

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #16-19
FREEPORT TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
TUESDAY JUNE 18, 2019
6:30 p.m.

	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 6:30 p.m. and took attendance. All Councilors were in attendance along with 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 #15-19 held on June 4, 2019 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #15-19 held on June 4, 2019 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Gleeson) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

- This year's **Fourth of July Parade** is being organized by Nancy Trottier and Michelle Barker. If you would like to participate in this year's parade you will need to register. Information on the parade and how to register can be found on Freeport Community Services website. Deadline for registering is June 28. Or you can contact: Nancy Trottier ntrottier@fcsmaine.org; 865-3985 x220, or Michelle Barker at mbarker@bathsavings.com or 865-6998.

Fourth of July Schedule of Events:

- LL Bean Fourth of July 10K starts at 7:25 AM
- 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk starts at 9:10 AM (both begin at memorial park)
- Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.
- LL Bean Concert at Discovery Park with **The War and Treaty** at 7:30 PM
- Fireworks start at approximately 9:15 PM.

REMINDER: The High School Track and Field will be off limits during the Fireworks. No one will be allowed on the track and field during the Fireworks display.

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- **The Library's Adult & Child Summer Reading Kickoff Festival takes place on Friday, June 21, 6:00 – 7:00 pm.** Celebrate the first day of summer with the Library and Sister Steel Pan. There will be face painting, chalk, and popcorn, as well as a table to sign up for either program for interested parties. Bring a blanket and snacks. In the event of inclement weather, festivities will be moved indoors to the Library's Meeting Room.
- The **Thursday evening Summer Concert Series at Winslow Park** begins July 11th at 6:30 p.m.
- Come Learn the **Do's and Don'ts of Recycling** with Katrina Venhuizen on Tuesday, June 25 from 6-7 p.m. at Town Hall Council Chambers. Contamination has become a major driver of the rising costs of recycling. In order to avoid surcharge fees, Freeport residents must bring contamination rates down below 5%. Katrina will teach us which materials are contaminants, and which can be recycled. She will also train volunteers on effective techniques to educate residents who use the recycling silver bullets. This is an educational event sponsored by the Sustainability Committee.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Councilor Reighley advised that the Ordinance Committee met this morning. Two items will be moved forward to us which were nicely prepared and presented. It is something we should look forward to having happen. Chair Tracy noted that those items are the Traffic & Parking Committee ordinance change to become the Complete Streets Committee and the second item was administrative amendments to the Impact Fee Ordinance. She clarified that the Complete Streets Committee is a proposed name and will come before the Council soon. The Impact Fee will also come before the Council. It is a policy discussion. Right now, we have an impact fee associated to impact roads. If you have a development, you pay a fee associated with the impact you would have on the roads so it offsets that impact. There have been requirements in the past to build sidewalks when you have a development. On Route One South it was kind of silly because it was the sidewalk to nowhere. There has been discussion of a multi-mogul path on Route One South and the discussion surrounded whether it makes sense for Freeport to charge an impact fee associated with development to start funding that multi-mogul path. That is a really large policy discussion that would incorporate perspectives from the Council, the Project Review Board and the Planning Board but we are teeing up that discussion. She urged the Council to stay tuned.

Councilor Reighley brought up the Complete Streets change in ordinance. One of the things they noticed that was missing was a definition of "complete streets" so that should help everybody going through.

Councilor Lawrence reported that he attended the Shellfish Committee meeting. Everyone was participating and listening to each other and they are discussing how to get younger people into the program. The use of flats for research came up and will be discussed.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph reported:

Freeport Employees Support Maine Special Olympics Torch Run

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On Wednesday, June 5, members of the Freeport Police and Public Works Department participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. The torch was carried from all parts of Maine to the final destination at the University of Maine in Orono.

Officers Marshall, Milton, Kavanaugh, Norris and Lopez, along with DPW employee Howard Dyer and his daughter Natasha received the torch from members of the Yarmouth Police Department and carried the torch through Town, pausing at the Public Safety Building to meet with local athletes, then handed it off to members of the Brunswick Police Department.

On Friday, June 7, Officer Marshall and Officer Norris joined other members of Maine Law Enforcement in the Opening Ceremonies of the Summer Games and presented medals to winning athletes. Special Olympics is chosen as a State-wide benefit that police departments can fundraise for. He explained why police departments are prohibitive from actively soliciting donations, etc.

Baker Road Paving Update

The final surface pavement on Baker Road (from Cedar Lane to the end of the Town line) will be completed this week. Following this work, within the next two weeks, Crooker Construction will be finishing the driveway aprons on this section of the road to make the transition to the new pavement. Residents with questions should feel free to contact the Public Works Department at 865-4461.

Public Meeting – Pownal/Percy/Pratt/Richards Roads Paving Project

On Thursday, June 20 at 6 p.m. there will be an informational meeting in the Town Council Chambers regarding the upcoming paving project for Pownal Road, Percy Street, Pratt Street and Richards Lane. For more information please contact the Public Works Department at 865-4461. Any resident can attend.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Public Comment Period – (30 Minutes)
(Non-Agenda Items Only)

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Comment Period. (Reighley & Gleeson) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

Valy Steverlynek of Pine Street noted she is speaking on her own behalf. She talked about the next steps for the Recycling Program and wanted to bring up that most likely in the next year or so, there will be creative ideas to move the recycling program forward. One of them might be curbside pick-up and wanted to make a formal request that curbside recycling exploration be included in one soon to come meeting and requested that it be included in a Council agenda before the fall. It would give time for the Council and residents to think about this idea as a form of replacing the silver bullets. For the program to be robust, it will be necessary to provide easy, convenient access and curbside would be one of the ways to do that. There are many factors in favor of curbside pick-up for trash, recycling and compost. One of the major benefits would be that it would be convenient for every resident in Freeport. The costs for curbside, based on a quote the Town got from Casella a couple of years ago, versus the costs included in the Council's budget for operating the Transfer Facility are pretty close. She feels curbside is a sustainable solution since there will not be vehicles driving back and forth to the Transfer Station or the silver bullets. The contamination is likely to be controlled curbside because there will not be incentives for someone to put trash in a recycling bin because recycling is free and trash isn't. She mentioned the Sustainability Committee is taking steps to prevent contamination in the future and explained what they are considering.

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She urged the Council to look at the data when it is available and make decisions based on the data. It would lead to much wiser and strong decisions that people can rally about in support. She feels it would be great if recycling could be treated like other services offered and not hold recycling to a higher standard of efficiency than we do other services that are offered in town. There are many services in town that are not 100% efficient but they are popular and important so we provide convenient access to them such as police, fire, etc. She requested that the Council put recycling on the agenda and let people comment on it and not just include it as another item on the agenda which gets lost. She wholeheartedly supports the solar project.

