

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #14-21
HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY
TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021
6:30 PM

<u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u>	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Edward Bradley, 242 Flying Point Road	x (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)		
Jake Daniele, 264 Pownal Road	x		
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road (Chair)	x		
Henry Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road	x		
Daniel Piltch, 25 Quarry Lane	x		
Douglas Reighley, 2 Harbor Ridge Road	x		
Tawni Whitney, 56 Baldwin Road (Vice Chair)	x		

Using the Zoom platform Chair Egan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He took attendance and noted that all Councilors except Councilor Bradley are here as well as the Town Manager. He noted that this is the second to last time on the zoom platform. He thanked the public for participating this evening and explained how members of the public would be able to participate at various times during the meeting.

NOTE: Councilor Bradley arrived at 6:35 p.m.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

Viewing Vice Chair Whitney's flag, everyone recited the Pledge.

Chair Egan advised that the Council has two public hearings this evening and finally the unveiling of the results from our engagements with Principle Group and our Revisioning process that is the highlight of tonight's agenda in terms of the most time we are trying to dedicate so we will move right through the rest of the agenda so that we can have ample time to both take public comment, have a discussion on our budget and have a lengthy discussion with the Principle Group after their presentation.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #13-21 held on May 18, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the 30-page minutes of Meeting #13-21 held on May 18, 2021 and to accept the minutes as written. (Reighley & Piltch) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Egan announced:

- **RSU5 Budget Validation Election will take place on June 8, 2021.** The polls will be open on Tuesday, June 8, from 7 am to 8 pm at the Freeport High School Gymnasium.

Absentee ballots are available at the Clerk's Office. For more information or to request an absentee ballot, you can call the Clerk at 865-4743 x122 or x123.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21
JUNE 1, 2021

- **Spring Cleanup week starts Monday, June 7th with a new schedule as follows:**

Monday June 7th, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Tuesday June 8th, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Wed. June 9th, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
Thurs., June 10th, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm

Residents may bring one pick-up truck size load of waste to the Recycling Center for free (conditions apply - *please refer to your flyer for a list of accepted materials, materials which cannot be accepted and those which can be accepted for a fee*).

Residents must bring their completed coupon included in the flyer that was mailed to all residents earlier this month and must have a 2021 facility sticker (\$6).

- Mark your calendar for signing up for the Freeport Community Library Summer Reading and Math Program beginning June 7. Details will be available soon at: www.freeportlibrary.com. Or call 865-3307 for more information.
- Councilor Bradley reported that he heard back from Harold Arndt's attorney and they are proposing meetings with Earl Gibson and the Town Manager on the 6th, 7th or 10th to go over the clean-up. Chair Egan noted it is great to hear of progress in cleaning up the Island Rover site.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Chair Egan advised that he received a request and some back-up information from a relative of Ron Cummings, Sr. who was responsible approximately 45-50 years ago with the creation of Florida Lake as a destination spot in Freeport. Chair Egan lives close and is a frequent user of Florida Lake today mostly for birdwatching and dog walking and there is a long history there of installations at Florida Lake. Linda Foster has sent him some information and he plans to work with the Freeport Historical Society to get some kind of a plaque or sign installed out at front of the Florida Lake Trails to commemorate that history. It is such a striking difference between what it is today which is essentially a bird sanctuary and what it was 50 years ago in terms of a summer vacation destination with all kinds of events and activities there. We have a great group in our community in the Historical Society that keeps track of these things so we don't lose sight of our history and he thinks it would make an excellent idea to put some kind of visual form at the front entrance to Florida Lake. He plans to take that up with Jim Cram at the Historical Society.

Councilor Reighley advised that the Complete Streets Committee met today and they are excited about the Freeport Vision and excited to work on the components that are there. They have also had a chance to talk about many of the projects in town. One of the biggest things though is that the Complete Streets Committee will no longer meet on the first Tuesday of the month. One of the things they are looking at is simple tasks like we don't have a taxi in Freeport anymore so they are requesting the removal of the taxi stand and adding parking spaces in front of Sherman's Book Store so a parklet may be installed in an area of that section of Main Street. There is the constant talk about the beautification of the town and Complete Streets has an impact on that and the suggestion that we could tie it in to our Sisters City Program so that they could celebrate with the Sister City of Arkhangelsk in the north of Russia.

Councilor Reighley had a wonderful telephone conversation with Daniel Walker who is an attorney and served on a committee that was involved with the regulation of airboat noise and he was saying that House Bill 114 will be coming into play but not necessarily for this summer, so he is making a suggestion to us that we restrict boat launches of any vessel to not be launched before 7 a.m. in the morning. That

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

would help with the reduction of airboat noise going up and down our shoreline at 5, 5:30 or 6 a.m. He may be present and commenting in the Public Comment Period along with others.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that she attended the Age Friendly Freeport and Pownal meeting and they were excited to learn that Bartol Library is setting an example and bringing their bathrooms up to ADA compliance. There will be a new television series on our local Cable channel. It is called Knowledge Age and it will be a program that airs conversations with professionals, authors and speakers and they will have 4 to 5 new videos each month. They will air on Sundays at 7:30 p.m., Mondays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Councilor Daniele wanted to follow Councilor Reighley and say something about the Complete Streets meeting. The final Bridge Steering Committee will meet on June 8th and the MDOT is planning on doing a town-wide meeting at the end of June or beginning of July for a little more public comment. He is looking forward to that. He also gave a shout out to the Sustainability Committee who did a really nice seminar on composting a week ago. He thanked them for that.

Chair Egan noted that lots of good things going on with all of our volunteer groups across the community.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph mentioned that there are 46 audience members this evening which is fantastic. He is happy to report that as of almost two weeks ago now, due to change in our State-wide regulations, the Town has adjusted appropriately based on the changes the Governor has put into place, removing a lot of the assembly restrictions, capacity restrictions and mask restrictions that were mandated for indoor places. We are asking politely if individuals have not been fully vaccinated for COVID that they continue to wear masks but we are leaving it to personal responsibility for people to do the right thing. Town employees are not checking vaccine cards at the door so they respectfully request that people comply with that if they are in a Town facility.

Mr. Joseph is happy to report that due to a lot of those changes he just mentioned and also due to demand, the Freeport Community Library is moving back to four days in-person and one day curbside. We still have some people not comfortable going inside yet and want to continue to use curbside and the curbside day will continue to be on Fridays. Monday through Thursday starting next week will be fully open days at the Library. He gave the Library applause for adjusting to the demand for what people are looking for at any given time and adjusting our schedule to meet that. They are considering continuing curbside for a little while at least until that demand goes away and then doing curbside upon request after that point in time. The Staff does not have a plan on when that change will take place. It is a little bit of a return to normal but they are still encouraging people who are vulnerable or not vaccinated to take the appropriate precautions per the CDC guidance.

A couple of Councilors mentioned the Bridge Project and the Complete Streets Committee. Mr. Joseph advised that they did have a conference today with not a lot of report. It will all be coming out in the next few weeks of the committees. They had Active Living, Complete Streets, himself and our State Representative, Melanie Sachs who set the meeting up. He thanked her for doing that as well as the Bike/Pedestrian Facilitator at the State. There have been concerns specifically about where the multi-use path connections will be made. He feels they ironed out a lot of the issues that will be presented in the final draft plan as it comes out next week. They talked about the future connection by the Irving Station at Exit 22 and how it would be made when Mallett Drive is redone and whatever the Town is going to be proposing to do on Mallett Drive for bike/pedestrian facilities and how that is going to be interacting. The

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

Bike/Pedestrian Facilitator for the entire State will be doing a site walk with some of our committee members and hopefully our Town Engineer and other Staff this Thursday to look at how that would factor into PACTS funding and State funding programs. There was a lot of progress made this morning so he thanked everyone who was at that meeting.

Mr. Joseph wanted to report on Memorial Day where there have been a lot of questions and controversy about Memorial Day flags and specifically for those who know and have been around for a number of years, there is a series of flags typically placed at the intersection of Main and West Streets. You may have noticed that yesterday there were no flags on flag poles and people called and asked if that was a mistake or something was wrong. He explained that each individual flag pole represents a family member that has been requested by the community to have a flag displayed for a deceased military service member. Each one of those flag poles flies an individual flag that is donated by family members. Some of those flags are ceremonial flags and a lot of them are antique. We have World War II and newer flags. In some cases these are memorial flags. We are talking about casket flags from the person's funeral or the flag handed to the family when they have a full military burial. A lot of these have been donated by families to be flown specifically on Memorial Day for their family member. Coupled by the fact that some of these are antique flags in the possession of the Police Department. It is not a mistake when they don't go up in the rainy weather. They are very special items to the people that donated them and out of respect they are not flown in inclement weather. The Police Department regularly monitors the weather throughout Memorial Day and not just yesterday but on any day and if there is a situation where rain is coming, those flags are usually pulled down and stored indoors so they don't get wet or damaged. Yesterday they watched the weather all day and there was a two-hour drizzle so it wasn't appropriate to put the flags up at any point in time. Yes, it was intentional for those who were concerned and there was absolutely a good reason for it. It was done out of respect for those flags.

