Town of Freedom
Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, October 19, 2026

Present: Selectmen Les Babb, Alan Fall, and Gary Williams; Stacy Bolduc, recording secretary. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. following the School Board meeting at the Freedom Elementary School located at 40 Loon Lake Rd.

Absent: Chief Cunio, Chief Laferriere
Department Heads Present: Scott Brooks and Alan Libby
Public Present: None

Don Johnson reviewed election staffing, bipartisan appointments, ballot-processing procedures, and oversight for the November 3 election. Don and Libby will meet with the ballot clerks, also serving as inspectors of election, on November 1 at 1:00 p.m. to review procedures. The Deputy Town Clerks will oversee the exit checklist.

The six ballot clerks will be Jane Davidson, Michelle Keenan, Sara Butterfield, Rick Davidson, Kim Reese, and Diana Talkington, representing a bipartisan balance of registered Democrats and Republicans.
Diana Talkington, a registered Democrat appointed by the Democratic State Committee, and Michelle Keenan, a registered Republican, will assist Don with processing absentee ballots.

Kali Eldridge and Jo Williams, both registered Republicans, will serve as Deputy Town Clerks.

Les made a motion to appoint Jane Davidson, Michelle Keenan, Sara Butterfield, Rick Davidson and Kim Reese as ballot clerks (inspectors of the election) representing a bipartisan balance of both registered democrats and republicans, motion seconded by Gary; Motion passed unanimously.

Alan F. stated that Kyle Thomas will be his proxy at the election until he can get there.

Volunteers, including student council members, will help Kyle set up the polling tables at the Elementary School. On Tuesday, the day of the election, election workers will arrive at 7:00 am to prepare for an 8:00 am opening. Polls will close at 7:00 pm at which time the space will be set up for ballot counting and a sandwich supper will be provided in another room. The food pantry will be soliciting food donations in another room separate from where the polls are.

The polling place will be reset up for the school to hold a mock election on Wednesday; Don will be asking for volunteers to help reset the polling stations.

Don and the Selectboard evaluated whether to purchase an additional four-station voting booth before the election and agreed to proceed with placing the order despite the approximately $1,500 cost.
Police will be present and Stacy will provide lunch.

Department Head Update

Transfer Station: Alan L. reported that 66 households participated in Hazardous Waste Day, at a cost of $3,025.56. Separating wood from other construction-and-demolition waste eliminated one container shipment and saved $1,200. The wood will be shipped separately for chipping at the solid waste facility.

FEMA Disaster Reimbursement: Scott reported that FEMA reimbursement work is ongoing. Required next steps include a call with a FEMA representative, documentation of permanent projects, and calculation of eligible costs before funding is finalized.

Highway Department
Scott reported that work on Rice Hill is complete. Dirt-road work on Young's Hill is complete but work on the paving end remains. Additional work is needed on Scarboro Road and the west side of Wintergreen Ridge. Projects to consider for a future warrant articles include:

- Huckins Road chip sealing
- Culvert and header replacement on Rice and Swett's Hill
- Cragged Mountain culvert

Infrastructure Funding Strategy: The Board discussed allocating available and future funds to road and infrastructure projects, including setting aside at least $500,000 annually to reduce reliance on borrowing.

Municipal Asset Bids: The Town reviewed public bids for a truck and a car, confirmed the Monday, October 26 deadline, and scheduled the bid opening for the conclusion of the public officials meeting.

Follow-up tasks

Election Worker Orientation: Orient ballot support workers and deputy town clerks and address prior checklist irregularities. (Don, Libby)

Election Site Setup: Move election equipment from Town Hall to the school and prepare the gym for voting. (Mark McKinley, Kyle Thomas, Chuck Brooks, Town)
Election Day Preparation: Election workers will report to the school before the 8:00 a.m. opening to prepare the polling place. (Election workers)
Poll Closing Conversion: After polls close, convert the polling place for ballot counting and provide supper for election workers. (Election workers)
Mock Election Support: Reset the polling location after Election Day and assist students with the mock election. (Volunteers, election workers, student council members)
Equipment Return: Return election equipment to Town Hall after the mock election. (Election workers)

Voting Booth Purchase: Order the additional four-station voting booth and privacy curtains. (Don Johnson)
Ballot Counting Procedures: Prepare and distribute written ballot-counting instructions with consistent pile and station numbering. (Town)
C&D Waste Separation: Continue separating wood from other construction-and-demolition waste and track container and disposal-cost savings. (Transfer station team)

Gary made a motion to accept the minutes of 10/5/2026 Alan seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Alan moved to enter nonpublic session at 8:00 p.m., pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(C) (Reputation). Gary seconded. Roll-call vote:
Babb: Yes
Fall: Yes
Williams: Yes
Motion: Alan moved to return to public session. Gary seconded. Motion carried.
The Board reconvened in public session at 8:05 p.m.
Nonpublic minutes to be publicly disclosed: No
Roll-Call Vote to seal minutes:
Les: Y
Alan: Y
Gary: Y

Action as a result of non-public: none

Follow-Up Tasks

Payroll Manifest (week ending 10/14/26): Approved
Accounts Payable Manifest (week ending 10/16/2026): Approved
Meeting Minutes (10/5/2026): Approved

Correspondence Reviewed or Signed

	Status
Contract for Assessing Services	Signed
Department of Natural and Cultural Res	Signed
Fontain Time off Request	Signed
Approved Rate of Pay	Signed

Babb moved to adjourn. Fall seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Bolduc, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

_____ _____ _____

Leslie R. Babb Alan G. Fall Gary R. Williams