Dave Swan, owner of a building at 24 Noble Drive in Freeport explained that his renter there grows medical marijuana. They were both here about three years ago when he bought the building explaining how they would like to see the Council accept the Town's public vote of accepting recreational marijuana and at that time it was turned down. In the past three years everything has been going great with his building as well any other grower that is in town. There have been no complaints. His grower is very professional in the way he conducts his business. We are asking the Council to amend what its original decision was. He is aware that the Council can turn them down again or can amend the original decision which was to put a moratorium on all recreational. The Council can amend it to include some other forms of growing which his renter will explain what that is. It is basically adult use cannabis. He doesn't grow it but he invested in a building and is trying to make a living off of his rent. His renter has a family and is trying to support his family off of what he does. The other way they could approach this is to get a petition drive going. At that point he doesn't know what the Council's response would be or what the obligation would be if the voters sign a petition and it goes before the voters again. He assumes they will pass it again which means that we will have recreational marijuana and recreational sales of marijuana. He is talking about growing rec. marijuana, not selling it at their location. He requested that the Council consider this and put it on an agenda. He is confident that the abutters would have to be notified for all the properties that grow in town but in terms of their location, they received one complaint about the smell from a neighbor. That neighbor wanted him to buy his building because it was for sale so he was working an angle. He sold his building and moved on. Mr. Swan has not heard from the new neighbor but if they are invited to a meeting, they can advise if they have complaints.

David Stevenson advised that he leases the warehouse at 24 Noble Drive. He is representing a number of growers in Freeport and they are looking to go into the adult use just for growing in Freeport and continue what they have been doing. They will use the same plan. The same security would be installed if not more stringent under State regulations. He is proposing that the Council not allow new businesses into Freeport but allow the locations already growing cannabis to be able also to do so for adult use. He is asking to bring this up to a Town meeting where they could bring it up for discussion. The other growers could come in and it would be opened up for discussion. He offered to answer questions.

Chair Tracy mentioned that the Council has gotten some e-mails over the past few weeks. She asked Mr. Stevenson what has changed but obviously retail is opening up. She asked why does he believe he will not be able to sustain his business. Mr. Stevenson explained that he doesn't know if patients will take the extra step and go and get their medical cards and purchase from a medical provider. Stores in the State have to be either recreational or medical and most of them are going to go to recreational because of the market. It is unclear what will happen to the medical program. There are some tax advantages. The medical program only pays 5.5% as opposed to 10% for recreational. There is also an excise tax from the grower to the retail store of what he believes is \$350 per pound. There is a lot more tax revenue for the State through the recreational program. A lot of growers are wondering what they will be able to do and the State will allow for adult use and medical to be grown under the same roof but not sold in the same stores. They would still have options if they wanted to do that.

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Chair Tracy understood that the proposal being made tonight is to allow growing within the confines of Freeport's boundaries. Mr. Stevenson advised that as a medical grower, he is not allowed to sell to a recreational store and a recreational grower is not allowed to sell to a medical market. Chair Tracy clarified that if Freeport were to do what he is asking, which is to allow recreational growing, we would not under his construct necessarily allow retail sales. Her question is, would he then take whatever recreational marijuana he is growing in his facility and would it be sold in another municipality. Mr. Stevenson replied "exactly".

Councilor Reighley asked what the State is doing now with this current turnover of the medical marijuana business into the recreational marijuana business. Are there more regulations and more laws. Mr. Stevenson replied that yes, there has been a lot of progress lately. They just held a public hearing in Portland on the final draft of the rules. They are hoping to see an application process started by the end of the year. Councilor Reighley advised that the State supersedes the Town and Mr. Stevenson explained that yes, but the Town has to opt in. Currently there is an ordinance in effect that bans anything with adult use. He is asking for the growers that are here already to be able to grow recreationally or medically.

Councilor Reighley asked who would be the best to invite in to listen to a presentation on the transition we are seeing taking place within the marijuana industry. Mr. Stevenson advised that he would be able to put the Council in touch with lawyers and people that helped to write the rules for the medical and recreational programs. Councilor Reighley asked him to submit the list to the Council and Mr. Stevenson agreed.

Chair Tracy thanked him for his time and requested that he leave his name with the Town Manager. If the Council decides to take this up, it will let him know.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Comment Period. (Lawrence & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

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

ITEM # 100-19 To consider action relative to adopting the June 18, 2019 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the June 18, 2019 Consent Agenda be adopted.
(Reighley & Lawrence)

Councilor Reighley pointed out that under the Victualer's licenses we have an application by the South Freeport Village Market for renewal of their license. Since it is in his district and to his knowledge, they have not been open for any period of time, he questioned the license application purpose. He requested that the Council remove this from the Consent Agenda and have a more thorough investigation on this application.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That we remove South Freeport Village Market. 97 South Freeport Road from the Consent Agenda as an amendment to the motion that is on the floor. (Egan & Reighley) **VOTE ON AMENDMENT:** (7 Ayes)

Chair Tracy explained that the Council will be voting on the **BE IT ORDERED** and that the June 18, 2019 Consent Agenda will be adopted without the South Freeport Village Market Victualer's License application as part of the Consent Agenda.

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Councilor Horne asked what would happen if the Victualer's License is not granted tonight. Mr. Joseph read from the Victualer's Licensing Ordinance and explained the Council's three options.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: That we default to Option #2 and invite the owner of the South Freeport Village Market in so we can understand what the reasoning is for not being open. (Horne) (no second)

Mr. Joseph read the conditions upon which the Council could deny the application. Chair Tracy suggested delegating Councilor Reighley to work with the Town Manager with a second check by Council Leadership to provide a written communication to the owner in this matter.

MOVED AND SECONDED: That the Town Manager, in conjunction with input from Councilor Reighley, District 3 Representative, and upon review by Council leadership, issue a written communication to the owner of South Freeport Village Market inquiring with respect to the status of the market and compliance with the requirements of the Victualer's Licenses set forth in the Ordinance and request a written response to that communication and request that the owner attend the next meeting at which the Victualer's License application is taken up. (Tracy & Horne) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

ITEM # 101-19 To consider action relative to allowing service of alcohol by a licensed caterer for an event on June 29, 2019 at the Bartol Library building sponsored by the Town of Freeport.