Mr. Joseph advised that we have had good negotiations with the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA) for the 55 Main Street Library space. We have a draft set of terms and as recently as this afternoon, we continued to edit them. He sent them out to the Council so Councilors have a copy of what that is. We don't have a draft lease but he will be working with our Attorney starting tomorrow to finalize what a draft lease between the two parties would look like. Mr. Joseph spoke to Chair Egan and Vice Chair Whitney about this and there is a bit of urgency there from the group. They originally wanted to open for retail sales July 1. Obviously, our next meeting is not until June 15th and they have to hire staff which is understandable and get them on board and get their merchandise in by whenever they open for retail. If we push that out two weeks or longer, that could push their potential start date out two weeks. With the intention of having them open by hopefully July 1, they requested if we would consider moving forward sooner.

Chair Egan noted that one of the baseline elements here is that we empower the Manager to execute documents and contracts all the time generally with guidance from the Council if it is a substantive issue. We have been working to get a tenant into the Bartol Library for quite sometime and the agreement that is in front of us which Councilors have a summary of is a solid agreement that gets a lease paying tenant into that building nearly immediately after execution and is excited to have some occupancy in there. To try to respect the late hour here which we are finally making a decision to go forward on something, we have not necessarily been the most efficient decision makers. He would like to get a concurrence that we can go ahead and empower Mr. Joseph to make those final negotiations on that lease using the terms in the document that has been shared with Councilors so we can get that done prior to our next meeting on June 15th. He explained that the Council does not have an action item for a vote. We are just empowering the Manager to go ahead and do that but he wanted to make sure everybody was okay with the process so Mr. Joseph could get to it and carry out his duties as Manager. Mr. Joseph noted he would want to have the Council Chair and Vice Chair see whatever the final version is and he is fine with forwarding the

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

lease out to the Council understanding that we can't make a Council decision on that before it is done but sharing that document before it is signed, if anybody has any concerns they can speak directly to Chair Egan.

Councilor Bradley advised that he does not have the document. Mr. Joseph advised that it went out an hour ago and he offered to put it up on a screen for him but Chair Egan preferred that he not do that since the Council has so much to get to. He noted that it is available in Councilor Bradley's e-mail and the Council is not signing anything this evening. He is just looking to get concurrence to move forward.

Councilor Lawrence asked if this was something the Council did last time? Chair Egan advised that pretty much we did but we didn't have any terms in front of us of what the actual agreement was going to be ironed out on. He just wants to be sure everybody is comfortable with that.

Councilor Reighley added that he is very comfortable with this and recommends going forward with it. Mr. Joseph advised Councilor Bradley that provisions for receiving financial statements in Year One and Year Two will be included in the lease. Councilor Bradley asked what the lease term is? Mr. Joseph advised that it works out to about \$4,500 a month. It will be a 6-month term. There is an opt out clause if they don't make 70% of their forecasted net income on the property. Otherwise, they are staying in the property for 18 months and as a result of that we will get their financials in six months and then 18 months at the end so we will see the performance of the space and what their costs are and there may be interest for them to stay later but we agreed to negotiate in 16 months for an 18-month negotiation and they compete with whatever the market is at that time. The Town does not have an opt out.

Councilor Bradley asked what Mr. Joseph is doing to verify the financials that they will be giving Mr. Joseph and how does he know it isn't real? Mr. Joseph advised that he will talk with our Attorney about what exactly we need to see. He will ask for either their accountant's statement or certified financials from their auditor or whatever they have. Councilor Bradley noted he is for this and will not hold this up but suggested that they must have done a proforma on this building that they are relying on and we ought to see that. Mr. Joseph agreed as did Chair Egan. He doesn't think it should be any trouble for us to get an endorsed copy of their financial information from their accounting firm. Councilors were all right with going ahead with the terms and letting the Manager finalize that negotiation and he and Vice Chair Whitney will see the final lease before it is signed without holding it up for two weeks and having another week after that to have it executed. Mr. Joseph added that the intent is to sign the lease before the Council would have a chance to vote on it at the next meeting. If anyone has a concern, Mr. Joseph requested that they voice it to him directly and not talk among themselves about it because that would be an inappropriate meeting. There is nothing wrong with contacting him directly.

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

Chair Egan explained that this is a chance for the Public to participate in our public meeting this evening on zoom on items not on our agenda. Councilor Bradley requested that speakers provide their last names.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the Public Hearing. (Piltch & Whitney) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Joyce Veilleux, as a Veteran, thanked the Town for the care they gave the flags on Memorial Day. As a resident, she asked if anyone has considered talking with the BREEZ about adding a stop at the new 144 apartment complex going in on the other side of Desert Road and working with the contractors so they can actually make the bus stop and maybe even make it covered and nice for people in our Maine winters? This would be the time to do that instead of waiting until the place is full.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21
JUNE 1, 2021

Chair Egan feels this is a good idea. He mentioned having good communications with the developer of that project and will bring it up. We are now a fully vested member of Portland Metro so we have a little bit of weight to throw around to get discussions about the BREEZ service. Mr. Joseph noted that Metro will talk with them once they have people signed up to see what the demand would be before they add a stop. It is a good point to identify where a stop should be. They have already talked with L.L Bean about swinging over if needed to the Order Fulfillment Center. He will make sure they are in touch.

Daniel Walker advised that he lives on 37 Hidden Oaks Drive in Freeport. He participated in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Rule-making Committee on behalf of Freeport and is continuing to work with some personal property owners in Freeport around this airboat issue. The idea is that they are pursuing various ideas about what they can do to give coastal property owners some relief and to work together with folks. The bill is getting its first reading tomorrow and will create a Study Group over the summer. There will be no decibel limits for the summer for the airboats. They are looking at pursuing some Municipal options. They have talked with various Councilors to come up with ideas about what could work. One of the things raised earlier is around the various launches and whether or not they could limit the time of day of the use of those launches for the airboats. They also talked with one of the Councilors about the potential option around raising a fund to help with technical modifications on these airboats. They want to work together and be collaborative. They want the Council to be prepared about a potential Ordinance proposal that could come from them. They are looking at everything. There are also going to be changes in legislation around allowing municipalities to regulate decibels where as before you couldn't. The idea now is that there will be a shoreline reading and now the noise will be measured on the shore and it could potentially bring it into the Town's jurisdiction. There are a lot of things to continue to think about.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To close the Public Comment Period. (Reighley & Whitney) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

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

ITEM # 97-21 To consider action relative to adopting the June 1, 2021 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the June 1, 2021 Consent Agenda be adopted. (Egan & Reighley)

Chair Egan reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public. He pointed out the continuing of effort from Ken Toner by his spouse to provide some improvements at the Hedgehog Mountain Trail System including a bench and a better sign which were things identified by Mr. Toner. Mr. Joseph pointed out that when Ken Toner found out he was not going to be with us much longer, one of the first things he wanted to talk about over and over with Mr. Joseph was making improvements to Hedgehog Mountain. He was determined to get that done and Mr. Joseph is thrilled that this is coming through with donations as a result of that. He thanked Ken and Muriel and for his memory we can put it in. Mr. Toner was Mr. Joseph's neighbor for a short period of time.

Councilor Reighley pointed out that Mr. Toner was a great man and served the Town in many ways over the years. It will be a fitting tribute to have his desires finalized.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21
JUNE 1, 2021

ITEM # 98-21 To consider action relative to discussing proposed amendments to Ordinance Chapter 2, Administrative Code, adding section 618 'Police Advisory Committee'. PUBLIC HEARING

MOVED AND SECONDED: To open the public hearing (Piltch & Reighley)

Before taking public comment on this Chair Egan put a little bit of context on this. In addition to the actual forming of the committee, one of the reasons why we have to take the action as outlined here is because our Charter requires that any permanent committees of the Council have to go through this process and that is what we are doing this evening to create this committee in amending Chapter 2 of our Code. He explained to the public how they can participate this evening.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Sean Jeffrey advised that he gave the Council some background the last time we met. Basically, last summer there was a large solemn parade through town in honor of George Floyd. There was a large number of people there and Chief Nourse spoke at that and following that there was a lot of energy from the Town to talk more with Chief Nourse and get questions answered about specific policies and practices our own Town Police have. At that time, Chief Nourse reached out and created a public hearing where she and the entire department were on zoom and took questions from Town residents. There were more than 100 people involved to the point where the Chief and Town members realized that there were a lot of questions and energy that needed a longer look at. Chief Nourse asked Lesa Andreasen to lead a group interested in diving into the Freeport Police Policy and that is what they have been doing. They have been working with Acting Chief Goodman to look at the policy and have discovered that this is much bigger work that warrants the creation of a permanent committee. The idea is to really create an advisory group of citizens so that the sort of education of citizens about how the Police do things and how citizens can give feedback about ideas or a critique that they have back to the Police. It is basically a communication line and to look at our policies and make sure they are up-to-date with the values of today. He offered to answer questions.

Tara Migliaccio, Freeport citizen feels there may be a need for a Citizen Advisory to help the Police Chief in reviewing and modernizing outdated policies and procedures in the department as well as help interview candidates and organizing citizen forums. There also may be a need to receive and track complaints against the Freeport Police Department. Overall, she disagrees with the preventing of any citizen from participating in appointed or elected positions in local government because they have previous work experience in the field of law enforcement. They did not all agree with all the parts and purposes but have provided something the Council can now move to the Ordinance Committee to allow the public process to complete.

Kate Olson thanked everyone who has been involved in bringing this issue to this point. She feels it is important and a great example of a community coming together and working together on an issue of great importance. She supports the establishment of the committee exactly as written. She feels it is really important that the committee members are from the community but not from the Police Department. She feels it is important that this committee interface and collaborate closely with the Police Department but that the Police not have a voting member on the committee. She feels the committee as proposed makes sense and she supports it.

Grace Abbott advised that she supports the creation of this committee in the same guidelines that Kate said and the majority of what Tara said as well. She also agrees that excluding current or former members of the Freeport Police Department is incredibly vital to maintaining the unbiased nature of the committee. She explained Campaign Zero and that they have looked at some of their policies and they have details on why it is important.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

Gina Laduc-Kuntz, a Freeport citizen advised that she worked on the Advisory Committee to advise on the potential permanent committee. She supports much of what has been written but she does not support eliminating Freeport residents who do have Police backgrounds. The list that was proposed is quite lengthy takes out of the pool of candidates everyone from a Freeport Police Officer to a U.S. FBI Agent and questions about the legality of that, she is curious but she does not have the answers to that. She thinks people with law enforcement background have insight that we don't necessarily have as a private citizen who have not worked in that field. She agrees saying maybe they are two years out from the Police Force would be helpful. In general she feels a knowledgeable individual who has enforcement history can have great insights to contribute to the committee.

Ryun Anderson advised that she is one of the authors of the proposal the Council is seeing and is really excited about all of the points in it. It took them a long time to come to some agreement around this. The committee was made up folks with lots of different political affiliation and different ideas about the role of policing in the community. They had some really rich discussion. One of the things she is especially excited about is the collaboration with the Police Department. Acting Chief Goodman was at almost every single meeting that they had and has been very supportive along the way helping them understand the implications of each of the policies. It was a very cordial and collaborative relationship with no intent to exclude at all. The purpose of this committee is very specifically to engage community members together with each other to learn about policing and talk about policing with each other and with the broader community to more deeply engage the community in the process of public safety here in Freeport. There is really no reason to have a police officer as a voting member of this committee because we already have such deep collaboration established. Having a current police officer may create a power imbalance because of the dual roles and the specific power that police have. Community members and civilians on this committee are there to sort of counter balance and bring community input and empowerment to the process of policing. When they were collaborating with Chief Nourse and Acting Chief Goodman they learned that community policing is really central to the philosophy of the Freeport Police Department. That is why they were so collaborative with them and why they are so open to our input and supportive of this ordinance as written. Central to community policing is community accountability and transparency and this committee is supportive of the efforts of the Freeport Police Department as they have articulated them. Changing the line about having a full member be a police officer would change the community empowerment, community transparency and community accountability aspects of this significantly and will also change who has signed up to be a member of the committee. Folks that are particularly disenfranchised and harmed by the broader policing system are not likely to join a committee that has a voting member that is a police officer. They are talking about folks of color and folks living in poverty and these are the people that will benefit the most and they want to make sure that this is a place that feels safe and open for everybody to participate particularly those that will benefit the most from this. She hopes the Council can forward this as written and along the way it will evolve and they have processes for that.

Chair Egan noted he feels as a member of Ms. Anderson's Town Council, that it is great to hear such a warm description between her group and the Freeport Police Department and it directly flows back to Acting Chief Goodman.

Joyce Veilleux explained that she is a member of the group that wrote the policy. She pointed out in the written page in the very first paragraph, it talks about the field of law enforcement. She doesn't think a lot of them understood the full meaning of that term when they put it in there. It turns out that law enforcement actually includes over 50 different positions. It is more than Freeport Police, State Police or County Police so that would keep a lot of people out that perhaps would be good on the committee. Most of the people that talked tonight have used the word "police". That is just one of fifty within law enforcement so perhaps just amending and changing that sentence would be worth while to look at. Chair Egan thanked her for her time in putting in this language.

Joe Migliaccio advised that he was also part of this. The list they are talking about on law enforcement, he wanted to thank Tara and Grace for digging that thing up. They are both graduates for Freeport High School last year. They have been following this so he hopes the Council will take some of their comments into

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

consideration. He noted that he would hold his comments and assumes the Council will move this to the Ordinance Committee with the support of the entire Council and any guidance so that public process can begin.

Lesa Andreasen advised that she facilitated this volunteer group and she feels they did an incredible job. It was a pleasure to work with this group of Freeporters and Acting Chief Goodman was very helpful to them and she is excited with the prospect of this moving into a permanent ordinance. She thanked the Council.

MOVED AND SECONDED To close the public hearing. (Piltch & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays) Chair Egan thanked everybody for participating.

BE IT ORDERED: That the proposed amendments to Ordinance Chapter 2, Administrative Code, adding section 618 'Police Advisory Committee' be approved. (Piltch & Reighley)

Chair Egan noted that the Council is in the position to go ahead and form the committee. The substantive public comment and it seems to be the third bullet item in our material here for member requirements is something the committee was not unanimous on and we heard interesting comments and good points from both sides on the membership background of the committee members.

Councilor Reighley asked if this language needs to be reviewed by our Town Attorney? Councilor Piltch added that it is just to form a committee. The committee doesn't have authority to change or set policy. The committee only has the authority to advise and make recommendations. Mr. Joseph added that there is no regulatory power. You are not creating an ordinance that is giving you the power to tax or punish. We usually don't run those by the attorney unless there is some kind of legal concern and he doesn't see any in this draft. Councilor Reighley did not see any reason to move it to the Ordinance Committee either.

Councilor Bradley would like to talk about some of the points that were raised by both sides on membership and police involvement in the committee work before the Council votes on it. He is personally feeling that it is in the middle of a tough moment for the country in a great effort that has been undertaken and the collaboration is exceptional. He does not know if Freeport Police has been identified as having any problems. This is sort of proactive to give citizens a voice in an area in which they haven't had one but in the spirit of collaboration he has been impressed by the people who ask we are excluding people that may have substantive information because of their work experience that would inform the committee as it went forward evaluating issues that come before it. He can't see why they would do that. He heard the argument that that might dissuade people from joining but in a town like ours where we are so close and we all know each other, it is not how he feels. He asked if there was a second thing he took from the last meeting and he didn't hear much this time was that police input into these meetings is by invitation only. The Police Department doesn't show up unless someone asks them to come in so even if they thought something was going on in the committee, if it was ill informed or ill advised, they would have to wait until someone on this committee asked them to come in and talk about it. He does not think that is right in a town like ours. He noted he would be quiet and listen to the rest.

Councilor Piltch mentioned he has been involved in this since the beginning and feels he has a stake in it. He doesn't have a stake in any particular bullet point or any particular language but by way of background, they were informed by a group called Campaign Zero which is a national effort to consolidate research and policies from many different towns and cities so every town doesn't have to do all the legwork on their own. That drove them a lot in terms of putting the document together. They looked at towns around us as well and how they were forming their citizen's advisory committees or had formed them in the past. A lot of towns have created them in the wake of last summer. In most cases they draw the distinction between the residents that are on the Advisory Committee and the law enforcement community. There is a reason for keeping them separate and distinct. The point of the committee is to provide advice on policing from the outside of the Police Department and the Law Enforcement Community. There are nine total members on the committee. Five of them are voting members and four of them are non-voting members which are the Council liaison, two

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

students and a Freeport Police Officer. He believes the intent is to have the Freeport Police Officer involved in almost every discussion of the committee save for those that are sensitive in nature. If there is an issue where we are discussing specific things about our Police Department and we do not want to color the discussion by having them in the room, he thinks it would be wise to not invite that officer. He feels it is fine as written but he is open to discussing how to limit it if we did want to limit it or un-limit it a bit and lose some of the restrictions. The intent of the committee is to get something moving forward and we can change it at any given point. If we find that we tried and did it wrong, we can always go back and amend it. We as the Council through our Appointments Committee, have the power to appoint people to the committee so we will have judgment to exercise in terms of who we appoint and strictly we will interpret the words of the ordinance.

Councilor Lawrence noted he agrees with Councilor Bradley but everybody has been talking about current police officers on the Freeport Police. He gets not having that person on the committee. What he doesn't get is anyone that has been part of police enforcement or policing or law enforcement. He feels that excludes a lot of people from the town simply because they made a decision to go into law enforcement. He feels they are discriminating against the very people they are trying to help them do a better job and excluding someone who has been in Law Enforcement. He didn't realize this was going to be an ordinance. He thought the Council was talking a citizen's group and try it out and see how it works and then we were going to formalize it. He doesn't know when it changed. He thinks it is a great idea to have a group review the policies and help the police do a better job of policing us. He asked when this started becoming an ordinance? Chair Egan advised that technically it is not an ordinance. It is a vote to create a permanent committee and we first started talking about moving this from a Citizen's ad hoc committee that Councilor Piltch was a liaison to in April in terms of what the actual official steps were. We had actually mentioned it at a couple of previous meetings that was going to come forward including actually moving it on an agenda item when we were full with budget and some other things. It has actually popped up on our agenda aiming for this vote tonight to create the committee for some time. We haven't had any public hearings until tonight but this has been the trajectory for several months for sure. Councilor Lawrence advised that if the Council is going to approve this tonight, he suggested putting a sunset on it so another group can keep it going if we need it. To him, this feels like a solution to a problem we don't have. He recalled talking about this in April. He missed one meeting and doesn't remember talking about it being a permanent committee. He feels like a bait and switch is happening.

Councilor Piltch advised that they have not identified any issues at all with the Freeport Police Department, no wrongdoing or any unresolved complaints or any bad actors. They have been upstanding for everything they looked into. As part of the work they did over the summer and part of the fall, one of the consensus agreements they reached is that this is not one time work or work we can do to the policies and make some changes and then wash their hands and say, great, we can move on. It is an ongoing duty to provide that conduit for communication back and forth between the residents and Police Department. They came up with recommendations in December and one of them said it was to create a standing Advisory Committee and it wasn't until April when they realized that they cannot do that without doing the work. The ordinance is a byproduct and if they are saying they do want a standing committee, they have to have an ordinance because they are not allowed to create a standing committee without the ordinance. That is why it is the history of the ordinance and the history of why they think it needs to be an ongoing standing. It can always be a standing by going to a future Council. He feels it is important to establish it with the intention that this committee is always going to be there and will be a place where residents can come if they have things to discuss about policing, opinions to share and also a place for Police to come to share particular issues.

Councilor Lawrence feels it should go through the Ordinance process to make sure it is vetted. Mr. Joseph explained that it is not an ordinance per say in the fact that it is something enforced. He alluded to this before when asked if it has had legal review. It is not a typical ordinance but to establish anything that deals with the structure of our town, committees, departments, department heads. They are all laid out in the Admin Code which has 50-60 pages like the building bones of the town. When the Town Council creates a committee in the Admin Code of the Ordinance, that is what we look at as a standing committee that is not going to go away unless the Council has a public hearing process. The Council would put the public on notice saying, we are going to eliminate this committee and let the public comment. It is always a vote of the Town Council to create

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

or remove a committee but the process is more in depth. The Council can make ad hoc committees or things like that by order of the Council but if there is an election and the body of the Council changes over by two people and all of a sudden, the committee is gone because it is not popular anymore. The idea of putting a committee into an ordinance and the Administrative Code and into the bones of how the town is run, kind of makes it semi-permanent in that you can't remove it without putting the public on notice. That is the reason it is in an ordinance, not something that we ever planned to enforce but it gives it more staying power and is around to stay around.

Councilor Reighley added that he believes that if this was directed by Council to go to the Ordinance Committee, it would turn around and come back immediately and the Council would see the same document it is seeing right now. Councilor Bradley noted that sending it to Ordinance with Councilor Reighley's committee and Councilor Piltch there with the opportunity for the people that spoke here to have a further conversation about the 2-3 sticking points is a positive suggestion. It might take longer but it seems to him that because it is permanent and because it is something that Mr. Joseph said is in the bones, we want to give it the process it is due so that comments such as Councilor Lawrence and some of the residents can be fleshed out further. We were not on this committee and do not know what was going on but if these points that were made are real and were made in an effort to preserve the collaboration that is so critical and unique about our town. His guess is that some of the standards picked up on were from communities where the kind of communication and collaboration between the community and police does not exist like it does in our town. He worries that if we create something that excludes one of the collaborators, we will be setting ourselves up for destroying the collaboration that distinguishes us. That may be wrong but he doesn't pretend to know enough about the committee or these issues but say he is right, that is the sort of thing he thinks especially in the Ordinance Committee could make the Council feel more comfortable about.

Chair Egan advised Councilor Bradley that in the membership list, the 6th bullet down: an adjunct Freeport Police Officer appointed to assist when requested as an advisor to the committee so he does not believe they are being excluded. He feels the idea is for the candidates from the general public to not have a law enforcement or police department background. He mentioned that the Council could get into a little conversation defining that if people want to define that further recognizing that law enforcement is a broad term and police officer is a very narrow term. He clarified that the Council has been talking about creating this committee for quite sometime and he doesn't see what a further dialogue at a committee is going to do to just create the committee. We haven't even composed the committee yet.

Councilor Bradley pointed out that the specifics of this committee came up at the last meeting and he made some of the same comments at the last meeting that have come up in the public hearing that he is furthering now. This has been a long process and a lot of the public has been involved in it. Unfortunately, other people have gotten elected that have a point of view that may be a little different. When Chair Egan says there is somebody from the Police Department that is on that committee and can participate when invited, that doesn't suggest to him the kind of collaboration that has gone on with Chief Goodman in the development of this committee. He didn't have to be invited, he was there and why shouldn't he be there or somebody like him be there for all the discussions. With due respect to the points that were made about intimidation, in our town it doesn't exist. Perhaps there are some sensitive people out there and he will sit back and wait for them to come and explain why they would never join a committee. Chair Egan added that he would never presume that that kind of intimidation doesn't exist as a single individual resident. There would be no way for him to know that. Councilor Bradley advised that he is only going on the basis of what Councilor Piltch and others on the committee has said. This is not to correct a problem, it is proactive.

Councilor Piltch advised that the committee came up with the recommendations in December. This was originally on the Council's agenda in January and he personally sent out the same document the Council is seeing now in January for review. He did not receive any feedback from Councilors at the time. It came up again at the last meeting when he reintroduced a topic that had been on our agenda previously. This is the third time it has been on our agenda. He never made the claim and doesn't believe anybody on the committee made the claim that no single individual has ever felt intimidated in Freeport. It wouldn't surprise him to learn that

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

there had been folks intimidated but it is sort of central to the point of having a group of people that has the freedom to speak in a neutral environment without the potential for intimidation.

He thinks that it is clear that we wouldn't want to have in Freeport an active-duty policeman as a voting member on the committee just like we don't have Staff on some of the other committees. We would certainly welcome their participation and wrote in that a Freeport Police Officer shall attend as an advisor like the high school students and the Town Council. He believes that is clear but suggested that if anybody feels differently, they should speak out. A question on the table is would we allow an active Yarmouth Police Officer or a Portland Police Officer or one that was active a year ago or ten years ago? They would leave it up to the Appointments Committee to exercise some judgment saying, this is a good candidate for membership here. We only have slots available so he would love to see a good variety of folks represented. Even if it is a corrections officer, he would argue that it still might be intimidating or uncomfortable for people to join that committee.

Councilor Daniele mentioned that after hearing what everybody is saying, he took a stab at writing it out in a way he thinks might make people more comfortable. *Members cannot be a current Freeport Police employee and no more than one current or former law enforcement professional can be voting members at one time.* He asked if that would alleviate everyone's concerns and be a suitable compromise? In that way we are saying we are not eliminating all law enforcement professionals as long as they are not working in Freeport which seemed like the general consensus and that way, it is no more than one so we are letting somebody come in if the Appointments Committee says they have a great candidate and they want that perspective but also does not over power the committee. He can see the benefit of not having four members that were former police members of law enforcement.

Councilor Piltch noted that it is the single page document that we need to amend. The multiple page document is essentially a recommendation but the only thing we are voting on tonight is the single-page document and it is the second sentence that we are talking about. It says: Full members shall be Freeport residents over the age of 18 without current previous work experience in the field or law enforcement. Councilor Daniele asked if that is what people want?

Chair Egan clarified that the action item is the establishment of the committee, adding 618.1 "Police Advisory Committee. Vice Chair Whitney asked Councilor Piltch if this would satisfy his committee? Councilor Piltch noted he doesn't like to speak for the ten people who have put so much work into this. His personal opinion of having an active-duty Police Officer might be too close for comfort. He suggested the following amendment:

Full members shall be Freeport residents over the age of 18 without current previous work experience in the field of law enforcement in a Police, Sheriff or Corrections Department within the last five years.

Chair Egan advised that it would be an eligibility criteria for the Appointments Committee to consider. Mr. Joseph added that it would be challengeable if the Appointments Committee decided to appoint somebody that the ordinance says don't do this. Somebody could in theory challenge it and get it overturned in Superior Court. Councilor Daniele explained that this one-page document is in the ordinance and is the one that Councilor Piltch just suggested changing. It is the first paragraph under Establishment. Councilor Lawrence noted he would be happy with 3 years rather than 5 years.

Councilor Piltch re-read his amendment:

Full members shall be Freeport residents over the age of 18 without current or previous work experience in the field of law enforcement in a Police, Sheriff or Corrections Department within the last four years. Councilor Bradley advised that he is fine with this proposal. Councilor Reighley seconded it.

More discussion followed. Councilor Piltch and Councilor Reighley withdrew their motions.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjust the Ordinance as proposed to now read: Full members shall be Freeport residents over the age of 18 without current or previous work experience in the field of law enforcement in a Police, Sheriff or Corrections Department within the last four years. (Piltch & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes)

BE IT ORDERED: That the proposed amendments to Ordinance Chapter 2. Administrative Code, adding section 6.18 "Police Advisory Committee" be approved as amended. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (6 Ayes) (1 Nay-Bradley)

ITEM # 99-21 To consider action relative to the Operating, Capital and TIF Budgets. PUBLIC HEARING.

MOVED AND SECONDED: to open the public hearing (Lawrence & Reighley)
ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Chair Egan explained that this is a public hearing on the fine work of our Finance Director, Jessica Maloy and many hours of review by the Council. He invited members of the public to participate in this public hearing and explained how they could participate.

Joe Migliaccio, Freeport resident pointed out that from now or next year the Council can take a look at the TIF funds in Destination Freeport and the downtown in regard to how they are used for economic development. Currently we have been putting about \$100,000 a year into our Economic Development organization and here we are 15-20 years later and we have had to go out and hire contractors and consultants to help us understand why we have a problem with retail in the core base of our town. He feels something is fundamentally wrong there. If we got behind the 8-ball after contributing roughly \$100,000 from that fund each year. He looks forward to that session later on this evening.

MOVED AND SECONDED: to close the public hearing. (Lawrence & Whitney)
ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Ayes)

Chair Egan thanked the public for their comments during the Public Hearing. He will not take it back to the Staff to summarize where we are. The Council is not adopting the budget tonight. It will be approved on June 15th. He noted the Council has been hammering on this quite a while and it is pretty much in final form unless anybody has any last-minute comments. Mr. Joseph pointed out that the Council has a 60-minute workshop tonight, under OTHER BUSINESS and he is hoping it will not take that long but he and Ms. Maloy have some

recommendations and Councilors have individual motions beyond what he and Ms. Maloy have suggestions for.

Councilor Bradley asked if tonight is the night for Councilors who have suggestions and ideas about the budget to raise them? Chair Egan advised that the workshop is scheduled for later this evening and he doesn't believe there is a workshop scheduled at the next meeting. It is the vote that is scheduled. Tonight, is the evening for Councilor Bradley's comments. Mr. Joseph added that the Council has the ability to make amendments up to the date you vote yes on the budget which will be in two weeks. It gets a little more complicated because then we have to go back and crunch the numbers to take out or add in any amendments. If anyone knows they have some, he asked them to please make them tonight but it doesn't preclude the Council from making a suggestion. Something may come to someone on Monday before next Council meeting and they can make the motion then if they need to.

Chair Egan pointed out that he is hearing from Staff that they don't have anything to present here so the Council will reserve that for after the presentation by the Principle Group. If it is okay, Chair Egan will reserve questions and follow-up inquiries for Ms. Maloy and Mr. Joseph to the workshop later on this evening.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Principle Group (Russell Preston, Principle Group)

Vice Chair Whitney explained that although many groups were interviewed as they searched for a consulting group to help revitalize our downtown, it was really the Principle Group that had the reputation for pulling the community together. The amount of involvement from the community is really growing. There is positive energy coming out of the Vision work and they feel it is contagious. Residents are continuing to express their ideas and are offering to spearhead them and make it happen. Businesses are talking with neighboring businesses about their ideas to get support around some of the things they have already seen from the Principle Group out of the survey work. Landowners that once didn't get along are coming together knowing that greater good is coming when we all work together. Freeport is an amazing place and Vice Chair Whitney thanked everyone for their time and input. We are going to see a presentation from the Principle Group that reflects everyone's thoughts. She cautioned that it is a lengthy presentation. They were encouraged to keep it lengthy because there was so much feedback that came in that they wanted everyone to see their ideas and that they were captured in the data points.

Mary Davis, President of FEDC advised that she is excited to be here tonight. She advised that it was almost a year ago that the Street Gang, a group of volunteers came together because they were concerned about empty storefronts and the effect of COVID on downtown Freeport. They were really concerned about the vitality of the downtown area and knew they needed to find ways to bring visitors and the community into the downtown which would bring money for the businesses and just really keep us going through COVID so they tried some things. The Makers on Main has been fabulous. Some things didn't work. They closed the Main Street downtown and maybe it was the wrong time; it didn't bring the visitors they wanted. They realized we had a lot of residents and businesses who wanted to help and tell us what they wanted. Out of that came this idea that we needed a better way to understand what Freeport wanted and what visitors wanted. There was a clear vision with community involvement. They know that this is economic development. If the downtown has more people and more vitality, it means good economic development for a long time. She explained the list of volunteers who talked to consultants who had unbelievable expertise in rebuilding and keeping downtowns revitalized so they brought in Principle Group with Russ Preston and Logan Compone together to help take them through the revisioning process.

She pointed out how lucky Freeport is to have so many natural assets including a huge amount of community volunteers. Here we are months later and they are coming to you tonight with what they have heard from you and thinking about the assets they have to start a longer-term vision and how they can support the many projects already going, and bringing some new ideas to trial this summer. They think these will bring momentum for them to carry into the winter time as well. All of this supports the community's wishes and encourages vitality and economic success. She urged everyone to listen. They will want feedback both here and at the two feedback sessions everyone will hear set up for them. In addition to that, they will want everyone to help them implement these things. They know that great communities make great downtowns and they want involvement in the community.

Ms. Davis introduced Russ Preston from the Principle Group. Mr. Preston shared his screen and noted that he feels they are at the end of the beginning of the process for the Downtown Vision Plan. He feels it has been amazing the kind of input they have received given the constraints and challenges of COVID.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

He commended Freeport on its focus and passion for the downtown. It is really reflected in all the experiences they have had to date so far. He went on to explain the Early Action Plan. He mentioned that they have so much input so far that they haven't even addressed a lot of that in the Early Action Plan because it requires more dialogue. Housing will be revisited in Phase 2. He displayed a map showing the downtown. The Early Action Plan is meant to be a short guide and they expect as the summer starts up in June or July, they will play an advisory role to the pilot projects that come out of the Early Action Plan here. In September they are planning a big planning event they are calling the Downtown Design Week. The Vision Plan will go into drafting and be finished toward the end of the year.

Mr. Preston's presentation followed. They realized that this is a lot to absorb and wanted to give folks an opportunity to talk with them more if they need to so they will have office hours on June 2, tomorrow from 4-6 p.m. They will also announce a second office hour and will send out an e-mail and register for their e-mail list. If anyone is interested in this, even a bit, he urged them to sign up not just for the office hours, but sign up to volunteer for a pilot project. He encouraged folks to go to the website and let them know, even if they are interested in a very casual fashion. If they are really interested, please let them know which one they want to help out on. There is a lot of energy around a few of these already and they want to make sure they can help build that momentum. They are going into the next phase of planning and really need input. The planning is not done. There are a lot of topics they need to continue to talk about, housing being one of those as well as traffic and parking. There's lots of things that make downtown really work and they need to build on that. The second phase of this work will really be about interacting with all of you this summer both at those events that you already have planned or it could be helping to assist with some of these pilot projects in measuring them or installing them.

They are then going to have the Downtown Design Week so they are looking for dates in September to do that and they will really bring everyone together, and will work with the COVID restrictions at the time, around workshops or focus groups on specific topics and will really start to visualize some of these elements in longer terms so you can really start to understand what things downtown will look like and feel like in 10 or 20 years in the future. That will roll into the work during next fall which will really pull together the plan for downtown. He knows this was a lot and appreciates everyone hanging in and listening to all of this. The report will be on the website now and they will get the presentation up there shortly as well. He encouraged everyone to stay in touch and fill out the volunteer forms if you are up for rolling up your sleeves over the next month and make sure you send them your comments on any other ideas they might have missed. He offered to answer Council's questions.

Chair Egan thanked Mr. Preston. He noted that he is completely invigorated by this presentation and can't wait to go find a bucket of paint and a roller and start painting the town. He appreciates the inspiration for that.

He gave Councilors a chance to voice any initial reactions or ask some high-level questions of Russ or other members of the group putting this together in terms of initial reactions. There will be office hours tomorrow and potentially another shot on Thursday.

Councilor Bradley advised that he thinks this is an amazing start to what will be a successful way to rethink our downtown. All projects that begin somewhere get better as people look and feel and add their inputs. He has been fortunate enough to talk to the people involved in doing this and appreciates their openness to hearing things. He also appreciates that the mission between the arts, the Meeting House and the Historical Society are included in this. His overarching question is and Russ struck it, he talked about the connection between the places in town as being the core of any long-term vision. These are things that will try out places. He asked how does that sense of the interconnectivity of the town evolve. What are the ways either Principle Group or the Community Connectors or the Town Council gets to the point where

we say this is really the route that we think connects all the places in town that we think are of interest and are of value? Or, will that just be the result of picking places to develop? He is not sure how it all works. Mr. Preston feels there is a sense that getting as many minds as possible into this is always important because they find that the good ideas start to repeat themselves. They start to hear a lot of different things from people and then we start to hear similar things from people from all different parts of town. It is that opportunity to start to bring folks together in different ways so they can start to hear from them, oh yeah, I always walk that route from the Library to town, I always walk that route from Bow Street Market over to where I park near CVS. It is these interesting experiences that people have that they want to try to find more opportunities from. That is part of it. That will help with the longer-term planning around those routes. He thinks there is the idea of building momentum and tackling one project at a time and seeing where those other opportunities open up. That is the bottom-up approach that they have seen it get things figured out a lot more quickly and when you couple those two together, it gets really powerful where you have, okay we know folks want to walk from the Library to the downtown through this path because people have been talking about it and have been doing it or is there another way we could do it and let's test it over a Saturday and see what we experience. He thinks there is a sort of parallel system that really seem messy at time because building towns are messy. They are hard complex things to figure out That is why they say let's try it as many different ways as possible and set it up in a way for all of us to talk about it so we can get back to as many people giving us input as possible.

Mary Davis added on that one of the things they are seeing as ideas come out, that businesses and the neighbors of businesses are coming together to say what could we do there? It is becoming a sense of being just by thinking about ways to do these ideas. She feels it is an important part that enthusiasm of helping people see what it could be. Councilor Bradley indicated he feels it is fine but feels there are multiple ways to organize Freeport into pathways, courses or routes. At some point, there will be tensions between those ideas. He asked how it gets resolved in a process like this? As you work towards it and don't get consensus, who decides what goes where? Is it who comes up with the money or the Principle Group, FEDC and the Street Gang? He is trying to get a feel for how people think this process will unfold.

Mr. Preston feels this is an important part that goes into the longer-term planning that happens in Phase 2 and Phase 3, if they do this properly and set up these interactive ongoing discussions, as they start to produce more and more drawings, more and more draft policies or draft materials, they want your help co-creating that so there will be opportunities for people to interact with them about that process. They often find that good ideas start to resonate and gain traction but then there are these tensions that are inevitably created and ideally, they have an open dialogue around those tensions and start to talk about what are they and how can they identify what those tensions are and start to think through them. If they can't solve that right now, what is a process they can use later on to solve it when they have more information. He thinks that is part of it but at the end of the day, a vision plan like this would likely come back to this body to be decided on and improved. He feels there is an aspect of making sure that you are all well informed and what are the things they don't have consensus on and how might you get consensus on when it is really needed. They call it a Vision Plan because there might be multiple pathways to move forward on so it is a bit of a choose your own adventure in that regard. They want to be sure they are giving you the tools to make those decisions in the future. They may be long gone and you will be at a point where wait a minute, there are these conflicts here and which way do we go? Ideally between the values and a handful of other elements that are in the Vision Plan you will be able to make a confident decision. Councilor Bradley noted that it helped and he thanked him.

Councilor Reighley had a chance to go into downtown Portland today and was interested to see that they were blocking off the streets and the parklets there because they apparently determined that it was really successful for the businesses within Portland. He mentioned being in Europe where there are walking

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

streets all over the place that used to be the main street and now it is walking streets with vendors going through and has no effect on the brick and mortar restaurants. It actually increases traffic in brick and mortar restaurants. Listening to Phil Wagner from Derosier's say, "I hate sacrificing parking spaces but I kind of like this idea." He didn't realize taking out the taxi stand and adding the two parking spaces in front of Sherman's Book Store, he gains three spaces and loses nothing because all he has lost is a loading area which doesn't get used for more than an hour out of the day. The cost of doing these parklets is minimal going through. Complete Streets was very high on working together with Principle to establish these little things that affect our roadways and reduce the speed and improve the safety of the highway. At one point, downtown Freeport had parking on Main Street all the way through and for some grand design we changed it. It is time to come back and reestablish a calmer area downtown so it makes it more pedestrian friendly, more friendly to visitors and more relaxing and we just need to draw restaurants to come in and have fiddlers on the street and go from there. Some of this does not cost much at all.

Councilor Piltch asked what work remains in Phase One? Mr. Preston advised that they are at the conclusion of Phase One. Ideally, they have rallied with the local planning team enough. Phase Two will start when they help facilitate some of the pilot projects and get some of the prep work going for the Design Week in September. That was how they planned it originally.

Chair Egan opened up the process for any attendees wishing to ask questions of Russ or members of the group here and explained how they can participate.

Katrina Vanbrugh, Freeport resident, advised that she loves all the ideas that were posited and feels it is very exciting. One thing she did not see that she would like to harp upon is a fenced-in dog park. There are many people in Freeport who own dogs and her own dog does not walk well on a leash. She would also like to see more public bathrooms. She works at CVS and is asked many times a day for a bathroom and they don't have it. Mr. Preston advised that being pet friendly was a fundamental value that came out of the input they had. He thinks there is a real connection to make the downtown is friendly. They have not found a spot for a dog park so if anyone has a good idea, that is something they could continue to work on. Vice chair Whitney thanked Katrina for helping out some of the town's youngsters when they were a few pennies short.

Andrew Arsenault mentioned he is really excited about the presentation and thinks it is a good start for downtown Freeport. One of the things he would like to emphasize is that it is nice to see that it is sort of an organic process. He thinks we get bogged down in regulations and ordinances. What he sees the Principle Group bringing is an organic process. In the last 25 or 30 years we have gotten into a static sort of rules and regulations. We can't do it unless we have a meeting and an ordinance. One of the things he likes about this is let's try something. If it doesn't work, we will try something different and if that doesn't work, we will still try something different. He thinks we want to do this because we don't want to be in a spot 5 or 10 years from now saying "I wish we had tried something." He was here when Freeport fell apart, all the storefronts were empty and things were not going well and it took a while to get it going. He is glad we are doing this now and thanked the people that participated in this and is really looking forward to more parking on Main Street. He applauded what is going on and wants to see people move forward. He urged them to not get bogged down in details but try something organic and just move forward.

Mary Davis pointed out that the Town Manager, the Town Planner and the Town are being very supportive and really helping to think though how can we work through these things. She feels they have a tremendous amount of support right now with the Town to get these things done.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

Greg Michaud, Chair of Complete Streets advised that he is excited about this presentation. He wants to lead one of these efforts and would love to see a big mural in front of Holbrook Street where the high school is and have a big falcon or a big logo "F" right in front of that and while we are at it, put one at Kendall as well because we have a school down there. He was going to make the same points that Andy Arsenault said and that is we can't be steeped in too much process. He would want to know who is the person he needs to call and understand that he doesn't have to go through five committees and one that meets three weeks from now to get an approval. If we can do that quickly, he thinks we have something going. He can't wait to get started.

Joyce Veilleux feels the Principle Group has done a wonderful job of reaching out to so many members of our community and putting all the information together. She cautioned people that that was a wonderful list of 13 projects and ideas but people should keep their eyes open that there are many places in our downtown area that we could do things without costing a lot of money. One thing she champions is a gazebo in Memorial Park and then having concerts in the gazebo. Let's keep our eyes open and not just stick to the 13.

Maryellen Carew thanked the Principle Group, the Council and FEDC for starting this ball rolling and also for including the people. She was on the Town Walk and kept walking and talking. She is planning to meet a couple of people about a project that she thinks we should do for this kind of stuff. She also wants to be out there with a paint roller with Chair Egan. She also informed Greg Michaud that he could lead a project and she would be on it because she has paint clothes and that is just fine. What she got from this Downtown Walk was a feeling of agency. They were saying "we ought to do this" and it got her excited because she wants to be one of the people doing it. She said thank you for including so much of the arts culture in the plan because it is a vital part of what is happening to Freeport and a vital part of what will happen in the creative economy. She is excited about all of that. It is just a great time for it to happen coming out of the pandemic. She wanted to say yea to the falcon on Holbrook Street.

Sally Walsh advised that she grew up here when the town was tree lined and cars were parked on the Main Street and business owners used to run across the street to play practical jokes on each other so any thought of bringing back that environment will be fun. For the residents who are going to be here when all the tourists leave, it will be an interesting comparison for her to see when we do things like parklets at the center of town where we want people to come and stay and shop, etc. versus some of the things already happening down in the arts district with the Historical Society, the food trucks are going to be down there and the Bartol Library will have a new tenant. There is a lot going on so if there is an opportunity to do two things, one in the center of town with parklets and economic development, and one how it would be created for a lasting use after the tourist season is over. She thinks it would be interesting to see how those two would contract with each other.

Joe Migliaccio feels it was a great presentation. He is hoping that Principle can also give us some thought on the planning structure and the economic development structure going forward to keep this type of energy and creativity alive he is hoping they will be able to give him feedback so that 5 or 10 years we won't fall back into the same trap of lack of creativity and flexibility.

Councilor Bradley mentioned that in thinking about things that have been discussed and things that haven't, one item not in the plan is transportation from downtown to the assets that circle or orbit us and were identified. We talked about bikes and cars and things but having a way to get from the downtown on a scheduled basis out to Wolfe's Neck Park or Wolfe's Neck Center, to Pettingill, the waterfront, Winslow or Desert of Maine or any of the places that we view as assets to the downtown need to be connected in some way. He thinks we could experiment pretty easily this summer in a modest way without a lot of expense. The other thing is transportation along whatever the route downtown that makes

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

sense through golf carts, etc. that would help people walking and having a hard time carrying packages or whatever it is. Perhaps from Harraseeket to the intersection at Desert Road. Those are ideas that he doesn't know if they make sense or they don't. He would at least like to hear why they don't if they don't.

The connection to nature is a big part of the value system and he heard it in an earlier presentation that we are through the TIF with Beans, the work at Gorman Park or the work on the brook creating a greenway through the center of town. It is already going to be open to pedestrians and bikes and other ways of boating through nature without leaving the commercial element of the town. He knows that is something people are working on but feels it would be great if it were identified in the plan as an opportunity if it should be but he doesn't know if it should or shouldn't but it makes sense to him. He likes Joyce's idea of a gazebo and the use of that park. He doesn't like the idea that Main Street got cut so short in a way. To him he feels Main Street goes from Harraseeket at least Mallett to Exit 22 but we focused on the core and really on traffic in that core with parklets, etc. but it is mostly about amending intersections to slow traffic in a very short stretch. He asked if there is a reason we didn't go out further thinking about our downtown? It was presented in the original graphic as a larger space but when you look at the action plan it is really focused on the narrow stretch from Holbrook Street up to Derosier's. He wonders why it isn't longer. His last question is, he knows this is a summer plan but it is going to inform the Vision Plan and the Vision Plan has to deal with the winter. He does not know how to incorporate the winter in the summer action plan or what projects form that planning but those are the months the economy in the downtown really need to address, January through February. He doesn't know if we can put any more people in our downtown in the summer months but maybe we can and maybe this will work. What are we doing that will inform the Vision Planning when it is cold and the murals are under ice and snow and the parklets are either too cold or too contained? He doesn't know the answers to any of these things but is curious about the plan in those respects. He doesn't need any answer tonight. Mr. Preston advised that those are all question marks for them as well which need further discussion and dialogue. Everything from trolley lines, they feel there are opportunities to do it but they wanted to do with this Action Plan was to provide a framework to think about these things and then he is hoping that others will connect the dots between things they didn't illustrate in this but say we can grab these handfuls of tactics and do it here in this area. That is the spirit of this and he is hoping people are recognizing that people should keep their eyes open. There are opportunities downtown that they may have intentionally or unintentionally missed here. He is confident they will talk about transportation a lot going into the next phase of the work. There are communities that have those sorts of services and they are successful but there are lots that tried it and found it not to work. There are lessons to learn there.

The greenway connections and the overlay of all the various things that is happening he feels they should have more discussion about that. He feels Freeport has a really long Main Street and some of these tactics could apply all the way to Harraseeket or down to West Street or even further. As you get into those edges of Main Street, the conditions are slightly different so it might be that there is less focus on parklets and more focus on other elements of safety and comfort with the street or there may be other elements about cycling infrastructure and connections to the parks. He thinks downtowns are complex and to him there is a framework that they could start to expand to those other contexts because as you walk leaving the block that Derosier's is ongoing towards the Harraseeket, Main Street's character changes a bit and he thinks it is important for people to recognize those subtle shifts and start to think about it creatively because there might be different things that happen in those parts of downtown. It is not that they excluded those, it is just that there was only so much time to say how do we put a good set of demonstrations that provide you all with examples on how this approach could work and ideally you all could run with it.

The winter park, he hopes you folks all talk about winter a lot this summer because it is an issue. Councilor Bradley added that he is hearing Mr. Preston say, here are 13 ideas. We hope people will pick

up on them and run with them because they are not going to have to do it. The Town is going to have to do it with volunteers and energy and all the enthusiasm we have heard. On the other hand, if somebody has another idea, let's just use transportation, if we wanted to have a Transportation Committee to trial out transportation, there is nothing wrong with that either. It would be a positive thing or Joyce trying to get a small gazebo going in Memorial Park this summer. He asked if any of these ideas people have and can get going with their own energy, would be good to try? Mr. Preston agreed. There is a framework that many other towns of Freeport-size used which is called a "Quick Build" program which is a real simple way you can do these. There is the idea that you should create a framework for people to be creative and engage and bring together volunteers and other community members to do some of this stuff. It is an important aspect of this method and knowing that we just went through a very odd and troubling experience together and now there is an opportunity to roll up our sleeves and help build something and help strengthen the community.

Ms. Davis explained that one of the reasons they spent the time they did in showing everyone the feedback we got was because we want to create that shared vision of what people want. That way the creativeness and whatever projects are out there, if we all have that shared vision of what we want it to be, then wow, let that shared vision roll. Now we have a shared vision.

Councilor Reighley complimented Earl Gibson and his crew for snow removal in the winter time which opens up our sidewalks which makes it easier for people to come back into town. In years past, they were abandoned and snow was everywhere so it was one positive move we made on our own. Now with this rental of the Bartol Library Building to the Maine Organic Farmers, you are now shifting the direction. Their group will provide educational pieces in the winter time which is ideal for gardening people. We are seeing transition on a natural basis going through with this but now all we are doing is more simple things to expand and make this happen at minimal costs. One of the things he suggested was to have a Farmer's Market in the vacant parking lot at Town Hall on Fridays and it could even go through the winter time. The model of Christmas markets which in Europe takes place October through the end of January is another thing we could look at as the opportunity we are doing right now with Makers coming into Town. There are plenty of ways for us to expand without any cost to anybody and a great opportunity to draw people in our community. We will end up filling up our storefronts and will have artisans and feature people that make things in Maine other than outlets. We are getting a transition. Is it rapid enough? Who knows but we are in process? Chair Egan agreed and having music and food events combined is a great schedule for winter activities as well. People want to get outside to do something but not necessarily in a heated tent. They want to be in a building somewhere and having food and music events and we have the onset of Meeting House Arts, Credenza and potentially other locations as well for those kinds of things.

Chair Egan thanked Russ and Logan for a fabulous presentation. Vice Chair Whitney announced that they will be hosting office hours on June 10th from 3-4 with Mary, John and her. Caroline will put up a public notification ad about that. If anyone can attend tomorrow that will be great.

2. Continuing Budget Workshop

Chair Egan advised that this will be the final budget workshop before actually voting on a budget at our next meeting on June 15th with the budget to take effect on July 1, 2021.

Mr. Joseph advised that there are some outstanding items for discussion. They have a couple of proposals based on some legislative developments that have happened. Councilor Bradley and possibly other Councilors have been updated. He knows the Chair and Vice Chair have been based on what we are seeing likely to come out of the State's budget proposals and also kind of our year-to-date performance.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

There are at least two revenue changes they are recommending right now that are significant and would kind of change the budget impact. He knows there are Councilors who either have things they want to ask questions about or suggestions they want to make.

Ms. Maloy suggested that Councilors turn to Page 41. The items they were looking at proposing changes to is the REV 3110 which can be found in the first two columns of this report. It is labeled State Revenue. This is our Revenue Sharing line item that the Manager currently proposed at \$650,000 in the budget. We were proposing an additional \$75,000 into that revenue line so it would be \$725,000 that we would be budgeting for State Revenue Sharing based off the Biennial State Budget Projections before the Legislature that are currently being proposed at currently 4.25% versus the current 3.75%. Mr. Joseph advised that it is 4.5 and 5.0% and Ms. Maloy agreed.

Mr. Joseph added that this is specifically the Governor's proposal and right now there are two proposals. The Legislature is recommending a full return to 5% revenue sharing which our State Rep is one of several former Municipal Officials leading the charge on that through the Taxation Committee and on the floor so we should be thankful that we have that representation. They recommended 5% but the Governor is recommending 4.5% which is up. Over the years we have been at 2% or 3%. Worse case scenario we will see a 4.5% but there is a slim chance that could go back down to 3.75% which was originally proposed. Chair Egan asked what the 4.5% is? Is it our sales tax? Mr. Joseph advised that it is a whole list of receipts gathered in Freeport such as sales tax, rooms and meals tax, etc. Ms. Maloy added that it is based on our population being a service community.

Ms. Maloy advised that the second item that they are proposing a change to is in excise tax which Councilors will find in REV 2502 again labelled Excise Tax. We are currently budgeting for \$1.85M and based on where we have been the last two years, he is comfortable adjusting that number upwards by \$100,000. Instead of being at \$1.85M we would be going to \$1.95M. In total the addition of \$175,000 to revenue which would bring your new levy increase to \$99,199.00 which would give you a projected mil rate impact of .0494 cents or a 1.87% levy increase. With that \$175,000 additional we have gone from a rounded 14-cent mill rate impact down to a 5-cent mil rate impact. Chair Egan found that to be great news. Mr. Joseph advised that Councilors should thank the Legislators if it happens because if they vote to support this, every single one of them deserves credit for getting revenue back where it should be.

Chair Egan asked what is the rough timeframe on when we might know this information to be more certain that it is today? Mr. Joseph advised that it would be after the Council has to adopt its budget. If there is negative sign that something is going wrong and it is not going to be adopted at 4.5%, they will certainly bring it up at the Council's next meeting in two weeks but they adopt it at the earliest on the 16th and it could be later than that. Councilor Reighley asked if the Council can adjust the budget in July if necessary. Mr. Joseph advised that it can be adjusted up. If adjusting downward, he would recommend not adjusting the budget but would recommend adjusting spending. We would just underspend what was approved to match what we are actually going to get in revenue sharing.

Councilor Piltch asked Mr. Joseph to say a word on why he thinks we will collect an extra \$100,000 in Excise Tax? Mr. Joseph noted it was based on performance over the past year. He was shocked at how little impact the pandemic had on the economy here and we have been in a very conservative forecasting perspective for the past year.

Councilor Bradley thanked Ms. Maloy for all the time she spent educating him how the budget works. He held his meetings in District 2 and there are people out there who say they are on a fixed income and can't afford to keep up with the Council's spending. With an eye towards that message, and looking at what the budget proposal was that we had to raise \$274,000 to get to a zero increase budget. He feels that is a

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

reasonable goal and is not a lot of money. He tried to come up with a way to do it and they came up with some revenue adjustments he thinks are wonderful and it is still pretty conservative. If you are certain you are going to get 4.5%, you could easily do a 100 and he is only saying that because it would bring you closer to \$274,000, not that it makes a difference to anybody, but you are being conservative for a reason he doesn't understand but is not upset by it because you gave a lot back so thank you for that.

His question starts with some of the other smaller things because if you raise them, you can pick up a little bit of revenue, you can get to zero on the \$274,00. For Police we are proposing in the budget \$25 but from tonight's discussion you will get more assuming that MOFGA goes forward. He would ask that you take that extra and adjust the budget \$25,000 or \$30,000 more that is in revenue because of that MOFGA lease. Even for the nine months, you will get more than \$25,000. Mr. Joseph advised that with the proposal that is on the table, we are only guaranteed \$28,000 or \$30,000 somewhere around there for seven months. Councilor Bradley asked him to put whatever the extra money is in the budget to get us to zero on the \$274,000. He mentioned our interest income this year on \$15M was \$15,000 and he suggested that when this budget is over, we set up a small committee to review our investment policy. He feels it is a fair question to ask why we are getting such a small amount of return on that amount of money. He doesn't need an answer tonight.

In the early going we looked at fund balances and made a decision that we have over a million dollars in fund balance we could use to wipe out this tax we are going to impose on our taxpayers this year. Instead, we chose to use \$600,000 made by our conservative management team that keeps us from having wide swings every year. He gets all that and appreciates it. He had questions if we could take a little more out of those accounts to drop the balance to zero from \$274,000. He referred to the Public Works Reserve and as he understands it the reserve account has \$1,059,330 and the five-year proposed capital budget for that account is only \$863,000. The median in that account has been \$844,000 and the highest level was \$853,000. To him it says we have almost \$200,000 in that account that we are very conservatively keeping for a variety of different reasons. He is suggesting to get to zero, take some more out of that account and apply it to the amount we owe so the taxpayers will get a zero increase in taxes this year from the Town Council.

Jess explained why and the Cable revenue comes from a contract source. But when you look at it there is \$132,000 in the reserve account and the projection for expenses is \$117,000 and we are adding to it something like \$150,000 a year so there will be \$215,000 in reserve and the contract is adding \$150,000 a year so it seems to him that in order to reach zero, we could take without breaking the bank or being irrationally unconservative, there is more money than is needed for projected capital accounts and we are going to add to it at the end of this year. He is not criticizing Ms. Maloy in any way and appreciates and respects the work that Ms. Maloy and Mr. Joseph are doing. In that account he thinks there is some money we can use to drop that budget to zero and he would like to see us do it because it is a signal that we care about the people in this town who do not have the resources to stay here. At the end of the day, he is going to make a motion that we drop our \$274,000 to zero for these reasons.

Ms. Maloy added that the \$150,000 Councilor Bradley referred to is actually what she already transferred to the General Fund out of the Cable franchise fee contract and what remains in the Capital Reserve is only about \$10,000. We only bring in about \$150,000 to \$160,000 a year in Cable franchise fees and \$150,000 of it goes into the General Fund already and \$10,000-\$15,000 will stay in Capital Reserves. She wanted to clarify that the \$150,000 is not going into the Capital Reserve, it goes into General Fund and only \$10,000 remains in Capital Reserves.

Mr. Joseph mentioned that we could say \$4,000 or \$5,000 extra in rental revenue if that is what Councilor Bradley wants to put in there. Staff is 100% comfortable with that for the rental revenue that we are

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

guaranteed. It works out to about \$52,000 a year that we are talking about right now but it is only six months of that is essentially guaranteed next year. Councilor Bradley noted he would take the \$5,000. In terms of the investment policy, Mr. Joseph agrees it is conservative but it was written by the Council ten years ago. He is not saying not to revisit it or revise it but asked the Council to keep in mind that there is a reason why they did that. That is Council prerogative so it is up to the Council to decide how much exposure we have. He agrees we could go a little less conservative. The only comment he has in terms of using the reserves, he agrees that some of them have more in them than they need, but the Cable one is in a draw down scenario as Jessica explained. We are spending more of it than we are putting into it but we are doing it slowly with the intent that it will last however long Cable is a relevant revenue source and will stop as things become wireless than hard wired cable. The whole idea of revenues in general and not specifically just the Cable account, or the Public Works account is that they are one-time revenue sources that are not there next year and we start a whole next year for the budget so we could easily take \$100,000 from multiple reserve funds and have a zero budget. We can absolutely do that but next year we start without that money so we are \$100,000 behind. It is what we did last year to keep the budget flat. More discussion followed.

Councilor Bradley explained that all the things the Council spends money on are good for one component. This is really good for people who really don't any income. It is also a message to people like the schools that don't seem to have any problem increasing the budget on Freeport and giving us the answer that they know what is right. You can make a budget work better for people if you really work at it and he is hoping this Council will agree that we should work to bring this budget symbolically down to zero. We have already done a great job and if we don't do it, he will vote for the budget but feels it would be a good thing to do. Mr. Joseph noted that nothing Councilor Bradley is saying is wrong. It is all policy so it is up to the Council at this point.

Councilor Daniele referred to Councilor Bradley's point that we would be taking \$175,000 and putting it back in so we are down to about \$100,000. He asked if the plan is to put MOFGA's \$5,000 or \$25,000? Ms. Maloy advised that currently in the budget there is already \$25,000 so if we want to increase it, the Council is only guaranteed an additional \$5,000 based on the current contract. Councilor Daniele noted that we are down to \$95,000. Mr. Joseph added that if the majority of the Council wants to hit zero, it has to find \$95,000 of sources in the revenue line if you don't want to make cuts. Ms. Maloy indicated that the Council is still at 5-cents to the mil rate rounded.

Councilor Piltch referred to page 43 and REV 9900 in 2021 the Council budgeted \$600,000 of Fund Balance but we are projecting that we are not going to need that so that \$600,000 stays available and we can use some of it this year as we are proposing. When he looks at the total expense comparing out budget of 2021 to our proposal for 2022, we are expecting to increase spending by a half million dollars. That is our impact to what we are spending this year compared to last year. Ms. Maloy agreed.

Mr. Joseph explained that we are hedging that we will be \$600,000 under in terms of expenditure or \$600,000 over in revenue or some combination of the two. If we aren't, we need to draw from Fund Balance to balance the budget. If we are, that ends up as a zero for next year. Chair Egan noted that this is exactly what they did this past fiscal year. They told us they were going to draw \$600,000 but didn't need it because they were able to balance without having to use the Fund Balance transfer.

Chair Egan noted the Council is not voting on this tonight. The vote will take place on the 15th. Mr. Joseph suggested that Councilors make motions to make the two changes and any others that want to be proposed. If everyone is in agreement to take out the \$175,000 plus \$5,000, he thinks it is safe motion. He should say increase revenues by \$100,000, \$175,000 and \$5,000 and are 100% safe moves in his opinion.

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21

JUNE 1, 2021

He pointed out that five cents on the mil rate of a \$300,000 home is \$15 in taxes next year so that is what we are looking at. If the Council gets to zero, we will take zero out of someone's pocket.

MOVED: That we amend the budget so we have a flat zero increase in the amount we are intending to pay. Let the Town Manager and Finance Director figure out the mechanisms that have been identified or others they can find to bring us to that. (Bradley)

Councilor Daniele noted he is all for that but would prefer to have more conversation to do it and ask if we can massage this or that rather than full on instructing and putting ourselves in that place. Councilor Bradley feels that the Council has to do it tonight or else we are in trouble. He would be happy to keep this conversation going for another week. Mr. Joseph noted that the Council can make a motion on the 15th. It would take them an extra few minutes to have them go back and make sure all the lines are correct so we don't end up misappropriating \$275,000 short or more if an amendment is made.

Ms. Maloy clarified that if the Council makes a motion to implement the changes that have been noted tonight: the \$100,000 change from Excise Tax, the \$75,000 change in Revenue Sharing and the \$5,000 from the Bartol lease. If Council wants to see a true reduction to zero, she advised that she is not comfortable proposing a reduction to the reserves to cover increased operating revenue because it is a Band-Aid for this year that we will have to fix next year. However, if Council says they want her to do that, that is a different story and ultimately, she will do it.

Councilor Bradley offered to change his motion to make it work better.

MOVED & SECONDED: That we adopt the budget projections including a revenue increase of approximately \$180,000 from the three items identified; revenue sharing, excise tax and a slight increase in the Municipal Lease income reducing the levy to the taxpayers. (Bradley & Piltch)

ROLL CALL VOTE: (6 Ayes) (1 Nay-Reighley)

MOVED & SECONDED That we reduce the amount we raise in taxes to zero by eliminating the \$94,000 that is left after the last vote. He proposes that Staff find that money in less conservative revenue sharing than what was proposed. This 4.5% will produce more than the \$75,000 and Staff take some money from the Municipal Reserve account and apply it to this to get to \$94,000 and take some of the Cable money that is available but you get there by using those three mechanisms to create a zero increase in the levy. (Bradley & Lawrence)

Councilor Daniele asked if there is a piece of equipment like a street sweeper we could postpone buying so we would know that revenues are up \$100,000 and we could afford it or something like that? Ms. Maloy explained how the Public Works Director made a concerted effort to be cognizant of the Freeport residents and the situation a lot of people are in in this pandemic and really honed his request down and pushed items out to the best of his ability so there would not be a large impact for a few years to the Capital Plan and to the residents. They have looked at that and did do that which is why that balance appears to be higher than what the current 5-year plan is. Councilor Daniele clarified that it potentially be moved back a year and if there were funds available, would it be possible to put it back in the budget? More discussion followed. Ms. Maloy advised that the very first agenda in July will have the approval of the award for the bid for the street sweeper because of the amount of time it takes to get these items ordered and in house and available for use and is how a lot of them work. The majority of the Capital items come to the Council in the months of July to September.

ROLL CALL VOTE: (2 Ayes-Bradley & Lawrence) (5 Nays)

COUNCIL MEETING #14-21
JUNE 1, 2021

Chair Egan applauded the efforts of the Manager and Finance Director to get us to a 1.7% increase and has seen this process enough times and he is far from a place where he can second guess Jessica's projections and anticipations. The example of the transfer from Fund Balance is an example of what we routinely see from conservative projections out performing those in actual budget management throughout the year. In 2021 the current fiscal year we re in, we projected \$600,000 to be transferred to balance and we actually out performed that so he is pleased to support the numbers we have here and is excited that we were able to reduce it by another \$180,000 in found revenue.

Mr. Joseph mentioned that before next meeting if anyone has suggestions or other motions, he requested that they be forwarded to him or Ms. Maloy so they can prepare alternatives. He can tell there is still interest in reducing things further.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 11:01 p.m. (Reighley & Lawrence)
ROLL CALL VOTE: (7 Yes) (0 Nays)

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary