating “no apologies, I am a traditionalist. This is democracy in its purest form.”. Different days and evenings were recommended. Pat McCoy noted that nights might be a problem for some, noting that the School Meeting is on a Monday night and it was only attended by about 50 people and had a \$4M budget. She asked the Selectmen to please consider the elderly.


Discussion.

Kim Reiss asked for an update on the Town Office and the Masonic Hall renovations. Selectman Fall explained that all of that information is on the town’s web site.

No further items coming up for discussion, Mr. Johnson told the meeting that today we had raised and appropriated the total amount of \$5,050,057.00.

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Maureen Brooks; SECONDED by all.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm.

A true record, attest: 
A. ELIZABETH PRIEBE, TOWN CLERK