

**Town Of Freedom
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 20, 2019**

Board Members Present: Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill, Ann Marie Dixon,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

Other Officials Present: Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty,
Justice Gary Chamberlain, and Planning Board Member DeVere Bliss

Others:14

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Supervisor Randy Lester

I. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led By Supervisor Randy Lester

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Town Board meeting minutes of April 15, 2019 meeting.

A motion was made by Ann Marie Dixon to accept the Meeting Minutes of the April 15, 2019. Motion was seconded by Jolene Esposito.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

Absain-1 John Hill

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Email regarding selling the Postal Office. Supervisor Randy Lester received an email from a individual that works for the Post Office asking the Town of Freedom if they would want to sell the Post office. They own many Post Offices. Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon asked if it would still be a Post Office and do they just want the Building? Councilmen John Hill asked if the parking lot would go along with the building. Randy Lester explained that the parking lot would remain Freedom Property the Post Office would least from the Town and continue to pay for Lawn mowing and plowing. Councilmen Ron Ashworth stated he does not want to sell this building if the Postal Service should shut down they would have a building right at the park. The Town just did a Ten year lease agreement. John Hill asked would it be Taxable once it no longer Town property? Ann Marie Dixon wants more information before going further. Randy will keep the board informed.

B.) Getting the Village Green surveyed

1. The camper that is sitting on the Village Green Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty stopped and left his number to the resident who owns the camper.

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A motion was made by Ron Ashworth to have the Village Green Surveyed. Seconded by John Hill

Roll Call: Ayes-5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill, Ann Marie Dixon and Supervisor Randy Lester

C.) Geoff Milks- To the Town Board he addressed them saying is this who you are, who you want to be remember as a Board Member, regarding Windmills. A Town Board that repeatedly had a room full of concern citizens that you disregard. The only changed made to the Law have been for Invenergy. Example; instead of a 1.1 it went to 1.2. Citizens have requested many protections, Flicker, Noise, further setbacks. Geoff is requesting the Town include a property value guarantee in the Host Community Agreement. Residents have concerns about the affect the Turbines can have on nearby property values. Geoff has submitted to the board with what the Town of Sardinia has done and another project that Invenergy was involved with. Both of them agreements give details how the value was determine as far as to both the property owner and the company involved. If the property guarantee exist and the value not harmed the guarantee will have cost to either party. He stated that if there is harm to the property and no guarantee it can be devastating to the home owner. A property appraisal is around \$300.00. Invenergy would hire one appraiser and the home owner would hire the other. The Town would not be responsible for the appraisals. Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon asked would you want appraisals done if the Windmills were to come in. Geoff said yes the appraisal company go into a familiar area and suggest it to sell for a certain amount. This way in 20yrs if the Windmills have effect on the area around people's houses it can save the peoples investment.

D.) Planning Board Member DeVere Bliss- Regarding a report from Marsha North back at the February meeting on Windmills in the Town of Sheldon and its affect on Real Property. This is consisting of 75 Windmills. It went in operation in March of 2009. Some examples she gave was from 2000-2008 there was 40 new builds. 2009-2015 there was only 15 builds. She stated that people were not building and prices went down. DeVere stated two events happened at that time of the Windmill project. The housing market crashed at the end of 2008 and 2009. On March 6 2009 the stock market went down 54 points. This was called the great recession. This affected everyone in the United States. DeVere said that was 10 yrs ago, Americans have worked their way out of a recession in most places. 2018 in Sheldon there was 10 homes put on the market. The average value \$174,000, the time on the market average about 38 days, they all sold market value. DeVere talked to a Real Estate Agent who's been in it about 35-40yrs and has no problem with selling real estate in and around Windmills.

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E.) Supervisor Randy Lester gave an update- he stated that early May New York State approved the initial filing of Invenergy to move forward with the Windmill project.

-Host Agreement- Supervisor Randy Lester told the Board that there was a updated Host Agreement. He pasted out the updated Host Agreement. Randy said he had just received it a few hours before. He's asking the Board Members to read it before the next Board Meeting.