BE IT ORDERED: That the service of alcohol by a licensed caterer for an event on June 29, 2019 at the Bartol Library building sponsored by the Town of Freeport be approved. (Whitney & Lawrence)

Councilor Whitney explained that this will be held on June 27, 2019. It is a local art show and sale. There will be over 15 local artists and live music. Beer and wine will be sold by Gritty's. Donations will be collected for the Heat Assistance Program for the Town. It is open to the public and is free. It is from 4-8 p.m. in the Bartol Library Building which was formerly the Abercrombie and Fitch Building.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To amend the date to June 27, 2019. (Reighley & Gleeson) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

VOTE ON BE IT ORDERED AS AMENDED: (7 Ayes)

(ITEMS #102-19 TO #105-19 ARE PRESENTED BY FINANCE DIRECTOR, JESSICA MALOY)

Ms. Maloy indicated she would prefer to do these one at a time. Chair Tracy explained that the Council

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has been working on the Operations Budget for the past two months. The Council has had numerous meetings and workshops on the Operations Budget. Tonight, the Council will be adopting the Operations Budget. There will be some changes to reflect some late breaking fixes and also late breaking sources of revenue which is always welcome.

ITEM #102 -19 To consider action relative to the acceptance of State Funds for fiscal year 2020.

BE IT ORDERED: That the following categories for State Funds be accepted for fiscal year 2020 as presented.

1. Municipal Revenue Sharing
2. Local Road Assistance
3. State Aid to Education (including Federal pass-through funds and property)
4. Public Library State Aid per capita
5. Civil Emergency Funds (Emergency Management Assistance)
6. Snowmobile Registration Funds
7. Tree Growth Reimbursement
8. Veterans Exemption Reimbursement
9. Business Tax Reimbursement
10. All other State funds not included in items 1-9 (Gleeson & Reighley)

Ms. Maloy advised that the first three items can be voted on as presented.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

ITEM #103 -19 To consider action relative to the operating budget for Winslow Park for fiscal year 2020.

BE IT ORDERED: That \$293,540 be approved for the Winslow Park budget from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and \$23,200 be approved for the Harb Cottage budget from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019. (Horne & Gleeson)

Chair Tracy explained that this comes from revenues the Town does not collect or control. It is totally separate.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

ITEM #104 -19 To consider action relative to adopting a Non-Emergency Transport (NET) budget for fiscal year 2020.

BE IT ORDERED: That the Non-Emergency Transport Budget in the amount of \$225,721 be approved for fiscal year 2020. (Egan & Horne)

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

ITEM #105 -19 To consider action relative to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget for the Town of Freeport.

Mr. Joseph explained that there are three specific changes. One has been discussed several times. Staff is recommending an increase to the Police Budget to add \$20,000 for a shared Animal Control Officer

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position. After following up, he learned that Brunswick was happy to put a Brunswick/Freeport decal on the car and have the officer identify herself as Brunswick/Freeport Animal Control on any call. The other major question was about the split of the hours. It is proposed to be 10 hours for Freeport and 30 hours in Brunswick for a 40-hour position. Brunswick is willing to put into the agreement an adjustment should we need to move the 10 hours up or down based on actual performance. If they didn't have 10 hours worth of calls in Freeport, they would be happy to do patrols to make up the difference in town by doing dog violations, enforcing dog waste laws, inspecting kennels or boarding facilities or doing patrols in high visibility dog walking areas where there may be leash problems. Brunswick was amenable to all of the suggestions brought forward by the Council. Discussion followed. The usage will be tracked and if we don't get near it, we will re-visit it after a year. **STRAW POLL VOTE:** (6 Ayes) (1 Absent-Egan)

Chair Tracy pointed out that the Hunter Road Fields Budget has also changed. Mr. Joseph mentioned that staff missed the contractual increase for Grounds Maintenance. We approved this contract already and are obligated to it with the RSU5 if we are to continue the fields maintenance program, which is going splendidly but we did not include the \$6,000 increase in the budget for this year. We just didn't get the right number in the budget. Chair Tracy assumed since we are contractually obligated, that we will add this into the budget.

Chair Tracy explained that the last one is the happy increase in revenues based upon the State Budget which allocated 3% in Revenue Sharing as opposed to the 2% we were assuming. Mr. Joseph noted it has been at 2% for the past two budget cycles. He and Ms. Maloy budgeted 2.5 % assuming it was a safe number. The Appropriations Committee increased that amount to 3% and it is scheduled to go to 3.75% in 2021 after they took feedback from municipalities. Freeport participated in that hearing. That passed last week and was signed by the Governor so he and Ms. Maloy came up with this recommendation to match the 3% change this year. Effectively if taken with the other changes, it would give us a levy reduction of close to \$10,000 for this year. They feel it is appropriate to put it right back into the revenue sources to offset taxes for next year. We have the ability to reflect it in this year's budget.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To increase the State Revenue Sharing Budget by \$154,000 to reflect the adjustment for the passing of the State Budget with a 3% return to Municipalities. (Tracy & Horne) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: To increase the Hunter Road Fields Budget, Account 0406 by \$6,200 to reflect the contractual increase in the grounds maintenance work with RSU5 which is Account 0406-3490. (Tracy & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

MOVED AND SECONDED: To increase the Police Budget, Account 0200 by \$20,000 to reflect the adjustment for a shared Animal Control Officer position with the Town of Brunswick. We will have 10 hours out of a 40- hour week. That is Account 0200-3430. (Tracy & Reighley) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

BE IT ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made to the several departments for purposes named, that the following revenues estimated be adopted, and that the following amounts to be raised by taxation, said action for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 Municipal Budget as presented in the handout from the Finance Director dated June 18, 2019. (Tracy & Reighley)

FY 2020 Appropriations	
General Government	\$1,751,672
Protection and Enforcement	\$3,001,610
Health and Welfare	\$111,140
Human Service Agencies	\$39,800
Community Center Building	\$45,600
Public Works/Solid Waste	\$2,442,555
Library	\$473,970
Unclassified	\$2,206,365
Debt Services-Local	\$106,925
County Tax	\$1,192,404
Bustins Island	\$206,000
Abatements	\$25,000
Total Appropriations	\$11,603,041
FY 2020 Estimated Revenues	
Non-Property Tax	\$1,721,300
Intergovernmental	\$1,651,000
Charges for Services	\$410,500
Licenses and Permits	\$442,400
Fines and Forfeitures	\$54,800
Miscellaneous	\$136,500
Library Lease Proceeds	\$ -
Total Estimated Revenues	\$4,416,500
Amount Transferred from Undesignated Funds	\$680,000
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	6,506,541
Total Revenues	\$11,603,041

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made for the Capital items/projects listed below, and that the Capital Budget for FY 2020 be adopted as presented on the agenda. (Lawrence & Gleeson)

Chair Tracy explained that this is the first year of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan that we spent several months working on. The lack of discussion on this is not a reflection of a lack of attention. This is something we have already been through.

