

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #25-19
FREEPORT TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2019
6:40 PM

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road	x		
Scott Gleeson, 23 Park Street	x		
Eric Horne, 62 Pine Street	x		
Henry Chip Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road	x		
Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road	x		
Sarah Tracy, 2 Pettingill Road	x		
Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road	x		

Chair Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. and took attendance. All Councilors were present as well as Town Manager, Peter Joseph.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood and recited the Pledge.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #24-19 held on October 15, 2019 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #24-19 held on October 15, 2019 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Gleeson) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: That the Town Clerk report on the returns of the November 5, 2019 Election.

Town Clerk Christine Wolfe reported the following:

TOWN CANDIDATE BALLOT: Elected

Town Councilor-At Large: John Egan
Town Councilor-District 1: Daniel Piltch
RSU Board of Directors 3-Years: Valeria Steverlynck and Maura Pillsbury
RSU Board of Directors 2-Years: Lindsey Furtney
Sewer District Trustee: Earle Rowe Jr. and Thomas Hudak
Water District Trustee: Jason Crowell

Total Number of Registered Voters at Poll Opening Time -7,136

No. of Registration Cards handled by the Registrar on Election Day (New Voters & Change of Address, Name or Party) – 34

Total Number of Ballots Cast: 1,188 State, 1,187 Municipal

Percentage of Voters who cast ballots – 16%

No. of Absentee Ballots requested – 265

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No. of Absentee Ballots cast – 204
Percentage of votes cast by Absentee – 17%

Ms. Wolfe advised that the election went very well and the new voting booths were warmly received. If anyone knows of someone who is a registered Freeport voter that would be interested in helping at the polls on Election Day, please steer them her way. We need to add more people in our pool for each election. She has two shifts, one for the morning with lunch provided and a later shift with dinner provided.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Town Clerk's report be accepted. (Egan & Gleeson)
VOTE: (7 Ayes)

SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILOR BY THE TOWN CLERK:

Ms. Wolfe called Councilor Egan and Mr. Piltch to the front and swore them in.

<u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u>	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	x		
Eric Horne, 62 Pine Street	x		
Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road	x		
Sarah Tracy, 2 Pettengil Road	x		
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road	x		
Whitney, Tawni, 56 Baldwin Road	x		
Lawrence, Henry 93 Hunter Road	x		

Chair Tracy welcomed Councilors to the new Council of 2019/2020. She is looking forward to a productive year and appreciates the new blood but we are sad to have some old blood leave.

Chair Tracy went to the podium and pointed out that it is her pleasure to say goodnight and good bye to Scott for the moment. He has been with us for a really long time. He is the most senior Councilor currently serving. She noted that Scott has ably and fiercely represented District One since he was elected. He previously served on Coastal Waters from 2005 to 2014. He served as Council Vice Chair twice and served seven years on the Council. She presented him with a plaque for his years of service. She also thanked his wife and son for allowing Scott to help immensely. He has served as the peace maker and kept the Council together. He wanted everyone to have their say, including the public. She appreciated all the time he put in and looks forward for him having all the time he needs to get out on the water.

Mr. Joseph presented Scott with a gift of a desk compass from the Town Staff. They have enjoyed working with him.

Scott pointed out that he feels the Council is fantastic and inspiring. Freeport is a shining example among other communities. He wishes the nation could look at how a very functional local town government could work. We all have varying opinions but we are civil and respectful to each other. When he first started, his son was in First Grade. He thanked the Councilors along the way that he had served with and listed them. He also thanked Staff. It has been a great run and he will miss everyone.

He thanked Councilor Piltch for stepping up and filling the District One opening. He served on Coastal Waters with Councilor Piltch and is confident he will do a great job.

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He thanked his wife, Tamara and her mother for staying over on Tuesdays to watch his son while he was at meetings. He wished everyone luck and noted he will take a break.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: To take action on the following items of business as read by the Council Chairperson:

ITEM #175-19 To consider action relative to the electing of a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for the Town Council.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the nominations for the position of Council Chairperson be opened. (Reighley & Horne) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That John Egan be nominated as Council Chairperson. (Reighley & Horne) **VOTE:** (6 Ayes) (1 Recused-Egan)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the nominations for the position of Council Chairperson be closed. (Reighley & Horne) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

SHOW OF HANDS TO VOTE TO SUPPORT THE NOMINATION OF JOHN EGAN AS THE NEXT COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON (6 Ayes) (1 Recused-Egan)

Chair Tracy wanted to say that she is excited that Chair Egan is willing to step up and be Chairperson. She is confident the Council will be in great hands. He has shown that he has a real aptitude for discerning the issues and he will ably lead our little ship as we navigate the next big issues coming before us. We have Short-term Rentals, Marijuana, Island Rover and recycling. We have a lot to do. She thanked him for being willing to put in the time and noted the Council will stand by and assist as needed. Chair Egan thanked her for laying out a perfect course on how to manage the job.

BE IT ORDERED: That John Egan be elected Chairperson of the Town Council. (Tracy & Reighley) **VOTE:** (6 Ayes) (1 Recused-Egan)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the nominations for the position of Council Vice-Chairperson be opened. (Horne & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: To nominate Tawni Whitney for Vice-Chairperson of the Town Council. (Reighley & Horne) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the nominations for the position of Council Vice-Chairperson be closed. (Egan & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

BE IT ORDERED: That Tawni Whitney be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Town Council. (Horne & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (also with a show of hands)

Chair Tracy congratulated Councilor Whitney and noted she hasn't been here very long but has graced the Council with her presence. She is confident the Town will be well led and Councilor Whitney will be a good wing man for Chair Egan. The Council is looking forward to both of them working as a team and leading us down our next road. She thanked her for being willing to spend the time.

Councilor Reighley thanked Chair Tracy for her service as Council Chairperson. He explained that she

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has done a remarkable job in keeping the ship afloat and sailing on course. He can't say that about the Island Rover but he thanked her for everything she has done for the Town along with the many years of Scott's service.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 7:10 p.m. (Reighley & Horne)
VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary

A RECEPTION FOR OUTGOING COUNCILOR GLEESON FOLLOWED: