

Town of Freedom
JLMSC Quarterly Meeting Minutes
June 13th, 2023

Present for the meeting were:

TA Stacy Bolduc

Fire Chief Cunio

PD Jamie Mullen

ZB Gary Williams

Office Staff Lindsay Pettengill

Office Staff – Tax Office Sam Porter

Selectmen Melissa Florio

SO Douglas Welch

The meeting was called to order by SO Doug Welch at 12:00 pm. Sign in sheet distributed, and roll call completed. No visitors present.

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed. Having nothing to amend, March meeting minutes were approved. No new rules, regulations or correspondence concerning safety issues were received since the March meeting.

A discussion of unfinished business from the March meeting took place with a continued conversation regarding lithium battery concerns and again the issue of ID's for town employees. FC Cunio reported that his department continues to research and learn the latest techniques in dealing with lithium caused fires. A question was asked if the Transfer Station accepted lithium ion batteries or not. Unfortunately, due to scheduling, transfer station staff were not present at this meeting to answer, so the question was noted as needing a resolution. Progress was made on the ID card project, the ID maker donated by the Firefighters Association was at the town office and some "demo" cards were made. It was noted that Freedom would work with Madison on the design elements as Madison has ID cards and could provide good feedback. It was agreed, at a minimum, the cards would have an expiration date to avoid ex-employees misusing any ID they may have been issued. Any permanent design would go before the Selectmen for final approval.

Related to the employee ID topic, SO Welch noted that he had seen a Facebook post from a non-permanent resident/home owner who monitored their property with Internet connected cameras. The resident posted a few still images of a pickup truck from Maine in their driveway and a man walking around the property and was concerned. As other Facebook users replied, it became clear this was Freedoms Tax Assessor, however it raised a safety question. As technology like this becomes more wide spread, it could lead to more serious conflicts than just a Facebook post. As Freedoms Tax Assessor drives a truck from Maine with no signage to indicate it's a Freedom town official, it seems possible it could lead to problems. It was discussed that possibly some signage for the vehicle could be provided to the Assessor, a placard for the windshield possibly or magnetic signs for the doors. It was also suggested that maybe safety vests or some similar clothing could be worn to indicate that the person was there in an official capacity.

SO Welch raised a question regarding a safety report/assessment of the elementary school mentioned by former SO McClare in a previous set of minutes. It was unclear on who performed the assessment and who initiated it. No current attendees of this meeting were fully aware of it and the progress on correcting the recommendations are unknown. There was some debate on who is responsible for the corrective actions, Town or SAU, and although the Town owns the building, the consensus was that the SAU would be responsible for any work. SO Welch will re-connect with former SO McClare and to get some addition information.

The issue of heavy equipment training was revisited from last meeting, especially as it relates the loader at the TS. It was agreed that more training was needed for those operating this piece of equipment.

The TS continues to make improvements in all safety aspects as operations there continue to improve. NH Department of Labor Safety provided some additional guidelines and Control of Hazardous Energy systems (Lockout/Tagout) was mentioned as needing attention on items such as the crusher.

The Town Office was discussed in regards to safety issues, in particular the external fire escape was identified as possibly an issue. It was reported that it is was recently inspected by a third party and that it did not pass. FC Cunio would investigate. There was additional concern from some employees regarding sagging floors and possibly leaning walls. All of these issues are a part of larger effort by the Town Office Advisory Counsel who are determining whether to renovate the

current offices or build a new office building, but employee safety will need to be addressed in the meantime.

No new personal or property accidents or near misses were reported from any department.

All agenda items were discussed and a motion to adjourn was made by SO Welch and seconded by TA Bolduc. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.