

TOWN OF FRENCHBORO

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Selectboard:
Eric Best
Joseph Lunt
Cody Lunt

Select Board Meeting
Minutes
August 14, 2023
5:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm by Joe Lunt, seconded by Eric Best. **Motion passed**

- I. Approval of Minutes from 07/24/23 – Eric Best motions to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Joe Lunt. **Motion passed**
- II. Old Business
 - a. Town Building Projects Update – Paul Saxby discusses insurance audit issues to work on, requests time to speak further at next Select Board meeting after a chance to gather thoughts related to future building work needs and written scope of work needs. Joe Lunt motions to dedicate time at next meeting for Paul to speak on these matters, seconded by Eric Best. **Motion passed**
 - b. 2021 Audit Status Update – Dan DeBord gives update, we have submitted all documents requested by our CPA so far for them to complete the audit. Daniel Swain is waiting to hear back from Dan Gray at CPA's office about timeline and what, if anything, next. Ball in their court for now
 - c. Ferry Service Issues – Discussion of coming tariff increases from the ferry service and consideration of the gathered suggestions for softening the blow of rate increases for the islands as a whole. Some ideas discussed include better commuter ticket books, island resident rates, and senior discounts. Jan Keiper will compile thoughts from discussion of those present at this meeting to submit to MSFS management and the ferry service advisory board as a whole alongside information gathered from representatives of other islands. Discussion also of ultimate pinch point being the state statute that requires that half of MSFS budget be paid by ridership and half by MDOT budget. Eric Best motions to reach out to our state senator and representative about the idea of introducing legislation along with other island representatives to change this funding ratio, seconded by Joe Lunt. **Motion passed**
 - d. Head of Harbor Repairs and Grants – Dan DeBord has provided the Select Board with a draft RFQ to publicly post for soliciting responses from qualified engineering firms for head of harbor road and culvert improvement design work. Eric Best motions to post the RFQ publicly and send directly to potential interested firms, seconded by Joe Lunt. The



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RFQ will be posted on August 15th with an August 31st response deadline. **Motion passed**

- e. Planning Board – Dan DeBord will be working on trying to find potential options for a CEO/LPI in nearby areas who might be willing to hold the positions on Frenchboro as well. Kirk Emerson would like to have a reorganized planning board meeting to set future direction and workplan for becoming active again this fall. Suggests tentatively setting the third Monday of September as a meeting date.
- f. Moorings and Harbor – Continued discussion of issues for some meeting attendees of lack of harbor or mooring standard operations management. Select Board reaffirms desire to have the harbor committee meet. Eric Best motions to formally direct the harbor committee to meet to choose a committee chair and discuss harbor related current and anticipated concerns, seconded by Joe Lunt. **Motion passed**
- g. Solid Waste Update – Hazardous waste collection day is coming up on September 23rd. Kirk Emerson volunteers time and equipment to help again with collection and transportation for disposal on the mainland. Cody Lunt is willing to assist Kirk as well. Rick Turner and Dan DeBord bring up the idea of an interest in the town ordering a roll off dumpster for use in conjunction with Oceanswide's trap crusher for disposal of any old traps residents would like to get out of their yard. They also suggest ordering another roll off this year if possible after this one for disposal of community member trash not suitable for throwing out in regular dumpsters. Joe Lunt motions to approve ordering roll offs, seconded by Eric Best. **Motion passed**
- h. Broadband Grant Update – Dan DeBord gave the latest update from our consultant negotiating with TDS for upgrades on the town's behalf. TDS is considering multiple options, including federal or state grant programs, that could fund upgrades on the island. The state's Connect the Ready funding round just opened with a mid-September application deadline. TDS is looking into cost analysis and will have to decide by then whether to pursue this state program's funding for Frenchboro upgrades or pursue larger scale upgrades throughout the state (including on Frenchboro) from federal programs. If funded, either route could lead to upgrades on Frenchboro in the next few years.
- i. Employee Wage and State Disbursement Policies – After review of draft policies for employee wage and state fee disbursement of funds, Joe Lunt motions to approve adopting both policies for this fiscal year, seconded by Eric Best. **Motion passed**
- j. Any Other Old Business – None

III. New Business

- a. Property Sale Interest Request/Question – 7 West Shore Rd – We had a visitor at the meeting who is interested in the auction sale of the house at 7 West Shore Rd. The town has advised her that it is not the town's property to sell, that it is being auctioned by a



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banking or other financial institution. She is interested in seeing if the town can do anything to reassess the property value given the home's state of disrepair.

- b. Drone Flight Management in Municipality Question – Eric Best wanted to discuss whether or not the town has any options for control of drone traffic locally, particularly low flying drones near private homes. After independent research, Eric noted we did not have much option for local control to limit drone traffic in the municipality since recreational and commercial drone usage is largely regulated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

- c. Any Other New Business – None

IV. Warrants – Joe Lunt motions to approve warrant as written, seconded by Eric Best. **Motion passed**

V. Mail -

VI. Set Next Meeting – Not set at this time

Eric Best motions to close the meeting at 6:26pm, seconded by Cody Lunt. **Motion passed**