Randy Lester asked Councilmen Ron Ashworth and Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon to discuss a meeting they has with Valessa about the Host Agreement. Ron stated he told her to update it. Ann Marie told Valessa what she would like to see in the Host Community Agreement that was not included before.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Freedom Speedway noise complaint Supervisor Randy Lester asked if there is any more Freedom can do to stop it. The Complain was because it's too loud. The curfew is 11pm. A suggestion was to ask the owner to give free tickets.

B.) Summer Rec Status/Interviews- Rec Director Tanya Siddle has sent Town Clerk Mindy Holland a message to read to the Town Board her recommendation for the following to be hired for the 2019 summer Rec help.

Malachi Green, Leah McElheny, Paula Kulczycki, Brendan Callanan, and Erin Burley. Leah and Brendan are both pursuing life guard Certification in June so the Rec can have life guards. Supervisor Randy Lester stated that one individual is 15 yrs old and doing further research on line this individual has working papers so he can be treated like a 16yr old.

A motion was made by Ann Marie Dixon to except the recommendations for Summer Rec, as long as the two have life guard certification. Seconded by Jolene Esposito.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, Ann Marie Dixon
and Supervisor Randy Lester.
Abstain-1 John Hill

1. Supervisor Randy Lester told the Town Board he would like to increase the cost for out of Town Students for the summer rec program. It's been \$100.00 sense 2014. Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon suggested not to double it but to raise it to \$150.00 because our program is shorter than other Towns. Councilwomen Jolene Esposito says \$200.00 for 4 weeks is something to consider. Randy had asked rec staff and they said it's mainly a summer babysitter. Ann Marie said \$200.000 is a big jump. Councilmen Ron Ashworth suggested that the Town leave it the same till the Re-Organization meeting. Rick Lange asked is an out of Town students is

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someone who has a vacation property here in Freedom or a Grandparents that lives in town. The answer was no they are free because they pay taxes on property in our Town.

A motion was made by Jolene Esposito to change it to \$200.00 for out of Towner's. Seconded by Ann Marie Dixon.

Roll Call: Ayes-5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill,
Ann Marie Dixon and Supervisor Randy Lester.

- V. A motion was made by Jolene Esposito to close the board meeting at 7:37 pm and open to public meeting. Seconded by Ann Marie Dixon**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill,
Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester**

Public Meeting

Donnis Morgan-Question on public meeting why are they not a part of the Board Meeting and are they supposed to be posted. Supervisor Randy Lester we started signing up last month because we were getting three people talking at once. -Donnis stated about windmills she would like the Board to consider the well being of our beautiful country town. She stated what about the noise; there is no guarantee on wells, also flicker. Also a concern is the fault running through our town/area. What will happen between the construction and the vibration from the windmills? Will that effect the fault causing bigger earthquakes. She feels more should be considered other than a few people making money.

Jeff Newland-A rumor has been going around that the windmill company can use eminent domain or can't they Jeff asked. Supervisor Randy Lester stated he believes that Invenergy cannot it has to be a government agency. All Jeff is asking if it's true or not. Randy turned to Scott Johnson from Invenergy and he said he would defer to Valessa but generally speaking the answer is no. Randy will look further into it.

Denise Willard- When is the open house going to be rescheduled for the windmills due to the extreme cold temps during the last open house. Scott Johnson apologized and said the Town does not reschedule the open house, Invenergy will schedule it. -Denise would also like to see property value guarantee.

Geoff Milks- In response to the Town of Sheldon new builds, the few new builds that happen in Sheldon are in the furthest corner of the Town. They are staying away from the turbines.

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-Also regarding the money it's not all about the money, for most that live here is not for the piles of money. They live here for the beautiful country side.

Bruce Acquard-About the Met tower, it's in direct violation of the Towns law. The building inspector has seen the Tower and wrote a violation for this. Supervisor Randy Lester asked Scott Johnson all he stated is they received the violation. Bruce told the Board what happened on the construction of the met tower. He said they started on his property he told the company to get off. Invenergy told Bruce they made a mistake they apologized. The company then moved it over with a tape measure far enough off his property and the guide wires are on the edge of his property. It supposed to be 1.5 times distance from the property edge. In the building permit application it shows where the locations of the met tower suppose to be. It's not in the right location. Bruce stated Invenergy does not know why it's not in right location. Councilmen John Hill asked did they follow a survey? Bruce said they should have they had accordance on the building permit. John Hill asked how tall is the met tower? 262 feet. Bruce would like the Town to enforce the Law and have the tower moved to the proper location that is on the building permit. Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon asked Scott Johnson about the issue. Scott stated Valessa talked about this at the last meeting and there is a wind lease on all properties in this location that incorporates this kind of equipment. Scott also added its being addressed. John Hill asked if Invenergy has a timeline? Scott stated that's a Valessa question. Randy Lester said that it is in the law and if you get permission from the a joining land owners it can be in to the 1.5. John Hill asked Bruce do you have a lease? Bruce said yes I do but Invenergy said met towers are not a part of the lease.

Charlene Aronson-Her and her husband's property has been in the family for over 60yrs. They moved in around 1980. She stated that they have been taxed at high rates. She stated they declined a lease on this project, but Invenergy maps still show roads running through their property across their lakes/ ponds to get to the windmills but have declined them. Charlene also stated that they have a business for a large wedding venue and has people come from N.Y.C. and Europe to come to a country landscape; these people do not want to see turbines. She can't believe that the Town will not offer a Property Guarantee especially for all the years of paid taxes. She also said Invenergy should be made to pay for a community center.

Marsha North- She is requesting a property agreement to protect every single resident of this Town.

-Also there has been a flicker study done. It's on the Department of Public Service site. A none lease owner had 1hr and 17mins per sunny day of flicker on Bixby Hill Rd. Galen Hill Rd with morning flicker. Osmun Rd is getting morning and night flicker. Southern portions of Route 98, North Rd, Portions of Sparks Rd and Bray Rd will be getting flicker. She would like to see further setbacks. Marsha asked if none participating citizens are being notified? After discussion about the hours of flicker Scott Johnson said either they comply with the law or the Turbine can't be built.

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Question was asked what is the law on flicker? Councilmen John Hill said no one knows what the law is because it says back in the 2007 law appropriate distance will be made.

A motion was made by John Hill to close public meeting at 8:03pm and reopen board meeting. Seconded by Jolene Esposito.

Roll Call: Ayes- 5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill, Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

VI. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) Assessors –**Grievance day May 29th from 4 pm to 8pm**
- B) Building Committee –
- C) Building Inspector –
- D) Highway Superintendent – submitted
Councilmen John Hill thanked the Highway guys for fixing Eagle St. Bridge.
Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty stated that the Route 98 work will start June 6 from Bray Rd to Route 243.
A resident thanked Jim for all his hard work on Trash day. Jim stated that Trash days went well. Most Trash they ever had.
- E) Clerk/Collector – Report Submitted.
- F) Constable –
- G) DCO-Report submitted.
- H) Highway Committee –
- I) Insurance Committee-
- J) Justices –
- K) Parks & Recreation –Councilwomen Ann Marie Dixon asked Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty about the swing set at the Park. Jim said it's too wet the project will happen after summer rec.
- L) Planning Board – No Meeting
- M) Supervisor – Report submitted.
- N) Other Town Officials –

Councilmen Ron Ashworth told the Board that Custodian Jack Lawrence told him the ladies room in the Town Hall needed a new toilet. Ron told him to get quotes and to stay under \$500.00.

A motion to accept the reports & communications as submitted was made by John Hill. Seconded by Ann Marie Dixon.

Roll call: Ayes- 5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill, Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

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VII. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

General #119 to # 140, Amt. \$7,824.52, Yrly Amt. \$105,330.12.

Motion made by Ann Marie Dixon to accept the General vouchers as written.
Seconded by Jolene Esposito.

Roll call: Ayes- 5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill,
Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

Highway #60 to #81, Amt.\$17,843.80, Yrly Amt. \$100,212.34.

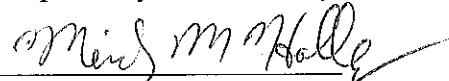
Motion made by Jolene Esposito to accept the Highway vouchers as written.
Seconded by Ron Ashworth.

Roll call: Ayes- 5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill,
Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Ann Marie Dixon made the motion to adjourn
the meeting at 8:10pm. Seconded by John Hill.

Roll call: Ayes- 5 Jolene Esposito, Ron Ashworth, John Hill,
Ann Marie Dixon, and Supervisor Randy Lester

Respectfully Submitted By:



Mindy Holland
Freedom Town Clerk
5/24/2019