

**Town of Freetown
2369 McGraw Marathon Rd
Marathon, NY 13803
February 13, 2019**

The regular monthly meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Freetown, NY was held February 13, 2019 at the Town Hall. Town Supervisor Lisa Grinnell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Lisa Grinnell, Town Supervisor
Terry Wolff, Councilperson
William Contri, Councilperson- **Absent**
Crystal Clough, Councilperson
Mary Mackey, Councilperson
Recording Secretary: Serina Ingrahm, Town Clerk

Others Present: Robin Slocum (Town Justice), Art Hawley (Highway Superintendent), Tim Brown (Highway Employee) Michael Bellefleur, Katie McGinn, Joan Coombs, Tom William (Town Code Enforcement Officer), Donald Armstrong (Town Attorney).

Motion 24: Made by Supervisor Grinnell and seconded by Councilperson Wolff to accept the February minutes.

Votes: Councilpersons: Mary Mackey: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
William Contri: Absent
Terry Wolff: Aye
Supervisor: Lisa Grinnell: Aye Passed

Town Attorney report: Town Councilmen requested that our Town Attorney Donald Armstrong to draft a proposed law on changing Highway Superintendent from an elected position to an appointed position.

The board passed a resolution on a Public Hearing to take place at 6:30 pm on the 13th of March prior to the regular scheduled board meeting.

Councilperson Wolff inquired on the length of term served by an appointed Highway Superintendent.

Town Board has decided to move forward with the Town Highway Superintendent becoming an appointed position rather than an elected.

Town Attorney will check on term length and report back.

Robin Slocum (Town Justice) inquired on making the board meeting mandatory for Highway Superintendent. Mr. Armstrong explained that the board could set certain expectations, which determined their re-appointment.

This Law cannot be enacted until 2022 election year.

Town Attorney handed out some information on solar energy systems. The law states that all systems are exempt from real properties taxes for 15 years from the date of installation.

Cortland County has opted out of that exemption, giving the choice to each municipality whether to opt out of the exemption and tax for the property value increase. There is another option, a pilot in lieu of taxes. Town Board has decided to leave the current law in place

Supervisor Grinnell consulted with Mr. Armstrong in regards to our Towns Zoning Board of Appeals (Variance board). Our current board consist of 3 members. If one member is absent a, and decisions can't not be made. Recommendation is for the board to find an alternate to serve on the board.

OPEN FLOOR:

Kathrine Allen a new resident of Freetown on Parker Rd, come to the town meeting to discuss a variance for their garage, Kathrine claims she was given some wrong information on the footage from center of the road to building point, she claims she was told 25ft, it's actually 110ft from center. Town Board deferred to the final discussion or the Board of Appeals. That the garage needs to be move, final decision of the variance board of appeals, this was confirmed by a phone call made to Chairman of the variance board (Elwood Bryan) by Town Clerk, Serina Ingrahm. Tom Williams (code Enforcement officer) stated his phone conversation with Kathrine Allen went as followed, No building permit was needed for an agriculture building, but you do need to follow the setback requirement. Councilperson Clough suggest handouts and documentation on our laws and town regulations on building projects to clarify any further miss-understandings. Highway Superintendent offered his option after the Allen's left, that there would be enough room to plow past the garage.

Amnesty is scheduled for May 18th 2019. Time will be determined at April's board meeting.

Town Code Enforcement officer informed the Board that an unused road after 6 years, through the proper channels can be deemed abandoned.

Joan Coombs the appointed Legislator from District 7 came to introduce herself to the Town of Freetown. Mrs. Coombs asked our opinion on the County jail project involving a new jail complex.

Some residents of Freetown think building up on the current jail is the way to go.

Soil and water conservation would like the county to pass a (Right to farm Law). To farm Mrs. Coombs stated our state law already cover those items. Mrs. Coombs stated, Amanda Barber (Director of Soil and Water) explained there's more benefits by creating a local law.

CCTVS Councilperson Clough reported one of the shared services was replacing street lights, which Freetown has none.

Highway Superintendent received a letter from Cortland County on our allowance for amnesty day, date for amnesty day at town's discretion.

Councilperson Clough contacted the State of buildings and codes and discovered Tom Williams was not listed as an Enforcement Officer. Town would like updated training.

Councilperson Clough asked who is mowing the grass in the cemetery before Memorial Day.

Mike Bellefleur (Grounds Keeper) said he would mow the cemetery on Caldwell Rd.

Councilperson Clough will check with a local on a re-furbished push mower.

Mike Bellefleur expressed his need to want the meeting minutes on our Town web site. Town clerk explained again that she didn't have the time and it's not a requirement nor a priority. Paper

copies have been offered and refused. The Board discuss and the results was to sending the approve Minutes directly to his e-mail monthly.

Monthly reports from the Town Clerk, Justice and Code Enforcement Officer were received and passed along for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Town financials were unavailable due to the attachment that wasn't received by our Town Supervisor. Bailey's bookkeeping explained that she had too many interruptions and computer problems. Supervisor Grinnell asked about January financial, and no response from Bookkeeper. Bookkeeper did say she was doing all of the financials on QuickBooks now. Councilperson Mackey asked Supervisor Grinnell to leave a copy on Highway Superintendent's desk.

The Board has decided to do an audit for the Town Tax Collector and Town Supervisor for February 20th 2019.

Councilperson Clough inquired about an ink purchase the Town Tax Collector submitted a bill for, Town Clerk explained she has a printer and the program for tax collection on her lap top.

Motion 25: Made by Councilperson Mackey and seconded by Councilperson Clough to have a public hearing on the local law to change the office of the Highway Superintendent from an elected to an appointed position.

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| Votes: | Councilpersons: | Mary Mackey: Aye | |
| | | Crystal Clough: Aye | |
| | | William Contri: Absent | |
| | | Terry Wolff: Aye | |
| | Supervisor: | Lisa Grinnell: Aye | Passed |

Motion 26: Made by Councilperson Clough and seconded by Councilperson Mackey to appoint Elwood Bryan, our MAVAC representative.

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| Votes: | Councilpersons: | Mary Mackey: Aye |
| | | Crystal Clough: Aye |

William Contri: Absent
Terry Wolff: Aye
Supervisor: Lisa Grinnell: Aye Passed

Motion 27: Made by Councilperson Clough and seconded by Councilperson Mackey to pay the bills from the following accounts. Vouchers 13-38.

(A)\$4,112.74
(DA) \$27,967.79

Votes: Councilpersons: Mary Mackey: Aye
Crystal Clough: Aye
William Contri: Absent
Terry Wolff: Aye
Supervisor: Lisa Grinnell: Aye Passed

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Acknowledged by Town Clerk,
Serina Ingrahm