

Town of Freedom
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2021

Officials Present: R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
& Supervisor Randy Lester

Absent: John Hill

Other Officials: Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty, Dog Control Officer Denise Willard, Planning Board Members Norm Feldman and Dan Meyers, and Interim Town Attorney Eric Firkel.

Others: 6

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Supervisor Randy Lester.

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

II. Executive Session on legal issues:

A motion was made by Randy Lester to close the Regular Board Meeting to have an Executive Session to discuss legal matters also Town Clerk Mindy Holland is asked to join. Seconded by Dustin Bliss

Roll Call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

A motion was made by Randy Lester to close the Executive Session and open Regular Board Meeting. Seconded by Geoff Milks.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

A) Town Board Meeting –Organizational Meeting – January 4, 2021
A motion was made by Geoff Milks to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted.
Seconded by Dustin Bliss.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

IV. TOWN OF FREEDOM

RESOLUTION #1-2021

January 11, 2021

A Resolution of Approval

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WHEREAS, Randy Lester, Town Supervisor has completed the annual checklist for review of the Justice Court Records,

AND WHEREAS, he seeks the Town Board's approval

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom, does hereby approve the annual check list as submitted.

Motion by: Dustin Bliss, Seconded by Geoff Milks

Roll call:

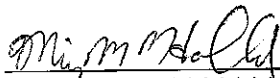
Morgan: Aye

Bliss: Aye

Hill: Absent

Milks: Aye

Lester: Abstain

Clerk:  Date: 01/11/2021

V. Resolution #2 of 2021

Resolution of the Town of Freedom

Randy Lester, Supervisor

Members of the Town Council: R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, John Hill, Geoff Milks

Clerk: Mindy

Date: 1/11/2021

Resolution Number: 2 Year: 2021

Moved by: Dustin Bliss Second by: R. Nick Morgan

Title: Resolution adopting the Cattaraugus County Multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan

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WHEREAS, The Town of Freedom has reviewed the 2021 Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation Plan, A copy of the Plan is attached hereto as Exhibit A

WHEREAS, the 2021 Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Freedom is a local unit of government that has afforded the citizens an opportunity to comment and provide input in the plan and the actions in the plan: and

WHEREAS, The Town of Freedom Town Board has reviewed the plan and affirms that the Plan will be updated no less than every five year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Town Board that the TOWN OF FREEDOM hereby adopts the 2021 Cattaraugus County Hazard Mitigation Plan, as this juris diction's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions in the Plan.

Aye Randy Lester, Supervisor

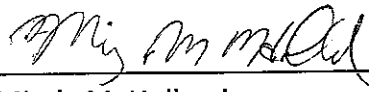
Aye R. Nick Morgan, Councilman

Aye Dustin Bliss

Absent John Hill

Aye Geoff Milks

CERTIFIED:



Mindy M. Holland
Freedom Town Clerk

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Dog Laws: Dog Control Officer Denise Willard stated she needs written consent to use her personal computer, she would like to scan the 5 present Dog Laws. She can scan them copy and paste and make them all one dog law instead of all these cut amendments that have been past over the years. She has an email into the Town of Hume to get a copy if their law. Councilman Dustin Bliss stated that he had spoke to

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Town Clerk Mindy Holland regarding an amendment or an addition, subtraction is passed it does not change the law. It has to be once page addition. Dustin stated it is confusing, he said what we post would be the complete law instead of having to search 5 different documents to find the law. Denise stated that is what she wants to do. Mindy asked Interim Town Attorney Eric Firkel, regarding the Dog Law, how it had been amendment, they would only write the paragraph that was amended instead of writing the whole law and maybe bolding a paragraph that was amended. Eric stated he would appeal an old law and pass a new law with new text. Its easier to follow, it's a better way to do it. Mindy stated that when citizens ask for the Dog Law, you have to ask what one you want. For example, if you asked for the Dog law from 2001 you don't see the amendments from 2014. Mindy stated it be nice if the Town can put it together as a whole. Dustin asked how does the board want to go about this, a work session, to go over all these and have a proposed resolution, maybe a working group with some local residents. Dustin stated that the Board knows this is out dated, we know that we have the lack enforcement, especially on collecting funds when a dog ends up at the SPCA and the owner is not going to come and get the dog. Councilman Geoff Milks stated that the Previous Planning Board had already started looking at this, he asked Supervisor Randy Lester if he knew as the previous liaison for the Planning Board how far they got. Randy stated no really far. Geoff would like to get one drafted up and have a Public Hearing to let the people speak about the new updated law. Dustin stated he will work with Denise to get one together and have a resolution, then have a Public Hearing. Denise stated she will copy paste but will not happen overnight. She emailed Hume for their law, from the 90 days on they add a \$10.00 fee on every month after that. On her late list there is some dog license renewals that are over a year late. There are about 60 dog licenses that are past due. Dustin asked if she got a copy of Arcade, and Yorkshire Dog law. Denise has gotten a copy. Denise asked she will get her training from the State on Wednesday. Denise wants to get consent to put the records on her computer because the guidelines for the Dog Control officer it says you have to have a letter of consent. Dustin asked Eric if she would need that and Eric said it's a public record so she can do whatever she wanted with it. Dustin stated that they need to change it and she can do it as a town resident. Dustin stated that he will work with Eric and Denise and have a resolution at the next Town Board meeting in February. Planning Board Member Norm Feldman agreed with what Denise is going to do with the Dog law because when he was working on it last summer, he had not realized he did not have all the Dog laws. The Dog Control Officer email is freedomdco@gmail.com.

- B. Comprehensive Plan: Supervisor Randy Lester stated that this a law that's been in affect sense 1995. It says what is the Town Board going to do, what the comprehensive plan overall. Randy stated that he has not been able to locate that it was ever done. Randy suggests a work session to see the Town of Freedom develop and what would be the plan toward that. Councilman Geoff Milks stated that he has suggested before about Cattaraugus County has a very well written plan. Interim

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Town Attorney Eric Firkel stated that the Town of Portville wrote one a few years ago. Randy asked Eric if he can get a copy of it.

C. **Emergency Plan:** Town Clerk Mindy Holland asked if the Board had thought about asking around other Town to see if they have a plan that maybe the Town can look at to get ideas. Councilman Geoff Milks stated that he will follow up with Interim Town Attorney Eric Firkel. Geoff feels its hard to plan for an emergency, like the one we had with COVID-19, and we don't know when the next one is but the Town has to have a plan in place. Geoff stated that a lot of what they are asking for is more relevant to larger Towns then us. Mindy stated that she will ask the Arcade Town Clerk to see what they have written and send it to the Board to get ideas. Geoff will ask Eric as well and see if any Towns he represents have anything. Councilman R. Nick Morgan stated that this could bring up some budget concerns, the State wants the Towns to have 6 months of PPE for all the employees, so we will supply and store it. Nick also asked if the Town is concerned about having this in place by the February 4, for review by the employees. Mindy asked Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty if he wanted a draft of this by the 4th or can they wait till the 22 of February. Jim stated he's in no rush, take the time to get it done, they already have PPE equipment. The one thing the Highway Department needs is a bigger generator, but they are very expensive. The one that they have now is enough, it only gets the doors up to get the trucks out. Jim stated that at some of his meeting he goes to they talk about emergency plans and that they may have to house people someday. Jim said the generator we have now would not keep people alive in this building. Councilman Dustin Bliss asked how many amps is the electric service in this building. Jim said he does not know; it should be updated. Jim said we need a generator that will kick on when the electric goes off. Geoff will speak to Eric to get some ideas of what to write. The Board will discuss this at the February 22 meeting.

D. Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys: (Signed by Board Members): Board members needed to sign.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Letter from Assessor:** Councilman Dustin Bliss stated that this is in regards to the in-person hours. He would no mind filling the request for 90 days. Then reevaluate the situation at the end of 90 days. Dustin said he feels it is important that Town Resident's, especially elderly shouldn't have to use email, especially if they don't have access, or have to drive all the way too little valley, and if sometimes over the phone is not the best. He understands what they are asking for with the new infections with the new strands of COVID-19, but we don't want it to be a indefinite thing. Supervisor Randy Lester stated if our Assessor Kate who lives in

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Franklinville, got a phone call she could come here just as easy as going to Little Valley. Councilman R. Nick Morgan stated that seems reasonable and hopefully we will have better news in three months. Councilman Geoff Milks wants to make sure that they are still willing to come here if they get a phone call and someone would like to meet in person.

Dustin Bliss made a motion to eliminate in house, Town Hall hours for 90 days for the Town Assessor, with the exception of a resident that do not have any means to get to Little Valley, do not have access to email, and has issues hearing. Seconded by Geoff Milks.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

B. Senior Card: Town Clerk Mindy Holland read the card to the Board; the card thanks the Freedom Town Board for there years of there yearly gift to the Seniors. The card stated that they understand the hard times and why they need to terminate the gift.

C. The Board talked about the Association of Towns Certificate of Designation. The Board choose not to fill it out.

VIII. Public Comments:

Stephanie Milks: She asked with the Comprehensive Land Plan is there something specific the Supervisor Randy Lester wants to add into the plan or enhance. Randy stated no he just happen to find it going through the books as a law that was set. He had done some research and seen the Town had never done it and he brought it up, to have a long-term plan for the Town of Freedom. She asked if he had some specific goals for the Town of Freedom. She has gone through Cattaraugus County Plan quite extensively, so if there is something specific, she can pull out, if the Town knows what they are looking for.

Dog Control Officer Denise Willard: She told the Board that she's not sure what to do with a Dog is she gets called to pick up a dog. She has heard if she wants to kennel at her house, she would have to put in a concert pad and there is a lot of liability involved. She also asked if she's not around, if they could find a deputy. She would like to take the money that the deputy would earn from her money. Councilman Geoff Milks asked how the Town handle with the previous Dog Control if he went away. Councilman R. Nick Morgan stated that they would use a neighboring Dog Control officer. Geoff stated that maybe we could work it out with a neighboring dog control officer. Denise stated that she knows on an emergency they contacted Joe Neamon,

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she wanted to ask before she did. Councilman Dustin Bliss stated it be good to find out what's customary in other Towns. Denise said that Caneadea, Hume and Rushford have combined together with one Dog Control officer and there is a Deputy as well. The Board and Denise talked about tacking on fees to residence Tax bills for housing dogs at the SPCA if they choose to abandon the dog, so the town taxpayers do not have to pay the bill, in return the town can add it to the tax payer who owned the dog and they would have to pay it in their tax bill. Also, they talked about late fees for late Dog license renewals.

IX. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

- A) Assessors –Repost Submitted
- B) Building Committee –
- C) Building Inspector – Report Submitted.
- D) Highway Superintendent – Report Submitted
- E) Clerk/Collector – Report Submitted
- F) Constable –
- G) DCO – Report Submitted
- H) Highway Committee –
- I) Justices –
- J) Parks & Recreation –
- K) Planning Board – Report Submitted
- L) Supervisor –Report Submitted at Year End Meeting.
- M) Other Town Officials –

A motion to accept the reports & communications as submitted was made by Geoff Milks. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

Roll call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

General 6 to # 24, Amt. \$ 18,614.12, Yrly Amt. 77,275.31.

Motion made by Dustin Bliss to accept the General vouchers as submitted.
Seconded by Geoff Milks.

Roll call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

Highway #3 to #12, Amt. \$11,981.71, Yrly Amt.\$30,193.13.

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Motion made by Dustin Bliss to accept the Highway vouchers as submitted.
Seconded by Geoff Milks.

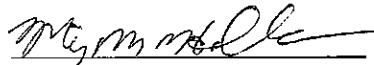
Roll call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

Dustin Bliss made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 p. m. Seconded by
Geoff Milks.

Roll call: Ayes-4 R. Nick Morgan, Dustin Bliss, Geoff Milks,
and Supervisor Randy Lester

Respectfully Submitted By,



Freedom Town Clerk

01/14/2021