Police	New Patrol and Changeover Equipment	\$45,000
	New Patrol and Changeover Equipment	\$50,000
	Special Enforcement Boat & Motor	\$5,000
	Replace Bullet-Proof Vests	\$10,000
Fire	No Appropriations for FY20	

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Rescue	Rescue Replacement – Rescue 5	\$250,000
	Office/Dormitory Improvements	\$35,000
Public Works	Truck Chassis Replacement, Plow & Wing	\$150,000
Solid Waste	Bulky Waste Containers	\$17,000
Comprehensive Town Improvements	Public Works Rear Parking Area Paving	\$40,000
	Concord Gully Brook Watershed Restoration	\$50,000
	Percy, Pownal, Pratt Road Reconstruction	\$75,000
	Culvert Replacement	\$55,000
	Greenspace Project	\$16,000
Municipal Facilities	Computer Upgrades-Town wide	\$28,300
	Furniture	\$15,000
	Voting Booths	\$15,250
	Digitization Files	\$10,000
	Exterior-Library Siding Work	\$10,000
	Revaluation Reserve Fund	\$5,000
Cable Television	Equipment and other improvements (channel 14)	\$4,000
	HD Equipment Replacement-LED Lighting	\$54,600
Boards and Committees	Florida Lake Bog Bridge Replacement	\$12,575
	Historical Society Parking Lots	\$15,000
	Total FY 2020 Capital Budget	\$967,725

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following amounts be appropriated from the Reserve Funds to provide for items approved as presented on the agenda.

Police Reserves	\$110,000
Fire Reserves	-
Rescue Reserves	\$285,000
Public Works Reserves	\$150,000

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Solid Waste Reserves	\$17,000
Public Infrastructure Reserves	\$236,000
General Administration Reserves	73,550
Building Reserves	\$10,000
Cable Television Reserves	\$58,600
Other Reserves	\$27,575
Total FY 2020 Capital Transfer from Reserves	\$967,725

(Lawrence & Reighley)

Chair Tracy explained to the public that the agenda is posted on the Town’s website under tonight’s meeting.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made for the items and projects listed below and that the Destination Freeport TIF budget for FY 2020 be adopted as presented below:

Sidewalk ramp detectable panel replacement (8)	\$6,000
ACAF Performing Arts Center	\$133,000
Freeport Economic Development Corporation	\$100,000
Total FY 2020 Destination Freeport TIF Budget	\$239,000

(Lawrence & Reighley)

Chair Tracy noted this reflects the standard FEDC allocation, our ongoing project of replacing ADA compliant sidewalk ramps and detectable panels. It also reflects the Council’s decision to fund a portion of a performing arts center downtown at the Congregational Church.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Chair Tracy congratulated the Council for making it through the budget process and thanked the Finance Director and the Town Manager for their assistance.

ITEM #106 -19

To consider action relative to awarding Freightliner and Western Star of Maine a contract for the purchase of a new plow truck chassis in the amount of \$74,655.

BE IT ORDERED: That Freightliner and Western Star of Maine be awarded the contract for the purchase of a new plow truck chassis in the amount of \$91,655 with a \$17,000 trade in value. With the trade in included the bid will be \$74,655.

Note: An appropriation for \$150,000 is included in the FY 2020 Capital Budget. There will be an overage of that will come from the Public Works Reserve. (Egan & Gleeson)

Public Works Director, Earl Gibson explained that there is an overage of \$1,690 but they do have a reserve. If the Council adopts this, he will be making a phone call in the parking lot to order the truck tonight.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

ITEM #107 -19 To consider action relative to awarding Viking Cives a contract for the purchase of a new plow truck equipment in the amount of \$77,035.

BE IT ORDERED: That Viking Cives be awarded the contract for the purchase of a new plow equipment in the amount of \$77,035.

Note: An appropriation for \$150,000 is included in the FY 2020 Capital Budget. There will be an overage of that will come from the Public Works Reserve. (Reighley & Horne)

There were no questions for Mr. Gibson.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

TABLED:

ITEM # 87-19 To consider action relative to amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Section 409, regarding overhead doors in the Commercial District I "C-I". PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Joseph explained that if anybody showed up to comment on the changes, the Council could open this but since it is continued, if for some reason one of the changes provoked a different opinion from someone who previously spoke, it would be good to let them get up and say their piece if they had something to say.

There was no one here for the public hearing.

BE IT ORDERED: That the proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, Section 409. Commercial District I "C-I" be approved. (Whitney & Reighley)

Mr. Joseph explained that this was sent back to the Planning Board after the Public Hearing where the Council discussed it. The recommendation from the Council was to change "visibly" to "unreasonably" and the Planning Board voted 6 to 0 with one abstention from a member that wasn't at the first meeting and didn't vote on the original proposal to approve the Council's recommended change. It was not controversial and did not raise any big issues at the Planning Board.

VOTE: (7 Ayes)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) Discussion RE: opportunity to participate in a municipal solar farm / agreement to purchase solar power

Councilor Egan noted that a presentation will be made in a few minutes but he explained that the Council has been talking about how the Town can engage and participate in some form of procuring its electricity through renewable generation. We have had a number of opportunities that we slowly looked at, including sharing our load with other Municipal and other governmental entities such as the Sewer District and the RSU to possibly find a group site to get a little more economy of scale. He is approaching his third year on the Council and we have been talking about this as long as he has been on the Council. He is excited to bring an opportunity to the Council this evening for additional consideration that there is a chance for the Town to join into a project that is already moving along. It is already sited and largely permitted and with financing just about nailed down. The arrangement is called a PPA or a third-party ownership model. The third-party arrangement is that for a government entity, which cannot take advantage of tax incentives that are still valid today in 2019 for an owner of a renewable generation asset. A municipality does not pay income taxes and therefore, does not have an opportunity to use federal tax benefits. One way for a municipality to participate in renewable generation is to have an investor own the asset. The investor does have an appetite for those tax benefits and will actually put cash equity into the project to actually get those tax benefits. The role of the Town would be to purchase the electricity that is generated from that asset at a set price for a period of time, generally at least six years, and it could very well be longer if those are the terms negotiated. It is a way for the Town to start paying some of its operating budget towards renewable generation instead of utility generated electricity. This would be 100% renewable and it is an opportunity for us to use our operating budget over the next six years to break down the cost of when we buy it back from the investor. The investor may have an incentive for us to be out sooner or later but we can negotiate those terms. The longer we stay in, the better the price is when we buy it. The reason why this is coming up so quickly is that in his day job, he works in this sector quite a bit and heard of this opportunity from a customer of his that there was a chance for a municipality to join in a project where another community had initially pledged but dropped out for reasons unrelated to Freeport. He wanted to bring the opportunity here because the project is ready to go and it is a way for us to get into a project that is probably more beneficial to the Town than it would be six months or twelve months from now. Another compelling reason is that the State of Maine is passing some legislation including a significant solar bill that just passed both houses of the Maine Legislature and will be signed by the Governor shortly. We are at the right time and have opportunities to get some further enhancements. It is absolutely the right thing to do to demonstrate to our residents in our community and those around us that as a Town, we are committed to environmental sustainability and a significant way to do that is that the Town itself is purchasing renewably generated electricity. There will be ways for us to stand on that success and do many other things as Maine's economy shifts away from fossil fuels. He mentioned that Nick Samson and Fortunat Mueller are here from ReVision Energy and do this routinely. They will explain some details about the opportunity. The Council will not make a decision tonight but he requested that the Council listen to their proposal and be prepared to maybe consider moving forward on something in the next meeting or two.

Nick Samson thanked Councilor Egan for the great introduction. It was pretty much perfect. He noted that they could get into more details of this specific power purchase agreement. He and a colleague started working with the Freeport Sewer District on a project back in 2018 to basically offset the majority of the District's annual electricity consumption with solar. They did not have a great site there since it was pretty wooded and they didn't want to clear much of it. Early this year they found a site for the Sewer District and the timing worked out very well. They were able to pair that site with a very interested

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investor/partner for towns and sewer districts. They finance power purchase agreements and pair mission driven capital with very low interest debt which allows them to offer the lowest PPA rates that they see in this region to municipalities and sewer districts. They are very motivated to finance projects in 2019. It is a great opportunity for the Sewer District and one thing that is nice about the site is that it has extra space for solar so they wanted to present this opportunity to the Town of Freeport to basically pair up with the Sewer District to offset the majority of the Town's electricity consumption as well. This project would be roughly 890 kilowatts as far as the system capacity goes but the design could change depending on what happens with refining past electrical usage for the Town and the District. They expect to offset 95% or more of each party's annual electrical consumption. The benefit of this site to the Town is that the Town can take advantage of economies of scale with the project. The Town can take advantage of economies of scale for the Town's load itself by offsetting the majority of it with one system and on top of that the Town can add in the additional 800,000 kilowatt hours of electricity consumption at the Freeport Sewer District to make the array that much larger so about three times the size of what it would be if the Town was just doing a project on its own.

They have proposed a power purchase agreement for this site for the Freeport Sewer District and would do the same for the Town of Freeport. Basically, there would be no upfront costs of roughly \$550,000 to the Town for this solar investment. The investor would finance it on behalf of the Town and the Town's responsibility would be to buy 100% of the solar generation from that investor over the lifetime of the power purchase agreement. A typical PPA term is 25 years with opportunities for some five-year extensions if the Town wanted to take it to that term but there is an opportunity for some early buy-outs. For this particular project they expect to offer a PPA price that is at least as competitive with what the Town is currently paying for electricity from the grid. When the solar policy goes through, they believe they will be offering a significant discount to the value of that solar electricity to the Town. The worst case scenario is the Town can lock in a long-term supply of clean electricity at stable, transparent pricing that is competitive with what the Town is paying for electricity from the grid and can choose to eventually acquire ownership of that system to see great savings start to kick in. The less conservative scenario if this solar policy goes through, the Town will see some immediate savings on its energy expenses. You can choose to stay in the power purchase agreement for the term or buy out early. As for timing, there are a couple of things going on; the project being completed in the last month of this year. A great niche for a Municipal Solar Project and it is pretty much ideal timing. There is currently a 30% federal tax credit that is available for solar projects through 2019 and that is used by the investor to recover their investment and they indirectly pass those savings onto the Town. That starts sunseting after this year. With the LD 1711 Bill that is coming down the pipeline, there is a nice benefit that would increase the solar offset rate for the Town of Freeport, basically the value of the solar to the Town. Under current language in the Bill, it would take effect in the first part of December of this year.

The Town has an opportunity to basically maximize the solar tax credit to minimize its PPA rate while jumping on the new solar policy as soon as it takes effect to maximize its offset rate and the savings opportunity to the Town for over the system's lifespan.

Councilor Egan asked him to advise where the site is located. Mr. Samson indicated it is in Fairfield and is under option to lease right now. The lease payment will be covered by the investor while the Town is in the power purchase agreement. If the Town chooses to acquire ownership of the system, it would be responsible for the lease payment which would very easily be covered by the energy savings.

Councilor Reighley asked about the life expectancy of a solar panel and Mr. Samson indicated that it was 40 years. It is robust equipment.

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Chair Tracy asked when the Governor signs the solar bill, when will ReVision Energy know about the price under the PPA. Mr. Samson advised that it would not have an impact on the PPA price but just the difference between the PPA price and the value of that solar electricity to the Town.

Fortunat Mueller, Co-founder of ReVision Energy explained that LD 1711, which just passed both houses today and is expected to be signed next week, creates a new net metering program for commercial institutional customers and changes the rate that you get for energy that you export to the grid so it makes the energy from the solar system more valuable. The Town would be buying the power from the system owner at the same PPA rate but it is now more valuable to you in terms of how it offsets on your existing bill. Because the system is remote, all of the electricity goes to the grid and the Town generates a credit which offsets the various Town bills. The other restriction listed in 1711 is the ability for one system to offset an unlimited number of meters. Under today's meter rule, a single system is limited to offsetting only nine meters. He does not know how many meters the Town has but that typically means that they cannot build one system to offset a whole town's load because historically it is a lot of small accounts. The limitation goes away under this new metering rule.

Councilor Egan mentioned that at the time the Town potentially buys the system back from the investor that the meter benefit would actually appear on our bill as the owner. Mr. Mueller advised that it would appear on the bill from the beginning as the owner. The account up in Fairfield belongs to the Town of Freeport. The investor makes a private sale in energy behind the meter and basically the Town net meters at that point. Councilor Egan noted that the Town would be enjoying those savings from the net meter export immediately and use the savings to pay the PPA. Mr. Mueller pointed out that Sara Gideon is a co-sponsor of that bill and if the Council sees her, it should thank her. The benefits are for any customer who takes service under a non-residential rate.

Councilor Reighley asked if the site is capable of handling any dramatic increase if the Town happens to increase power usage. Mr. Samson replied that in the future it might have some extra space if the Town bought the system and wanted to expand, the Town could expand the system if it had an additional load in the future. In the near term, it is basically constrained by an interconnection agreement they filed for this specific size. The site is about five acres for the footprint of the array.

Councilor Horne asked what would happen if the Town's usage drops and there are credits we don't need. Mr. Mueller advised that the Town could carry extra credits forward up to a year but after that, the Town would give up those credits.

Chair Tracy asked if the Sewer District is the only other proposed owner or are there other owners part of the mix. Mr. Mueller advised that it would be just the Town and the Sewer District. She asked if the Sewer District decides to exercise the early option to buy but the Town of Freeport does not, does that decision have to happen in parallel or are we different entities and we can make our own decision.

Mr. Samson advised that since there would be one system owned by one investor with one meter, they can't separate them. That decision would have to be made in parallel. He feels it would make sense to chat with the Sewer District about the goals for the project.

Councilor Lawrence mentioned that if the Town buys it, what is the maintenance involved. Mr. Mueller explained that solar is really low maintenance. There are no moving parts and not much to break. Systems of this scale do have some preventative annual maintenance to do. In the first six years, the third-party investor is responsible for the maintenance and they typically hire ReVision Energy's Service Department. After year six, the Town can continue to hire them or choose to hire someone else to do the service. It is generally one or two annual visits.

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The investor owns the recs unless the Town chooses to buy them back which is their standard. Mr. Mueller indicated that recs in Maine are awfully cheap and not worth much. Mr. Samson explained that with this investor the first buy-out opportunity would be in year eight and then there would be opportunities in 11, 16, 21 and 26 which is the end of the term.

Councilor Reighley asked what the timeframe is for the Council looking to make a commitment. Mr. Samson advised that they are looking for a commitment by mid-July as the goal but there is a little bit of flexibility with that if needed. Councilor Reighley asked if a public hearing is required so the Council can have input. Chair Tracy advised that the Council should probably get some public comment but she is not sure it is required. The Council does not need authorization per say. Councilor Egan pointed out that the Council has been talking about moving our July 2 meeting to July 9 and our second meeting in July would be held on July 16. If we did have to have some conversation and opportunity for some public input on a decision, which is not procurement, but a decision to engage in a contract for a different kind of electricity generation, we will have two meetings which will meet this timeframe.

Mr. Mueller noted that they do not want to rush the process, it is important that the Council has all its questions answered. They started a conversation with the Town of Freeport about a third-party arrangement back in 2012 so hopefully this is a refresh.

Chair Tracy asked what is the commitment under the contract to get the project up and running in this unicorn period. If we are rushing to get an indication to ReVision that we do or do not want to participate and say that the decision is that we do want to participate, is there a commitment as part of the agreement that ReVision will have the project up and running by a date. Mr. Mueller explained that the entity is at risk if they miss the construction deadline for the tax investor, not the Town. They will get it built. That is what they do.

Chair Tracy asked for their opinion if we were to participate in this project with respect to the need or ability to host another solar array on say the Public Works Building. Would we have enough load to support that or is it an either/or? Mr. Mueller advised that the Town would not have load left to offset Public Works. Public Works has the benefit that it is visible in Freeport and we may think of another way to make the solar system visible to residents. They could talk about doing a small system here or at the Public Works Building. Economics is the driver.

Councilor Egan mentioned that the Public Works Building is also the location of the RSU bus barn and those buses consume a fair amount of electricity in the winter for block heaters. There is the potential that school buses evolve to electric school buses and that would be an ideal location for a charging station and have the array right up there on the roof providing that power. Councilor Egan feels that the decision to locate in a joint venture with the Sewer District remote from town precludes us from doing a smaller system on the roof of Public Works where we can have a lot more visibility and a lot more discussion with residents about why solar energy generation is a good thing.

Chair Tracy asked if there is a copy of the proposal. Mr. Samson indicated that they will provide it as quickly as possible.

Chair Tracy polled the Board on interest for further exploration. There were 7 in favor but they wanted to see the proposal.

Chair Tracy feels that the Council is interested but wants to understand the agreement better. She wants to see the proposal and wants to see the recs buy-back option. Mr. Joseph feels the Council needs to have a

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conversation with the Sewer District and is confident the Council can digest the proposal once it sees it and if there is going to be any coordination between the two groups.

Councilor Horne asked if the proposal has a price tag of the array in year eight. Mr. Mueller indicated that the buy-out cannot be fixed in a municipality or else the project is disqualified for a tax credit. They can jointly agree on how that buy-out is calculated. It has to be a fair market value buy-out in order to protect the investor's tax credit.

Chair Tracy asked if Mr. Mueller could provide some explanation as to how Bill 1711 affects this project. Mr. Mueller advised that they could model it with 1711 with the caveat that there is rule making to do around 1711. There is a tiny bit of uncertainty. The bill was drafted without leaving a lot of work for the PUC to do. They will articulate it in their model. It has passed.

Mr. Samson advised that the buy-out with this investor, the two early buy-outs are Year 8 and Year 11 or a little higher. They always fall because the way that they are financing this debt which is from USDA, there is always a little bit of penalty to prepay that off early in Year 8 and Year 11 so you will see a more significant drop in the estimated buy-out amount by Year 16. It still might perfectly meet the Town's and Sewer District's goal to buy out in Year 8 but he wanted to address that so there will be no surprises when they provide the proposal. They chatted quite a bit about the buy-out. Chair Tracy pointed out that the Council would want to know who the investor is and any information they have on the investor. Mr. Samson agreed and explained that they can also share other projects they have done with them last year. Chair Tracy asked if he could disclose if the investor is a Maine company. Mr. Mueller noted it includes Maine actors but not a Maine LLC.

Chair Tracy thanked Mr. Samson and Mr. Mueller.

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- 2) Discussion RE: potential Council request for Planning Board to study adding a definition and allowed districts for the use "Community Solar Farm"

Councilor Egan explained at the last meeting he highlighted that community solar farms in Freeport are not mentioned in our Land Use Ordinance. Permitted uses are silent on that particular use. Mr. Joseph articulated how we might go about introducing language to get into the Land Use Ordinance. Tonight, he wants to expedite the process and just get a sense from the Council, essentially a vote, that we go ahead and direct the Planning Board to investigate the language in the proper zones where community solar farms might be listed as a permitted use where it is appropriate so opportunities for private landowners in the community of which there is at least one coming forward that is blocked because there is no permitted use for it, would be able to move forward with a community solar farm. The shortest way for the Planning Board to get going is for the Council to direct it and that is the reason he wanted it on the agenda.

Chair Tracy noted the indication the Council would be giving is whether it supports directing this question to the Planning Board. She took a straw poll and the **VOTE** was (7 Ayes). She noted that the Council should expedite it but noted that we have an Acting Town Planner right now and we have a lot going on so that needs to be taken into account.

- 3) Discussion RE: location of silver bullets

Chair Tracy explained that since February the Council has been entertaining discussions about our Town's Recycling Program and two meetings ago the Council voted to remove the silver bullets for a variety of reasons, some were economic, some were environmental and some didn't vote to do that. The

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Council then reconsidered the decision at the last meeting and the Council reversed course a bit and voted to keep two of the silver bullets in town for the next year and to remove two silver bullets in conjunction with an educational campaign to reduce contamination of the silver bullets that remained and also an educational campaign about directing recycling to the Transfer Station where recycling is monitored and compacted so that when it is brought to Ecomaine, it is done in the most efficient manner. In a year's time, at least, this Council's intent is to remove the last two remaining silver bullets and recycle at the Transfer Station. Obviously, there may be more options at the time of which we consider that. We have been requested this evening to look at curbside recycling and certainly other options are not off the table. Tonight, we need to decide which two silver bullets we are going to retain and which ones we will remove. We currently have a silver bullet at Hunter Road which is near the Public Works facility. We have one on West Street which is by the Public Safety facility. We have one in South Freeport near the South Freeport Store and we have one out on RT. 125 by Doherty's North Freeport Store.

We have a memo from our Town Engineer, Adam Bliss dated today that recaptured some of the data we already had on the various location in terms of contamination. We also have in the memo recommendations from the Sustainability Committee on proposed locations for the two remaining silver bullets which include the Library, Train Station, Tour Bus parking at the Public Safety lot and Freeport Community Services. There is a pro and con list associated with that. Since none of these are current locations, they would require a capital investment to install a concrete pad and fence for screening. The Town Engineer estimates it would be \$4,000-\$5,000 per location. She noted that one of the reasons we did this was economic and our net savings from removing the two is approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 so this would further offset that savings for purposes of retaining those silver bullets for a year. At the last meeting Chair Tracy indicated that personally, as one Councilor, she is not in favor of choosing a silver bullet location that either does, or appears to favor, one neighborhood over another. She would be in favor of centrally located silver bullets in locations that are fairly neutral with respect to neighborhoods and are positioned to access parts of town within the confines of being centrally located. Those were her immediate preferences. She opened it up for discussion.

Councilor Gleeson thinks that the one at West Street is a known location and it could be left as is but he didn't know if that was an option. He feels with the optics, it would be less abused. He does not like the train station option and could be abused. FCS is also quiet at night and someone could put anything they want in there. The Library could have the same issue but he likes that it is on the other side of town. People coming from RT. 125 wouldn't have to go through town. His preference would be the Library and the existing pad at West Street.

Councilor Horne likes the idea of having the silver bullets at either end of the town. He asked if we have to have concrete. Mr. Joseph explained that the tar would be damaged and repaving would be in the same cost range. He looked at steel plates but they are all in the \$3,000-\$4,000 price range. Mr. Joseph noted that Mr. Bliss is sick this evening. He received communication from Library staff that they are concerned about Library use and specifically for taking up two of their spots. They do have capacity events and there is not easily accessible overflow parking there. They also have concerns with traffic, the same as with the Public Safety Building where the public is coming and going. Any of those sites will have that problem.

Councilor Reighley suggested using cameras because it is an inexpensive way to capture information of people who are coming and dumping their "recyclables" which are not really recyclables. He asked if we have any fines for people who are putting contaminated material into the recyclable containers. Mr. Joseph advised that we do not have fines but someone could be cited for dumping if they leave a bag outside of the gate of the Transfer Station or next to the silver bullet. It is considered dumping. It would involve a police investigation effectively. You would have to prove that it was a criminal act. We are not set up to run 30 or 50 small scale investigations. He would reserve that for a major criminal violation.

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Councilor Lawrence noted he is thinking Hunter Road and Public Safety because one is on one side of the highway and one is on the other side. Mr. Joseph added that Public Safety has a low rate of out of town users but in-town users are perfectly comfortable throwing their household garbage there. There are not a lot of people from outside of Freeport willing to drive by the Police Station and do that. Hunter Road and Doherty's have had high out-of-town users on the day Suzanne did a survey.

Councilor Reighley advised that he would support Councilor Lawrence's position on Hunter Road and West Street but would look at a way we could have a low cost monitoring camera and signage indicating and creating a fine structure so that people become aware that if they are putting contaminated goods in the silver bullet, they have the potential of being fined a significant amount. Mr. Joseph mentioned that the Sustainability Committee did come in and discussed their proposals. They have sign designs ready for Public Works to take over and print as long as we can do it in this year's budget. They jumped on this after the last meeting and have a comprehensive 4 of 5 items they came in and talked about today. He feels it will address a lot of Councilor Reighley's concerns about monitoring.

Councilor Horne agreed with Councilor Reighley about the fine even though from an enforcement point of view but it may be not a road that officers are going to necessarily go down. He thinks the threat of a fine sharpens people's behavior. He does not like the idea of spending \$5,000 on a new pad so he would go with existing pads. He doesn't want to favor South Freeport Village necessarily but it is unfortunate because it is the least contaminated. It also happens to be the one he uses so he hesitates to bring it up. He is fine with Hunter Road and Public Safety.

Councilor Egan noted he supports Councilor Reighley and Councilor Lawrence on Hunter Road and Public Safety with signage of a fee and if we can come up with a very low-cost motion-activated camera with at least the appearance of security.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To take away two silver bullets, one at South Freeport Village Store and one at Doherty's Market. (Lawrence & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

Chair Tracy mentioned signage and asked Mr. Joseph what kind are they. Mr. Joseph explained that they will be ground mounted and showed the Council what they will look like. Directions like "don't bag your recyclables and throw them in" and things like that. Staff will start communicating which ones are going away. Signs should be put where the bullets are going away. Mr. Joseph mentioned that it was counted on as August 1 and that is what some of the numbers he and Jess came up with were reduced by one month. Chair Tracy mentioned that staff will work on those signs and at some point, there needs to be signs about the importance of recycling at the Transfer Station and at the silver bullets and that they are slated to be removed next year. Mr. Joseph mentioned he would consult with Council Leadership. He pulled up the sign and noted that it is strictly educational.

For a fine structure, Councilor Reighley suggested that the Council look at the fine structure created for the Noise Ordinance starting at \$500 and working up to \$2,500 for a third violation. Mr. Joseph explained that it would have to be an ordinance amendment. Chair Tracy noted that this is something that will have to be taken up at Ordinance.

Chair Tracy pointed out that the last item is not an item on the agenda but as Chair she will take the Chair's prerogative to add what she thinks is an important issue which is a discussion regarding the inflow of immigrants in Portland and obviously it has created some additional action on behalf of the city

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to house those people temporarily. She understands there are approximately 200 people that are being temporarily housed at the Expo and fed and clothed. There have been some informal regional discussions with what surrounding communities are going to do with respect to this issue. She thought it was important to start the discussion on our end on what the Council may want to entertain or a process that the Council may want to entertain to address this issue, if at all.

The Town Manager has reached out to the City of Portland to ask what the needs are, particularly in terms of in-kind needs, in-kind services and also what the financial needs are. We have not received any word back from the City of Portland on those requests so it is an on-going and outstanding item. There have been newspaper reports that other towns are considering certain financial contributions. She is not clear what the City of South Portland is doing. In other Councils, there is the expectation that they will take this up but there has not been any action that we know of at this point.

We do have private citizens in our Town who are discussing what they can do and we have put on the Town's website what citizens can do which includes volunteering and making financial contributions so we have a link on our home page to direct people. We have Johanna Hanselman who can answer questions if people have more questions than the website answers.

We have also investigated how FCS has been involved in this effort. We are aware that they donated some clothing to the immigrants and also plastic tubs to organize donations. FCS will meet that need with some excess supplies that it has. To date that is the discussion that we believe has occurred at FCS.

She asked if the Council is interested in having a workshop to further explore what kind of assistance Freeport can provide within its own means. That may be financial or in-kind or we have done some initial investigation that there are some monies that have not been spent under the current budget and we could decide to hold that over past the end of this fiscal year if we do decide to use that, it is available to us. It would take an action by the Council to hold it over and it would take another Council action to spend it in this way. Our next meeting is in July so we would have to decide tonight to hold the money over. She opened the discussion up. She is aware that we have significant needs at home. Obviously, any resources we send to Portland are less resources we have for our own domestic population. This is obviously a significant issue that some have characterized as a humanitarian crisis.

Councilor Reighley recalled that in 1957 his family took in two Hungarian families and this is a long-standing commitment and involvement in refugees but it still fits the bill. Today there are many agencies that do the same type of work and money is the most significant contribution that can be given. There are other options like St. Elizabeth's Pantry in Portland and Portland is a great place for people to come in and obtain clothing, food and items not supplied by other areas. That operation has been on-going for 6-7 years and is just one of many examples in the Greater Portland area. If we are looking for the financial side, we approved money for our illuminated sign that could easily be transitioned into refugee money. We have approved islands on Route One and this is a better use of the money going to benefit people in resettlement. He strongly supports whatever way we will go.

Councilor Egan advised that he is strongly in favor of making a financial contribution but does not know where the Council will pull it from. He suspects the Council could rely on Jessica and Peter to give an indication. \$100 per refugee is not going to really change any person's life but that would be \$26,200 for the asylum seekers. Another possible math is \$2 or \$3 per resident of Freeport which would mean \$25,000. He doesn't feel it is an excessive amount but is an amount our community could say "this is what we are able to swing right now". We can continue to rely on our residents to enhance and match that. Having just passed a \$11M budget, in this kind of situation, he feels the Council can find \$25,000.

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Councilor Horne asked if we know what the State is doing, if anything. Chair Tracy mentioned that the Governor met with the City of Portland and gave an initial indication that the State would help but there have not been any concrete details on what the State will do to date. Councilor Horne asked what is the amount we have in undesignated funds. Mr. Joseph did not know what the fund balance carry over is. He is aware that there are unspent accounts. Councilor Horne mentioned that he wants to open it up to the community so that it is transparent and that it is a gesture from the community, not just the Council. He would be listening to residents on the final word.

Councilor Gleeson agrees that the Council should get the public involved. This is taxpayer money but he agrees with Councilor Reighley but we have a lot of nice projects that we have voted for like the islands and the sign out front. If that is something we decide to do, we need to see the result of giving taxpayer money as a gesture and while it sounds harsh, the amount of time we spent in agonizing time on this budget, and he worries about the precedent. He gets that it is a humanitarian crisis and he is not cold. He is someone who likes to spend money on community projects but he worries about what happens with the next 500 immigrants and they say you gave \$20,000 last time, can you now give \$50,000. He is aware that a precedent does not bind future Councils but he has to say that there is a dangerous precedent here. Councilor Reighley mentioned that there are numerous organizations out there and we could, in a very public way, encourage a Go Fund Me page. When we have elderly people in our town having a tough time, when the RSU budget increases and everything else, he feels we should be careful about quickly unloading money that we have "laying around" when it could be spent with someone having a tough time paying their oil bill. He is not opposed to a public hearing but cautions we should be careful.

Chair Tracy agrees that this should be a public process and we should tee it up for a public discussion at our next meeting. In the meantime, we should get a better handle on what the State's position is going to be. We really focus hard on trying to get an indication from the City of Portland as to whether there are in-kind donations used to assist the city that we can donate without a financial hit. That might mitigate some of the financial impact. She feels we can provide assistance in a variety of ways. She noted we will do some more work but will start the process and people will know that we will be discussing this. We need to provide some visibility on what we are considering so we should put together a rough proposal that people can react to. While we don't have to, we could just have a discussion and make a decision at our next meeting. Her preference would be to ask staff to come up and find certain moneys and potentially put some items on the chopping block so to speak on unspent funds and in-kind services.

Councilor Egan asked if we were to challenge our community to a fundraising goal and then we seed the fundraising goal with some determined amount of money that comes from the Town itself, but that is not the important part. The more important and more visible and more transparent is that the community is coming together, led by the Town but we get our community partners involved to help us bring attention to it because the 16 people watching our meeting on television are not going to necessarily drive the fundraising goals. We need some publicity and some media attention on the fact that as a community, we are coming together.

Chair Tracy noted it will take some time to find housing for 260 people so while here is some urgency right now to at least start talking about the issue, she thinks the financial need will be ongoing and may become more acute as we move into the phase that is less of a crisis and more of an ongoing thing where people start to transition out of being so worried about it. She feels it is a good idea and it will take a little bit of time. She proposed that the Council decide on its approach at the next meeting and implement whatever we are going to do with the goal of providing some assistance within a few weeks.

Councilor Lawrence asked how we ended up with 260 people. Chair Tracy advised that there are theories about that but it is not clear but the reality is that they are here.

COUNCIL MEETING #16-19
JUNE 18, 2019

Councilor Horne likes Councilor Egan's idea that we play a material role but also an organizing role for the community. He also likes the in-kind support as well. Councilor Reighley recalled Mr. Joseph noted that he is hearing the majority of the Council that there is appetite for staff to focus on Councilor Egan's proposal about putting together a fundraising drive with some appropriate amount or not of seed money to be determined by the Council in the future. That could be the proposal put out to the public and hopefully we can get some publicity and get some attention to the next Council meeting to discuss it. He will proceed on what he is hearing. Chair Tracy agreed there is support for the structure but the question is what is the recommendation in terms of the seed money. She is not opposed to allocating some unused funds in random locations.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To postpone the July 2 Council meeting to July 9.
(Reighley & Gleeson) **VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

NOTE: Councilor Lawrence will not be present on the 9th.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 9:14 p.m. (Reighley & Gleeson)
VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary