

TOWN OF FREETOWN
2369 McGraw Marathon Rd
Marathon, NY 13803
February 9, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Freetown, NY was held January 12, 2022 at the Town Hall. Supervisor Lisa Grinnell, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Lisa Grinnell, Town Supervisor
Ward Fox, Councilperson
Crystal Jenney, Councilperson
Dylan Barber, Councilperson
Robert Stewart, Councilperson
Recording Secretary: Gail Heady, Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Mitch Eccleston, County Legislator, Gail Heady, Tax Collector, Art Hawley, Highway Superintendent, Mary Mackey, Bookkeeper, Jim Weiss, Planning Board Chairman John Leyburn, Elwood Bryan, William Contri, Michael Ward, John Slocum, Jean Weiss, Mary rose Livingston, Terry Wolff, Chad Doran, Denise Doran, Anthony Olsen, Mike Wood, Paul Slocum and Cindy Whitson, Jimmy Wildman.

Monthly reports from the Town Clerk, Bookkeeper, and Highway Superintendent were received and reviewed.

A Job applications was received and accepted for Recycle Attendant position Bailey Jenney.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Superintendent Hawley has reached out to contact Mr. Merchant to put in another application for Highway Dept. Charlie Peck is still looking forward to return to work on the Highway Dept. Highway equipment is working except the one ton truck is done to Grant Street repair it needs a turbo charger.

OPEN FLOOR: Jim Weiss has come to share his concerns again with the board and public on our lack of retirement offered and hourly rate. Mary rose Livingston agrees with Mr. Weiss on needing more of an attractive working package to encourage new workers. Our Highway should be staffed with 1 Superintendent and 2 Employees. Town Supervisor stated she has turned in all the paperwork on the state retirement.

Jim Wildman from Solon has been helping out Mr. Hawley when needed. Justin Pittsley is our new Highway Employee and has schedule his road test for his CDL.

Mary Mackey Bookkeeper has played with a few figured and bottom line is we raise pay we pay more taxes. John Slocum asked what the highway personal does during times they aren't on the roads. Superintendent Hawley said they work on equipment.

Mitchell Eccleston County Legislator stated raising salaries for the Highway dept. is the only way to get workers and keep workers other counties are paying more. There are other towns going through the same thing.

Councilperson Barber suggested talking to the voters in Freetown to make the Highway Superintendent position an appointed position instead of an elected which has been attempted twice in the past and voted down. Town Board needs to sit and discuss a solution. Town residents on Steve Russell Rd has concerns on the way road is being taken care of. Highway Superintendent will address the issues.

NEW BUSINESS: New York State has sent information to Fran Butler Town Assessor wanting to lower equalization rate from 100% to 83%. Mrs. Butler is in negotiations to keep it as high as possible. Town Supervisor received a letter stating we own an additional \$708.03.

OLD BUSINESS: Town Supervisor called the county and ask if a Highway Employee is out on medical leave do we continue to pay our portion of the health insurance. YES the town continues to pay there portion and employee continues to pay his portion. Supervisor Grinnell talked to Don Armstrong town attorney on Amish running Businesses without permits. The Towns needs to have a local law created on running business in order for the Amish to need permits. Councilperson Barber talked to Milton Cat and stated we had not made a payment. Which we had made a partial payment of \$5,397.74. We still own a balance of \$4294.27. Town Board has agreed to pay it.

Motion 20: Made by Supervisor Grinnell and seconded by Councilperson Stewart to approve paying bills from following accounts. Vouchers 203-221.

A -General \$????????

DA -Highway \$????????

Votes:	Councilpersons:	Robert Stewart: Aye	
		Crystal Jenney: Aye	
		Ward Fox: Aye	
		Dylan Barber: Aye	
	Supervisor:	Lisa Grinnell: Aye	Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:36 pm

Acknowledged by Town Clerk,