

SECRET BALLOT ELECTION & REFERENDUM

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Friday, March 13, 2020
and
Saturday, March 14, 2020

To Joseph Freeman Sr, a resident of the Town of Freedom, County of Waldo, and State of Maine,

GREETINGS:

In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of said Town of Freedom, in said County and State, that are qualified by law to vote in town affairs to meet at the Freedom Town Office on Friday, March 13, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., then and there to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Article 2 as set forth below.

And to notify and warn inhabitants to meet at the Dirigo Grange Hall in Freedom on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to act on Articles 3 through 35 as set forth below, to wit:

Friday, March 13, 2019, 8:00 AM - 8 PM

Article 1 To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2 To vote for Town Officers.

Saturday, March 13, 2020, 10:00 AM

Article 3 To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy not to exceed the rate established for the Town of Freedom by State Law LD1, in the event that the municipal budget approved under the following articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit.

Budget Committee recommends approval

Article 4 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to set wages for hourly employees of the town using State Wages as a guide.

Budget Committee recommends Approval

Article 5 To see if the Town will vote to accept all State monies and donations and apply these monies to the purposes for which they are intended.

Budget Committee recommends Approval

Article 6 To see if the Town will vote when taxes are due and payable and to set a date from which interest may be charged and to set the interest rate. (MRSA Title 36 Chapter 105 Section 505, Subsection 2 & 4).

Budget Committee recommends taxes are due and payable when bills are mailed, and interest at 7% commencing October 1, 2020.

- Article 7** To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate to pay tax abatements granted during the fiscal year.
Budget Committee recommends paying tax abatements from the overlay.
- Article 8** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayment of taxes not yet committed pursuant to Title 36 MRSA § 506.
Budget Committee Recommends Approval
- Article 9** To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government.
Budget Committee recommends \$225,251

General Government	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Salaries and Wages			
Select Board	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 19,500.00
Town Clerk	\$ 24,930.00	\$ 24,030.00	\$ 26,000.00
Deputy Clerk	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,950.36	\$ 4,000.00
Treasurer	\$ 15,970.00	\$ 15,970.00	\$ 17,000.00
Deputy Treasurer			\$ 5,000.00
Assessor	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Select Board Secretary	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,827.70	\$ 2,500.00
Office Cleaning	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,349.88	\$ 1,700.00
Code Enforcement Officer	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Ballot Clerks	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,279.59	\$ 4,500.00
Misc. Labor	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 734.58	\$ 1,000.00
Total	\$ 79,400.00	\$ 77,642.11	\$ 89,700.00
Insurance Costs			
Unemployment Compensation	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 502.97	\$ 1,500.00
FICA/Medicare	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 15,320.62	\$ 17,500.00
Health Insurance	\$ 12,390.00	\$ 9,084.07	\$ 14,000.00
Property and Casualty Insurance	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 16,934.00	\$ 18,500.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$ 8,577.00	\$ 8,577.00	\$ 8,860.00
Total	\$ 60,967.00	\$ 50,418.66	\$ 60,360.00
Employee Costs			
Employee Training & Travel Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,148.55	\$ 3,000.00
Employee Retirement Plan	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
Drug Testing	\$ -	\$ 380.64	\$ 400.00
Total	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,529.19	\$ 6,900.00
Supplies & General Expenses	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,701.12	\$ 8,000.00
Utilities	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,713.11	\$ 6,500.00

General Government continued	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Contracted Services			
Audit Services	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,500.00
TRIO	\$ 11,100.00	\$ 11,319.95	\$ 12,000.00
Tech Support	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,300.68	\$ 3,300.00
Copier	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 3,822.34	\$ 4,400.00
KVCOG Membership	\$ 1,067.00	\$ 1,067.00	\$ 1,085.00
MMA Membership	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 1,763.00	\$ 1,806.00
Town Reports	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 938.98	\$ 1,000.00
Restoration of Town Books	\$ 3,200.00	\$ -	\$ 3,200.00
Property Photos	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,067.00	\$ 5,000.00
Surveying	\$ 1,250.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Other Contracted Services	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 3,453.06	\$ 2,500.00
Total	\$ 40,967.00	\$ 35,132.01	\$ 48,791.00
Town Office Repairs	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,669.80	\$ 2,000.00
Planning Board Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ 88.70	\$ 250.00
Appeals Board Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ 250.00
Road Committee Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Registry of Deeds	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,527.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total for General Government From Property Tax	\$ 206,334.00	\$ 187,421.70	\$ 225,251.00

Article 10 To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Assistance.
Budget Committee recommends \$3,000

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
General Assistance-From Property Taxes	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,262.90	\$ 3,000.00

Article 11 To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Safety.
Budget Committee recommends \$7,558

Public Safety	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Health Officer	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Street Lights	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,037.98	\$ 2,300.00
Animal Control Officer	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,550.62	\$ 2,800.00
Waterville Humane Society	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,136.04	\$ 1,208.00
Emergency Management	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 723.97	\$ 1,000.00
Total for Public Safety from Property Taxes	\$ 7,550.00	\$ 6,698.61	\$ 7,558.00
Animal Control Fund-Carryover	\$ 731.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 881.00

Article 12

To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works.

Budget Committee Recommends \$288,200

Freedom Public Works Department	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Town Garage			
Mechanical Wages	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 36,509.50	\$ -
Supplies & General Expenses	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 10,912.28	\$ 12,000.00
Utilities	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 5,579.63	\$ 5,500.00
Contracted Services	\$ 500.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 500.00
Other Expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ 1,915.86	\$ 1,000.00
Well	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Roof on Town Garage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Total for Town Garage	\$ 53,000.00	\$ 55,022.27	\$ 34,000.00
Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance			
Truck # 6	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,255.65	\$ 12,000.00
Truck # 7	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,309.55	\$ 3,500.00
Truck # 8	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,131.87	\$ 2,500.00
Truck # 4	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 4,717.05	\$ 2,500.00
Loader	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 189.57	\$ 1,500.00
Excavator		\$ 250.21	\$ 1,500.00
Excavator Trailer		\$ 10,030.69	\$ 2,500.00
Total for Maintenance	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 33,884.59	\$ 26,000.00
Summer Roads			
Summer Roads Wages including 1/2 of Mech wages	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,120.59	\$ 45,000.00
Flaggers, Mowing, Brush Cutting, etc.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,398.33	\$ -
Culverts	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,715.56	\$ 2,000.00
Fuel	\$ 3,360.00	\$ 4,131.45	\$ 1,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 9,324.30	\$ 5,420.00
Lease of Excavator, trailer & new truck body	\$ 17,600.00	\$ 17,231.00	\$ 17,230.00
Road Side Mowing	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Grading	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,478.00	\$ 3,500.00
Tree Removal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Road Paving from Taxes	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 39,263.23	\$ -
Road Paving from LRAP Funds	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 26,636.00	\$ -
Road Repair Work	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Road Repair Work from LRAP Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,000.00
Total Summer Roads	\$ 130,710.00	\$ 131,798.46	\$ 129,650.00
Total Summer Roads after deducting LRAP Funds	\$ 104,710.00	\$ 105,162.46	\$ 103,650.00

Public Works Continued	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Winter Roads			
Winter Roads Wages including 1/2 of mech wages	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 26,404.25	\$ 58,000.00
Miscellaneous Labor	\$ 1,420.00	\$ 3,481.07	\$ 1,600.00
Fuel	\$ 7,850.00	\$ 6,923.81	\$ 7,850.00
Road Sand	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 17,036.00	\$ 20,000.00
Road Salt	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 16,723.19	\$ 24,000.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,059.04	\$ 1,600.00
Other Expenses			\$ 1,500.00
Total for Winter Roads	\$ 87,370.00	\$ 72,627.36	\$ 114,550.00
Capital Reserve Account	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Carryover	\$ 8,558.00	\$ 8,558.00	\$ -
Total	\$ 18,558.00	\$ 18,558.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total for Public Works From Property Taxes	\$ 275,080.00	\$ 276,696.68	\$ 288,200.00
2013 Paving Bond-from Excise Taxes	\$ 89,927.00	\$ 89,958.75	\$ 85,945.72

Seven Year payment record		
2014		\$ 99,860.00
2015		\$ 97,873.40
2016		\$ 95,913.89
2017		\$ 93,900.20
2018		\$ 91,913.60
2019		\$ 89,927.00
2020		\$ 85,945.72
Total of all payments		\$ 655,333.81

Article 13 To see if the Town will vote to deposit unexpended balances from Public Works expenditures into the Public Works Capital Reserve Account.

Budget Committee recommends Approval.

Article 14 To see if the Town will approve making the 2020 Road Bond payment in the amount of \$85,945.72 from Excise Taxes.

Budget Committee Recommends Approval

Article 15 To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for recreation.

Budget Committee recommends \$4200.

Freedom Recreation Committee	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Total From Property Taxes	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,796.69	\$ 4,200.00
From Recreation Fund	\$ 6,634.69	\$ -	\$ 9,067.00
Total for the Recreation Committee	\$ 10,834.69	\$ 3,796.69	\$ 13,267.00

Article 16 To see if the Town what sum, if any, the Town will raise and appropriate for the Freedom Community Historical Society.

Budget Committee recommends \$2800.

Freedom Community Historical Society	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
From Property Taxes	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,800.00

Article 17 To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Town Cemetery maintenance.

Budget Committee recommends \$6900

Cemetery Expenses	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Salaries & Gen'l Expenses	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 1,402.31	\$ 3,200.00
Pleasant Hill Cemetery	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Smithton Cemetery	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Gravestone Restoration	\$ -		\$ 2,000.00
Total from Taxes	\$ 3,900.00	\$ 3,102.31	\$ 6,900.00
Hutchins Cemetery Fund-From Stock Dividends	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140.00
Carryover from Cemeteries Fund	\$ 2,342.59	\$ 3,140.28	\$ 3,140.28
Total for Cemetery Expenses	\$ 6,242.59	\$ 6,242.59	\$ 10,180.28

Article 18 To see what sum, if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Solid Waste Management, Recycling and Spring Cleanup.

Budget Committee recommends \$47,260.

Freedom Solid Waste Management	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Salaries and Wages	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 14,141.96	\$ 15,000.00
Supplies & general Expenses	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,897.59	\$ 3,500.00
Truck Phone	\$ 500.00	\$ 464.65	\$ 500.00
Trash Sticker Printing	\$ 500.00	\$ 401.80	\$ 500.00
Spring Clean Up Expenses	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,188.12	\$ 3,000.00
Tipping Fees	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,234.40	\$ 12,000.00
MRC Dues	\$ 350.00	\$ 180.42	\$ 350.00
UARRC Dues	\$ 8,014.00	\$ 8,014.16	\$ 7,410.00
Recycling Expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ 119.28	\$ -
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ -	\$ 310.72	\$ -
Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 942.54	\$ 5,000.00
Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ -
Total from Property Taxes	\$ 49,664.00	\$ 38,495.64	\$ 47,260.00
Solid Waste Revenue			
Trash Stickers	\$ 15,500.00	\$ 16,329.00	\$ 16,500.00
MRC Rebates	\$ 500.00	\$ 355.41	\$ 500.00
Miscellaneous			
Total Revenue to General Fund	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 16,684.41	\$ 17,000.00
Net Cost to the Town	\$ 33,664.00	\$ 21,811.23	\$ 30,260.00

Article 19 To see what sum the Town will vote, to raise and appropriate for Service Organizations.
Budget Committee recommends \$14,982.65

Service Organizations	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Mt View Little League	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Mt View Bum League	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Knox Boosters-Larrabee Field	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Waldo County YMCA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00
Game Loft	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00
Freedom Community farm	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
North Star Snowmobile Club	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Maine Farmland Trust	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Unity Food Pantry	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Waldo County Woodshed	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Kennebec Behavioral Health	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Special Olympics	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hospice Volunteers Waterville	\$ 235.00	\$ 235.00	\$ 235.00
Waldo Community Action Program	\$ 2,692.00	\$ 2,692.00	\$ 4,703.00
Spectrum Generations	\$ 445.00	\$ 445.00	\$ 587.65
New Hope For Women	\$ 520.00	\$ 520.00	\$ 495.00
American Red Cross	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Life Flight	\$ 719.00	\$ 719.00	\$ 372.00
Broad Reach Preschool	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Belfast Area Child Care Service	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Midcoast Me Comm-Wic	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
Community Health & Counseling Service	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
MPBN	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Hospice Volunteers Somerset	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Children's Center	\$ 365.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 365.00
Waldo Trails Coalition	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00
Dirigo Grange	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
total for Service Organizations from Property Tax	\$ 13,151.00	\$ 12,851.00	\$ 14,982.65

Article 20 To if the Town will accept James Waterman as Fire Chief of the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department and set compensation.
Budget Committee recommends \$4000

Article 21 To see if the Town will vote to deposit the unexpended balance from F.V.F.D. appropriations into the F.V.F.D. Capital Improvement account.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 22 To see if the Town will vote to transfer all monies received from the Town of Knox to the F.V. F. D. Capital Improvement Account.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 23 To see if the town will vote to transfer all monies received from Central Maine Cost Recovery (CMCR), to the F. V. F. D. Capital Improvement Account.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 24 To see what sum, if any, the Town will raise and appropriate for the Freedom Volunteer Fire Department.
Budget Committee recommends \$30,135

Freedom Volunteer Fire Department	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Wages	\$ 3,095.00	\$ 3,095.00	\$ 4,095.00
Supplies	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,977.46	\$ 7,500.00
Utilities	\$ 4,740.00	\$ 3,809.33	\$ 4,740.00
Contracted Services	\$ 6,050.00	\$ 3,160.65	\$ 6,050.00
Maintenance	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 7,833.54	\$ 6,250.00
Training	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Capital Improvement Fund	\$ -	\$ -	
Total Budget for the FVFD from Property Taxes	\$ 29,135.00	\$ 24,875.98	\$ 30,135.00
FVFD Revenue			
Town of Knox	\$ 8,692.23	\$ 8,692.23	\$ 8,692.23
Cost Recovery		\$ 4,484.00	\$ 5,000.00
Grant Awards		\$ 17,000.00	
Other Revenue		\$ 551.50	
Total Revenue to FVFD	\$ 8,692.23	\$ 30,727.73	\$ 13,692.23
FVFD Capital Improvement Fund Carryover		\$ 29,980.12	\$ 29,980.12
Total of FVFD Capital Improvement Funds		\$ 29,980.12	\$ 43,672.35

Article 25 To see what sum, if any, the town will raise and appropriate for repairs to the Sandy Pond Dam and the Boat Landing.
Budget Committee recommends \$2000.

Sandy Pond Dam & Boat Landing	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Sandy Pond Dam Repairs From Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00

Article 26 To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to spend an amount not more than 3/12 of the budget amounts, in each category within the 2020 budget year, during the period from January 1, 2021 to the 2021 Town Meeting.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Total Town Budget from Property Taxes	\$ 598,014.00	\$ 560,201.51	\$ 629,486.65

Article 27 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend up to \$10,000 from the undesignated fund balance to cover the costs of foreclosures and/or maintenance of foreclosed property.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Foreclosures-From Fund Balance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00

Article 28 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to expend up to \$40,000 from the undesignated fund balance in case of emergency.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
Contingency Funds-From Fund Balance	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 5,006.96	\$ 40,000.00

Article 29 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to dispose of any surplus equipment and real estate acquired for nonpayment of taxes, by public bid, and to execute a quitclaim deed for said real estate.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 30 To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to apply all or a portion of other revenues collected by the Town, for example motor vehicle excise tax, tree growth reimbursement, bank interest income, and appropriated surplus revenue, to offset the property tax assessment for the 2018 year.

Budget Committee Recommends approval.

Article 31 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to designate unexpended funds to be carried forward as they deem necessary and to spend such funds carried forward for their intended purpose.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 32 To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to enter into contracts and lease agreements as they deem advisable.
Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 33 To see if the Town will vote to allow the Selectmen to procure a temporary loan in anticipation of taxes for the purpose of paying obligations of the Town. Interest and fees for such loans are to be repaid within one year of the date of the loan from the general fund balance.

Budget Committee recommends approval.

Article 34 To see if the Town will vote to approve the following article:


Be it enacted by the citizens of the Town of Freedom that no wireless communication device may be installed in the public way within three hundred feet of any occupied structure without the express written consent of the owner of such structure.


Article 35 The moderator will now accept a Motion to adjourn.

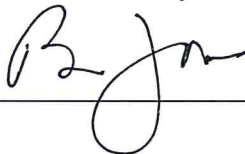
Notice is hereby given that the Registrar of Voters will be available at the Freedom Town Office on Saturday, March 14, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. for any revision of the list of qualified voters.

Given under our hands this 18th day of February, 2020 A.D.

Selectmen of Freedom:

C. Ronald Price _____ 

Stephen Bennett _____ 

Brian Jones _____ 

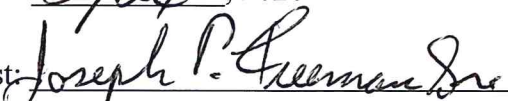
Officer's Return:

I, Joseph Freeman Sr, certify that I have notified the voters of Freedom of the time and place of the Annual Town meeting by posting an attest copy of the within warrant at each of the following places:


Freedom Town Office, Freedom General Store, Freedom Post Office and Freedom Fire Department.

Dated - 2/26, 2020

Attest:


Joseph Freeman Sr, Citizen of Freedom

Attest:


Cynthia Abbott, Freedom Town Clerk

11:22 AM