

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #15-21
HELD REMOTELY USING ZOOM TELECONFERENCING TECHNOLOGY
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021
6:30 P.M.

<u>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</u>	PRESENT	EXCUSED	ABSENT
Edward Bradley, 242 Flying Point Road	x		
Jake Daniele, 264 Pownal Road	x		
John Egan, 38 Curtis Road (Chair)	x		
Henry Lawrence, 93 Hunter Road	x arrived at 6:34 p.m.		
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 6:32 p.m. He took attendance and noted that all Councilors are here as well as the Town Manager. He mentioned that this is expected to be the 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.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: Pledge of Allegiance

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

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #14-21 held on June 1, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To waive the reading of the minutes of Meeting #14-21 held on June 1, 2021 and to accept the minutes as printed. (Reighley & Whitney) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: Announcements

Chair Egan reminded folks that the Freeport Varsity Baseball is in the playoffs and are in the final round game for the regional bracket tomorrow playing Greely and he believes it is at Greely. Freeport Baseball has had a resurgence in the past several years and are doing well this season. He encouraged people to make their way over to Greely High School tomorrow afternoon.

Chair Egan announced that the Fireworks Show for July Fourth is on. The controlled show will be held in the open space where the Track and Field is next to the high school. Chief Goodman asked Chair Egan to remind residents that fireworks are prohibited for discharge for private residences anywhere in the Town of Freeport.

Chair Egan did not want to miss an opportunity to hear a bit more in a few minutes about the activities and ideas and momentum building for our downtown action plan. We have gone through an extensive visioning process with an enormous amount of public input, over 2,800 bits of input in surveys, comments and interviews so we have a lot of ideas. Our action team led by consultants from The

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Principle Group have suggested a starting list of 13 possible programs which we discussed in detail at our last meeting. We will be hearing more about those this evening but he wanted to remind folks who might be listening in the public that the entire Council is focused on this and in an ad hoc manner has engaged three Councilors to form a working group conduit between the actual Action Group led by Councilors Whitney and Piltch and the general public. Councilor Jake Daniele will be joining those two Councilors in an ad hoc Action Group and we will be having regular transmission of information and hopefully a big giant listening ear for members of the public to provide continued feedback and ideas about how we are doing with some of these things we are going to try out. He requested that the public get ready for seeing some different things and for some change. While change makes some people nervous, change can also be exciting because it can bring new things that were not imagined. Our Working Group of Councilors Whitney, Piltch and Daniele will be the conduit for finding out how things are going, what is going on and a place to bring your ideas. We will be hearing more from Councilor Whitney in just a few minutes at Information Exchange.

Councilor Reighley brought up the Freeport Varsity Girls' Lacrosse Team and Chair Egan mentioned he saw in the paper that they are doing a fabulous job in their post season but did not know what their status is. Councilor Bradley advised that they are ranked No. 1 in Class C in the State. They won their first game against St. Dom's convincingly Saturday. They play tomorrow afternoon against Lake Region at our field at 4 o'clock. If they win that, they are in the State Championship game in Portland on Saturday. He encouraged everybody to come and watch an exciting group of young women perform Lacrosse at a high level. Chair Egan felt it was fantastic that they are so close to the State Championship game. Councilor Reighley asked if both of these games can be posted on our electronic sign? Chair Egan agreed. Vice Chair suggested also keeping the announcement about congratulations to the high school seniors since we can have multiple messages going.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Information Exchange

Councilor Reighley advised that the Ordinance Committee has met and brought up the issue of noise and revision of the Noise Ordinance. They will have a meeting next week and hopefully be able to present language to the Council at the first meeting in July for approval. They have had some good input from constituents and it is rounding into shape. This does not include airboat noise but they might be able to add some interesting features to the airboat discussion in this process. They will meet again on the 21st.

Councilor Bradley advised that he had a meeting with the Shellfish Commission and not surprisingly after a great presentation by the Seventh Grade on its work in the harbor with clam recrudescence which was unbelievably sophisticated to him. He knows clams but this was surprisingly good information developed by young people with great supervision and freedom. He congratulated that program. After that was presented, there was a discussion on the airboat issue and he was asked to explain to the Council that of the two proposals that Dan Walker made, one was restricting access to airboats to hold over the summer and give the Legislature a chance to do its study. The second was to work with clambers and see if we could find in a collaborative way find a way without regulating airboats and reducing the noise from airboats so some of the concerns of the people in the shorefront could be addressed by agreement. The Shellfish Commission was enthusiastic about using that approach as opposed to an ordinance or a restrictive access solution to the problem for shorefront owners. They are going to take a proactive position by contacting the airboat operators and will get back to the Council with explanations of the results of their contact. Councilor Bradley encouraged the Council to explore that option initially to see if we can get some resolution of this without the kind of combat that occurs sometimes when two groups of people do not communicate well.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Councilor Bradley mentioned that this past week there was a meeting held at the Island Rover. Mr. Joseph and Mr. Gibson were there for us. Carter Becker's attorney was there explaining Carter's views. Harold Arndt and his attorney were there and he thinks a very productive understanding was reached on how to proceed with the clean-up of the site. It will go in three phases. In the initial phase the Town, Harold and Carter collaborate on getting the agreed upon "junk" out of the area. They were allowed to commit by Council approval two days of Town effort and that is all we are going to put into it at the beginning. They might come back when they see what that produces. The second phase would be Harold trying to get rid of the things he believes has value in the various ways he has to get rid of them and still not lose their value. In the third phase there would be a coming together to see what is left and see what to do about it. At the beginning of that phase there has been some informal discussion about sharing plans for the launching of the Island Rover. It is the early stages of talking about that prospect and he thinks if we have good results cleaning up the site and having good momentum, he thinks they might be able to at least present a plan to whoever the site is that the plan involves and it certainly may involve the Town as well. He will bring it back to the Council when it is done. There are no guarantees but so far everybody seems to be working in good faith with the hope they can solve this short of litigating it.

Councilor Daniele pointed out that the Active Living Committee is set for sunset at the end of this month. They are holding their last meeting on Thursday at 7:30. Folks should feel free to join. Most of the members will be switching over to a Connect Freeport Work Group that will continue to meet at the same time as Active Living. While it sounds similar, it is a transition.

Vice Chair Whitney advised that she and Councilors Daniele and Piltsch will be hosting office hours at 6 p.m. before every Council meeting in person starting at our very next Council meeting. They would love to hear from everyone in the community about what they like, what they don't like and what their new ideas are to the Downtown work. They will be there a half hour before every Council meeting to listen to feedback.

Vice Chair Whitney was excited to announce that we have a tethered hired hot air balloon coming to Freeport July 17th. It will take place in the evening but the time has not been narrowed down yet. She thanked Casco Bay Ford. They are one of their sponsors and will be bringing some of their coolest trucks to actually tether the balloon to the ground and have also contributed financially to this event. She advised that she wrote one of her first grants to AARP and out of almost 4,000 applications, we received one of the grants. AARP is going to allow the first hour of this hot air balloon experience to be dedicated to our precious Elders in town. This balloon is one of the only ones that is ADA compliant and a wheel chair can actually fit into it. More information will be coming.

Vice Chair Whitney announced that last night she, Mr. Joseph and Mary Davis had a meeting about the New England Mountain Bike Association. From the Vision work one of the things that popped up is that there is interest in more mountain biking trails. They met with this group to figure out if there is some way to connect the trails that already exist such as Bradbury Mountain into Freeport. With the help of Google Earth, this great team and our Town Manager, they found there is very much an easy transition to make that happen so we can have some amazing mountain biking trails on Hedgehog Mountain. Councilor Reighley suggested that she run this by Complete Streets because that is what they are there for. Vice Chair Whitney agreed and in addition they will be talking to the Freeport Conservation Commission to get their feedback at the beginning. They have a meeting scheduled on July 13th so they will present this new idea to them to get their feedback.

Vice Chair Whitney, Councilor Piltsch and Mary Davis had a small presentation to update the Council on what is happening with the Vision work and what is to come in the future.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Mary Davis, President of FEDC advised that a lot has happened in the last two weeks. She reminded folks that if they want to look at the entire thing, they can see the whole thing live on the Council website where there is a recording which is one hour and 52 minutes or an annotated version, they can go to www.Freeportdowntown.me. They had both newspaper and media coverage and it was all about the Downtown Visioning. It was nice for us to be covered for something good happening in Freeport. They had two opportunities to get public input on Principle and one put on by Chair Egan and Vice Chair Whitney. They received calls and e-mails from folks indicating they wanted to be involved or had some feedback.

As a reminder to folks that might not have seen this before, these were the goals when they started out with the Downtown Visioning and it is apparent they are achieving those goals. It was all about community consensus and making sure there was a good public process and it was an actionable plan that they could use that would help them adapt to the future with lots of community and stewardship. She is confident folks will see a lot of those and she shows the outcomes.

We are now ending with Early Action Items from the Phase One from feedback in our trial projects to trial out if we like what we think we wanted. Phase Two and Phase Three are yet to be funded so she will be back in two weeks to talk about the funding for Phase Two. Phase Two is taking all those ideas and turning them into postcards. Phase Three is the full plan. We know that a vibrant downtown is what we all want. It is what our residents, visitors and our businesses want so that is why we are driving this.

There was lots of community feedback in Phase One. She thanked Chair Egan for talking about how much and Principle was actually reading through the comments, she received a call from Logan asking if she had ever looked at 2,200 surveys that were all handwritten? There was lots of feedback and the data was compiled into the graphs we saw two weeks ago. From that came these 13 potential Early Action Projects. We said we wanted certain things downtown and these Early Action Projects are a way for us to test them out this summer to see if we like what we said we want. It was wonderful to see between Town Walks, presentations and having community feedback. They had Vaughndella Curtis and Linda Bean on our Town Walk as well as other wonderful folks. They have learned so much overall that they feel Phase One was a very high value-added process in the project for all of them.

One of the outcomes of this is that feedback from the community led to these values which is the framework to help them think about where they go from here. They did a draft of this presentation to a group of nine L.L. Bean Executives about a week ago and one of their comments was “can we turn that into a New England year-round Village Center” to encourage that people see us as a year-round opportunity. Some of the values might change a bit but this is a collective of what folks said. Looking at them will say that these are the things that will help to vision our projects going forward.

As they looked at the values, they realized there are already events going on in Freeport that absolutely align with the values and direction they are going in. They don't want to lose sight of all the great happenings that are already occurring and all the people making them happen. If you look at what Visit Freeport is doing, what L.L. Bean, Wolfe's Neck, Cadenza, the Freeport Historical Society and ACAF are doing, they are absolutely the right thing aligned with those values. In addition to that there is a lot of initiatives happening downtown. You see ACAF and the Historical Society and Jim Cram came out and showed them all the amazing things the Historical Society is doing and how they pulled that into the parklets and things that they do. More of the store fronts are being filled. There is a craftsman going into one of them on Main Street. She thanked Vice Chair Whitney. There are so many things going on now that completely align with the values that folks said they wanted. She feels it is important for them to continue to support them. She mentioned the e-mail that came out from Visit Freeport that is all about how they are advertising everything that Freeport has to offer and such a good vision and image of us in so many kinds of circulations. They are just doing a wonderful job for us.

The Early Action Plan items are short-term tactical projects that they think they can do pretty easily that they will trial if we really like what we thought we really wanted such as places to sit, parklets, places for the kids to be, more community involvement in downtown, streets that are easy to cross. From this Early Action Plan came 13 projects from Principle plus 6 or 7 that came from residents. It is a growing list of wonderful projects. There is a lot of energy and a lot of excitement.

Councilor Piltch displayed a list of the 13 Early Action Plan projects that came from Principle and they added a few more at the end. He offered to catalog the projects and rank them in a way that they could talk around the projects. Each project is evaluated in terms of the impact it is going to have, how easy it is to get done and some idea of relative cost. The numbers are not exact and are not meant to be budgetary numbers. They are meant to be relative numbers so you can think of them as small, medium and high budgets, when you graph these projects (he displayed a graph showing the impact). Things near the top are easier to get done. Things near the bottom are hard to get done. Good projects are over to the right and have a good impact and are nearer to the top. We are looking for things in the right top quadrant. If we see things in the bottom left quadrant, we should steer clear of those. They don't have a lot of impact and are hard to get done. The size of the bubble indicates the cost of the project. Small bubbles are cheaper and large bubbles are more expensive. This gives them a framework to use as new projects come in. They can think about using this framework. It does not tell you what projects to do or not to do. It is just some guidance. Ms. Davis added that on this chart they have not included the six additional projects that came from the community but they will be added to this chart.

Vice Chair Whitney feels that Councilor's Piltch's work is very important because it is an illustration that makes it easy for them to grasp these different projects, why they have them and how they are going to go about getting this moving. She, Councilor Piltch, Chair Egan and Ms. Pelletier met a few days ago to say what are the next steps to actually pull this stuff off? They have these great ideas; 13 plus the 6 others the community has come up with so how do they unfold these? Their challenge by The Principle Group was to have a few of these going by July 1. They have just started to decide which ones they will unfold first based on the amount of community input they received.

One of the ones they would like to pull off first is a parklet on North Main Street. It is very low cost and very high impact. It is easy to pull off because it is in plain sight. Residents and visitors will quickly realize that this vision work they are doing is definitely not something that is pretty interesting on a shelf. This rose to the top because the entire North Main Street Block owners as well as the Complete Streets Committee came forward to express their support for this project. That is community and they could succeed on that alone. The second project that has come to be something they feel they can pull off quickly and is extremely low cost would be the idea of painted sidewalks. They identified three different spots in downtown they feel could take place right away and unfortunately avoiding Route One Main Street. The offside streets they are able to do what they want with the Town's permission and they don't have to wait for approval from DOT. Maura Pillsbury who is on our School Board contacted them and felt it would be a great idea to have a rainbow sidewalk in recognition of Pride Month so they would like to have that pulled off. It would be in front of Brickyard Hollow next to Mexicali Blues on the sidewalk. They feel it will get visibility and Maura is ready to bring her paintbrush and help out. Also, we have a great baseball team and a great school system so they thought it would be great to recognize the school system and paint one of the sidewalks on Holbrook Street with the maroon and white logo colors. They thought they would play with the third sidewalk which is near Mill Street in historical coastal colors. Caroline will get a cost estimate from Earl and she and Ms. Davis will search to find a company that will sponsor the paint for this project. While it is low cost, they would like to keep it no cost to the Town. We have a local Girl Scout group that has reached out to them trying to find a way to be involved and they want to be able to bring their paintbrushes. There has been an area of sidewalk identified and the Girl

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Scouts are working on coming up with ideas they will submit to the Town for art sign-off. It has also been suggested that at the end of Nathan Nye that that street be actually blocked off to create a festive parklet in that vicinity. Keith McBride is doing some leadership on that one. Again, it is extremely low cost and really fits in well with some of the other parklets that they are trying to create which will be Idea No. 5. Nathan Nye is right next to Starbucks. The last idea is the idea of a park in the grassy area between Brickyard Hollow and Mexicali Blues. There was a beautiful rendering by The Principle Group that showed people sitting in the park, food trucks, musicians and artists. It is amazing but that is not Town-owned property so they have a relationship with the landowner and he has allowed them to put on a couple of concerts already so they would like to continue that relationship with the landowner who has been wonderful to them so they can get a few other opportunities such as school musicians and others to play for that area. L.L. Bean has generously dropped off a lot of furniture so people can sit and stay longer and really enjoy that experience. The other place that L.L. Bean has generously brought furniture for them to use in the community is the property that is behind Starbucks. What is special about that area that is next to the Historical Society is that it was an unused property that is now being used. When she drives by, she sees high school kids sitting there or people from the little food cart that is there. That cart has been there for 30 years and he is so excited that L.L. Bean is helping his business. She feels that the community building that is happening is such a huge part of the success of this program. She is excited to see these things come to light and for the Council to see it unfolding and for them to move forward.

Ms. Davis advised that the Council will continue to hear from them. She welcomed Councilor Daniele as a participant. They have a lot to do and they have a lot of community members that want to get this done. They know that this is good economic development and it will be what Freeport needs to help keep it the viable wonderful downtown they want. Vice Chair Whitney added that these five she mentioned tonight she hopes will unfold quickly but it is not that the other items Principle suggested are not being worked on. They are, but the Council will probably not see them in front of its eyes by July.

Chair Egan reminded folks that there is a significantly larger group of business owners, residents, committee members from the general public that have been participating largely on line through Zoom for planning sessions throughout the past several months. To not lose access to that group because of public meeting laws about Councilors any more than two gathered at a particular meeting, it then becomes a public meeting and has to be recorded. They are trying to create a parallel work group which is Councilors Whitney, Piltch and Daniele being the conduit for the General Public to find out what is happening with various activities but they are welcome to go to these other meetings but they didn't want to lose the opportunity to continue with the momentum of our constituents from the community. In order to keep that activity going through virtual and in-person meetings without having to get burdened with all of the notice requirements, we have created an ad hoc Working Committee of the Council with those three members he just mentioned. That is the reason for a little bit of separation and structure so they can keep communication open and as transparent as possible while maintaining as much momentum as they can behind this really important effort. He thanked everyone for participating. He can't wait to get his hands on a paint roller and start painting some of these sidewalks. He is looking forward to that.

Councilor Bradley feels he can sense the momentum building but he doesn't get it quite yet. You've taken the Principle Group's 13 projects and haven't prioritized them so much as you encouraged several of them to occur so you will get them done early and that makes a lot of sense. In Councilor Piltch's framework to sort of help prioritize or at least appreciate both the difficulty and expense of the different projects. There are six projects that are coming into the hopper from the community and there are a number of people that have different ideas. He assumes they will go into the 3-person hopper. That is his first question. If someone comes to you as a Councilor or if you yourself have an idea, throw it into the hopper of Dan, Jake and Tawni. Chair Egan noted that is correct. Councilor Bradley asked what they will do with them?

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Are they the people who will decide it can be done? Are they the people that will say yes, you can do that or you can't? What is the next stage once something goes into a hopper? How does it go from going into the hopper and becoming a painted sidewalk or parklet or something else?

Councilor Piltch advised that he does not think this group acts as a bottleneck or arbiter of anything. It is more if there is a way they can encourage or unblock or remove some barriers, they would be happy to do it. If somebody has an idea and approaches you and you want to go forward and do it, sure. They will never stop anything from happening. Their role is to add fuel to the fire to anybody that needs a project that needs help to get it done. He does not see them standing in the way of any project or stopping any project or saying no to any project ever. Vice Chair Whitney added that when Maura Pillsbury e-mailed all of them with a new idea for a painted sidewalk, they just said let's make that happen.

Councilor Bradley asked when someone comes forward with an idea that is not in the Principle Group's hopper and you will not raise any barriers but how will you help things like that happen? What will be your standards or process for deciding which things does the Town's Working Group get behind so it has both the credibility and best chance of success?

Vice Chair Whitney noted that they have never denied or decided that this is not a great idea to anything that has come their way. One of the ways they can help to get some momentum and support around ideas that are suggested to any of them, they can take it to the Street Gang and help if it needs extra support from the community, they can get it done through there. Councilor Bradley has had some ideas and she feels that he and she have figured out that this should go to the Street Gang and let's wait on this one just talking it through. Ms. Davis added that their role is to help remove barriers, not say yes or no. If this is something the community wants and it fits with those values, how can they help them navigate and frame the project so it is the right project. It is getting Peter involved or getting Caroline involved. It is getting the Council involved if it involves money so it is helping steward project.

Vice Chair Whitney added that Caroline has been wonderful to work with. This team is to make the process easier so these projects, whatever ideas they are, can come to life because we are trying things. If someone wants a cotton candy vendor downtown, let's try it. It might be the next best thing.

Councilor Reighley noted he threw out the idea to bring back the farmer's market and he hasn't seen any follow-up with that. He also threw out the idea of doing a geo cashing around merchants so people would visit more stores and what they anticipated with a gift at the end if they complete a quantity of those and he hasn't heard anything on that. Ms. Davis mentioned that they are also looking for folks who want to steward it and put it into place. She knows she has limited resources and cannot champion 15 projects but 15 people could champion 15 projects. They are also looking for community members that came forward with whether it is with a trolley or a skate park. If anyone can drive this project, they will help them to remove the barriers. Vice Chair Whitney advised Councilor Reighley that his idea about the Farmer's Market has been heard by our new residents taking over Bartol Library and are very supportive of it. They will be getting their key tomorrow and they felt they could perhaps steward that idea to reality. Councilor Piltch offered to help Councilor Reighley on the Farmer's Market to make it happen.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: Town Manager's Report

Mr. Joseph advised that he has nearly finished negotiations with MOFGA. They are talking about final revisions tomorrow and are hoping the lease will be ready for signature and key passing as Vice Chair Whitney just mentioned. They are excited to go into the space.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

They reached out to MDOT regarding some of the projects in the Downtown Vision Report that was just being discussed and the response that MDOT gave us is that anything that is on State-owned roads, their expectation is that the Town would do the engineering and certify that the project is safe and meets the State guidelines and standards. Our Engineer can do that but as the Council was just discussing, we can't do 15 projects, but a priority list like the ones that were mentioned for doing in the State right-of-way can be done in-house. They were very insistent that if any lanes come or go that it includes a full regional traffic survey. He would say that anything that has lane addition or removal like the Bow Street corner as it was presented with one of the turn lanes going away will be one of the bigger lifts. He thinks that might have been reflected in one of the calculations that the Group just presented. He wanted to give the Council that feedback so when we prioritize the projects and get engineering staff involved, we can easily accomplish a few of these projects. Anything that is on a local road will have little to no scrutiny from the State. We will have to make sure it is safe from a Staff and engineering perspective. He hopes it is consistent with what the Working Group felt in the communications we have had.

We continue to get a lot of questions about what happened at Town Hall last week. Mr. Joseph noted it was a pretty serious matter with a good result. There was a cyber attack attempt on the Town- our network infrastructure- he would describe as partially successful. It was an attempted ransomware attack that was not fully successful. He gave credit to our IT company in their monitoring that detected the attack immediately and were able to stop pretty much all the damage before it occurred and limit the attack on the Town's network by quarantining things immediately and taking everything offline. The outage that everyone in town experienced over the past week, meaning we had no internet or phones at any of the Town's facilities was self-imposed by our network team. They took everything offline and kept it off while we did a thorough assessment of our network to make sure there were no lingering effects or any other malware that we were not aware of. The good news we have is that at this point in time it does not look like there was data theft from the network. We can't say that with 100% certainty at this time. That is what we have been getting a lot of questions on. That means data for the public or employees. Our IT Company has brought in a specialist that is reviewing the entire scenario to confirm to the best of anyone's ability whether or not there are issues that can be detected on the network that happened previous to the attack in terms of data theft. We are required under State Law, there is a notice requirement, if that is determined to be the case but it is not at this time believed to have happened but that is why we are being thorough about that. He thinks most organizations, when something like this happens, has to have as good a level of certainty that they can determine whether or not they need to do notifications to people about a potential data breach. That is what is ongoing right now. He hopes to have a good full report to the Council in 2 or 3 weeks when we meet again from our IT Specialist. He gave a huge shout out to Staff who dealt with this scenario. They did a great job. He thanked all the customers that we had at all the Town facilities. People were mostly sympathetic and as nice as they could expect. He apologized for the inconvenience. He is happy with the way it was handled and the way everyone responded.

Chair Egan advised that we did notify the Cyber Crimes Unit at the State. Chief Goodman coordinated that conversation and we did involve law enforcement in notification of this. He does not think they are planning on any response back to us primarily because we were so successful in capturing this breach so quickly and didn't lose any public data.

Councilor Bradley learned that the early detection was the result of some astute planning on part of Staff. Mr. Joseph mentioned that both our IT Company and Finance Director basically harassed us for a year saying we need to get protection. As some of these attacks became more common place, we put it online. It was good to know that somebody is watching it and the IT Company deserves a lot of credit for that.

Chair Egan clarified that we did not have a ransom proposed to us where there was a capture of data and we were threatened with that so he wanted to make it clear in case somebody didn't catch that. It did not happen here. Mr. Joseph clarified that we did not pay a ransom and there was no personal data stolen. Councilor Bradley thanked Ms. Maloy for insisting on the protection. Mr. Joseph added that we will be getting some recommendations about additional security products and looking at those hard to see if there are any gaps. Even the IT security professionals we were working with throughout this incident would tell us that there is no way to perfectly secure your system or your network but there are big gaps we can fill in so it is a cost analysis up to that point. He thinks we have some of the big gaps filled. Now it is a question of looking at the medium and small gaps to see what the actual risk is and maybe get some additional monitoring products and some additional safety services. We had that baseline which really helped us in this case and we did not end up like some of the cases reported on some municipalities. Chair Egan appreciated Mr. Joseph's diligence to keep other things going while he was dealing with that situation.

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

Susanna Hancock of Flying Point Road advised that she is here tonight on behalf of the Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board and they are asking the Council to endorse the EICDA Act which is the Energy Innovation Carbon Dividend Act and she sent a message to several Councilors earlier. This is a bipartisan bill in the U.S. Congress right now that is currently co-sponsored by Congresswoman Pingree along with 67 other House Reps and Senators. This bill implements an incremental carbon tax on polluters and spurs innovation through market-based strategies to move towards sustainable energy as well as paying a dividend to all American residents which could total a few thousand dollars for a family of 4. It is money that could be used for personal clean energy, environmental purposes or as sees fit. Currently this bill is the largest individual piece of legislation that would drop our levels of emissions as quickly as possible. She explained a software tool she uses called Soft Roads that is used in 88 different countries right now and she would be delighted to share it with the Council on the kind of impact this bill would have especially in comparison with other forms of legislation on climate action. Our Senators King and Collins have stated that this is something they support personally but will endorse it nationally if there is enough support from towns in this state. We are the only state right now with both Senators in the Climate Solutions Caucus and as this is a bipartisan bill with both Republican and Democratic support, she would like to have it supported by our Senators. From the perspective of Freeport endorsing this, it does not have direct implications, it simply tells our Congressional leadership that Freeport is in support of climate action and does not block the town from taking any actions in the future. A bunch of towns have endorsed this bill such as Portland, Brunswick, Cape Elizabeth and Harpswell and further throughout the state. She would love to follow up with the Council on this.

Chair Egan apologized for not being able to get back with her. He saw her e-mail last week and then the Town lost everything when our systems went down and he did not have her e-mail elsewhere. He would like to put his individual support behind this action but the Council will need a little organization around it. If there is a possibility if she or the FSAB could draft some language that we could look at and possibly circulate that between now and our next meeting, then the Council could have a bit of conversation and endorse this specific statement. He does not know what the timeframe is for getting the list of endorsements to our Congressional Delegation but that would help move it along through here. As Chair, before he asks the rest of the Council to endorse anything, he feels we should see it in writing so we can agree on the language, if possible, to get a look at that and then we can circulate it between now and our next meeting. Ms. Hancock agreed and can provide the language and send it around. Chair Egan noted he appreciates her efforts on that committee. It is great to have an asset like her working in our community.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21
JUNE 15, 2021

There were no other public comments provided so Chair Egan closed the Public Comment Period and continued on.

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

ITEM # 104-21 To consider action relative to adopting the June 15, 2021 Consent Agenda.

BE IT ORDERED: That the June 15, 2021 Consent Agenda be adopted. (Egan & Reighley)

Chair Egan reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda for members of the public.

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

ITEM # 105-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing for Special Amusement Permit renewals.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for July 6, 2021 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:30 p.m. at Freeport Town Hall and virtually via Zoom technology to discuss Special Amusement Permit renewals.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website. (Daniele & Reighley)

Chair Egan noticed that he did not see a specific item in the Council's packet. Mr. Joseph advised there is no back-up for Item #105-21 and he did not have a document listing the specific items. Chair Egan suggested tabling this item.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To amend the order and table to the end of the agenda. (Daniele & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan explained that he is hoping the council will get that list and will be able to set the public hearing a little later with some detail.

ITEM # 106-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing for a new liquor license for Mast Landing Brewing Company.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for July 6, 2021 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:30 pm at Freeport Town Hall and virtually via Zoom technology regarding a new liquor license request from Mast Landing Brewing Company located at 200 Lower Main Street.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21
JUNE 15, 2021

Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website. (Daniele & Reighley)

Chair Egan clarified that we are just setting a public hearing for a new liquor license for Mast Landing Brewing. We are not having a discussion this evening but just so we know what we are doing with this public hearing on July 6. Mast Landing Brewing is a returning business moving to the south end of Main Street.

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

ITEM # 107-21 To consider action relative to the write-off of Personal Property Tax Interest.

BE IT ORDERED: That the Town Manager & Treasurer be authorized to write-off the following interest on personal property taxes:

333	<i>Seymour Excavation</i>	2013-2016	\$ 2,069.98
<i>Total:</i>			\$ 2,069.98

This write off is for interest only. The owner has paid all principal taxes owed. These years are beyond the Town's ability to pursue collection. Years 2019-2021 remain on the books to be collected in full and an agreement with the owner has been reached to do so. (Whitney & Reighley)

Ms. Maloy explained that this is a personal property tax collection effort. They have been working with this local business for at least six years and they have, for the most part, followed their payment arrangement and have been diligent to bring this assessed tax down. There were a couple of things in combination. There were some assessments and should the proper paperwork been filed; the assessment should not have been as high as they were for some of those years. Combine that with high interest rates occurring on these taxes during that time, this business has been struggling to get caught up because of the amount of back interest that is being incurred on these taxes. As part of our policy, based on the amount to be collected if it has been on the books for more than three years, we can have a discussion at the Council level to see if it can be written off. In the case of this vendor, she is asking to write off approximately \$2,069.98 in interest. They have paid well over \$13,000 in the six years she has been collecting from them and they asked if they could do a significant one-time payment to pay off what was still due on a principle amount due for taxes and forgive the remaining interest on the last few years of personal property tax owed. Preliminarily the Town accepted a \$3,500 payment which paid off the tax years from 2013 to 2016. In addition to that they wrote a second check above and beyond that \$3,500 that paid off the 2019, 2020 and 2021 taxes in full. This is just asking for the interest to be paid off that was incurred during that 2013 to 2016 tax period. It would be her recommendation to do so. They have been paying a ton of interest since she started working with them. They owed all the way back to 2006. Through an honest payment arrangement that was created six years ago, they paid interest on taxes since 2006 to now. They were struggling with the nature of their business to continue to make payments and it was prohibitive because of the amount of interest that was accrued through all of this time. Her recommendation is to forgive the interest on those four tax years and know that even during the 2013 tax year, they have paid interest up to now on that tax year as well but the \$3,500 payment they made is paying off the principle amount for those years and asking for the forgiveness of interest in those four years. They did not ask for interest to be forgiven for 2019, 2020 or 2021 years. 2017 and 2018 tax years is where the proper paperwork was filed based on the equipment they had or had been relieved of. They did not actually have personal property tax owed in those two years based on those changes. They were being taxed on equipment they no longer had and did not understand at the time that paperwork needed to

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

be filed to remove it but at that point it became too late to offer an abatement. There was a whole string of errors that went on.

Not related to this specific case but Councilor Pilch mentioned that the agenda says, *these years are beyond the town's ability to pursue collection*. He asked if this means we can't go after interest from anybody before 2016? Mr. Joseph explained that personal property tax collection is different than property taxes. Personal Property Tax has to be collected through court whereas property tax there is a lien process that we are always guaranteed the back interest. Ms. Maloy added that there is a timeframe within the courts that if it is not timely pursued, there is a period of time that basically we cannot go after it. That is part of the reason they willingly entered into a payment arrangement with us to avoid having to come to Council and ask for a separate program. She feels that if she tried to take them to court over that, she would not be successful.

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

ITEM # 108-21 To consider action relative to a consent agreement between the Town of Freeport and Phil Reiche, Lynn Reiche, Jeffrey Miller, Mary-Lynn Miller regarding a subdivision violation on River Rock Lane.

BE IT ORDERED: That a consent agreement between the Town of Freeport and Phil Reiche, Lynn Reiche, Jeffrey Miller, Mary-Lynn Miller regarding a subdivision violation on River Rock Lane be approved. (Lawrence & Reichley)

Mr. Joseph advised that Staff firmly recommends that Council approve this. The division that was an issue is a subdivision violation. Essentially the property owners were advised and given permits by Town Staff in the past to build the house on one of the lots that is now a subdivision violation so that is a pretty good indicator that they did their due diligence when they came in and tried to get approval from the Town. There is documented evidence that they took every step possible to clear up the issue. The problem is that it was a non-exempt subdivision where previous staff and both property owners thought it was an exempt subdivision. There is actually no belief on the part of Staff. We actually feel bad for them. It was discovered when they came in to do a pre-application meeting for a subdivision with the Town's Planning and Codes Staff that this previous action had clouded the property. We are hopeful that we are helping them release the cloud on their property so they can divide their property further and convey it and won't have problems through the Title search process down the road.

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

Mr. Joseph advised that he has information related to ITEM #105-21 that was tabled earlier.

ITEM # 105-21 To consider action relative to setting a public hearing for Special Amusement Permit renewals.

BE IT ORDERED: That a public hearing be set for July 6, 2021 at the Town Council meeting that starts at 6:30 p.m. at Freeport Town Hall and virtually via Zoom technology to discuss Special Amusement Permit renewals for:

Hilton Garden Inn, 5 Park Street
Athena's Cantina, U.S. Route One
Stars & Stripes, 8 Varney Road
Harraseeket Inn, 162 Main Street
Credenza, 5 Depot Street.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That copies be distributed equally between the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Manager's Office and the Freeport Community Library for inspection by citizens during normal business hours and the notice be placed on Freeport's local cable channel 3 and the Town's website. (Daniele & Reighley)

Chair Egan believed these businesses have had a Special Amusement Permits in the past. Mr. Joseph agreed and he believes they currently hold one and the expiration date is July 31, 2021 for those five businesses.

Councilor Bradley asked what a Special Amusement Permit allows? Mr. Joseph explained that entertainment and alcohol are allowed at the same time. We don't want people to get too rowdy here in Freeport but it includes music, dancing and live music but not juke boxes.

Councilor Daniele mentioned that if they all already have this, it is normally something that gets placed on the Consent Agenda so he asked why the Council has to hold a public hearing for it? Mr. Joseph believes there are certain breakthroughs where some of them get renewed and then require a public hearing every couple of years. A few of our ordinances are written that way. He noted he would confirm that before we actually have the hearing. He doesn't think the Special Amusements are auto-renewed such as a liquor license for example.

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

(ITEMS # 109-21 TO # 112-21 will be presented by Finance Director, Jessica Maloy.)

Chair Egan noted that Ms. Maloy has put in an enormous amount of work organizing this for us. He asked her if she wants the Council to have an adoption on each element or can they gang them together at the end. Ms. Maloy believes that as long as the BE IT ORDERED are read to have the language included or read as presented, the Council would be fine. She doesn't think they need to be separate items per say as long as they are all read in totality. She would need all the State Funds individually to be accepted and allowed. Mr. Joseph agreed with what she just said. Chair Egan suggested hearing from Ms. Maloy first and then the Council can go through them and get questions out on the table and make any adjustments before we have to adopt anything. Ms. Maloy feels that is why we break it out this way so we have pauses to say if there are certain areas in question, it is easier if it is broken up and we don't have to redo the entire motion for just that section. Mr. Joseph feels that what we have done in the past that has held water, every place you see a bar on the agenda, he would read the order and have a motion and a vote. When you get to Item 112-21 which is the Operating Budget essentially, there is a BE IT ORDERED: that the following appropriations be made as listed on the agenda totaling \$12,354,183 with estimated revenues totaling \$4,883,100 so that the bold section on the charts if we read those, so we can error check to make sure when you actually take the vote that it references to this printed agenda in case anyone has questions of that in the future. That is a pretty safe way to do it. Ms. Maloy added that this is what the Auditors base their audit on.

Chair Egan asked Ms. Maloy to summarize each of the items and then the Council will go back and have questions on the specific item numbers after she has explained sort of what we are doing.

Ms. Maloy explained that on Item No.109 gives authorization for the Town to accept any State Funds it is eligible for in the fiscal year. She noted that we do label some out within our Operating Budget but sometimes there are other funds that become available and this allows us to be able to accept those State Revenues when they become available. It lists a few of them individually and we do have some of them budgeted specifically for in the Operating Budget but we have that all encompassing statement that says all other State Funds that are not included in those line items.

Item No. 110 is the Winslow Park Budget. That is funded and handled by user fees so typically is not a lot of discussion that goes along with that given that it is specific to the users of the park.

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

Item No. 111 relates to our Non-Emergency Transport which is an Enterprise Fund so it is separate from the Operating Budget. As previously discussed, this is reduced this year to reflect the elimination of the Rescue Billing Service that we previously had been providing. This budget recommends the removal of that service.

Item No. 112 is the Operating Budget that gets broken down by major categories or expenses as well as we break out the estimated revenues into tax and non-tax. It may be worthwhile in the motion to mention the amount to be raised by taxation of that \$6,771,083 and it then further orders for the Capital Budget adoption which had previously been appropriated when we reviewed the Capital Budget.

The TIF Fund is the last one.

Mr. Joseph pointed out that at the last budget meeting we had a lot of discussion specifically combing through revenues on the table about if we could go higher in any specific place. He and Jessica spent a good chunk of time this afternoon prior to the Council meeting looking for revenue adjustments and he recalculated about 6 or 7 of her revenue projections on the fly. She liked it because they all came out that we were within \$10,000 on each one to the actual current proposals are. He is comfortable with what we are actually seeing with the revenue levels. Contrary to what was originally presented, he thinks they are exactly based on our revenues this year in most cases. In a few cases, increased when we know that there will be significant increases just like on revenue sharing which is actually closer to the actual numbers we have ever done in his 10th budget year. They are really close to what we are projecting but he does not feel they are dangerous at all. If we make that revenue budget, he will be pretty happy. It is not his decision. It is ultimately the Council's decision and there was a lot of discussion about increasing those revenue amounts. He screen shared our performance over the last two budget years and past three budget years and explained how he arrived at the calculations. Over two years our tax bill sent to the public has increased 1.65%. FY 20 and FY 21 were both negative budget years so the total levy increase over a 3-year period was 1.84%. To the extent that there is nervousness about the rate of the local levy increase, he shares the Council's concern and is not trying to minimize it, but the total tax levy increase is higher than that 4.3 and 5, whatever percent for the 2- and 3-year average, he agrees but he is trying to illustrate to the public that it helps to show that that increase is not coming from local operations.

Councilor Bradley mentioned at the last meeting, the number that would bring us to zero and Mr. Joseph said at the end of the meeting that he had an idea that could help us get further down. He takes it that it didn't work out. Mr. Joseph mentioned he had two expenditure ideas that did not pan out. Both were payroll cost related items about potential staffing adjustments. One he doesn't have enough information on. It has to do about the item we talked briefly about potentially contracting out General Assistance and replacing that position with a .25 full time equivalent of that position. As many know, Johanna in our office is leaving us in the upcoming fiscal year. She has announced her retirement. Part of that was lowering that amount but we don't have a firm commitment on that yet. He has been talking with several agencies such as Freeport Community Services with outsourcing that function but we are not close enough to have an actual number to present until the next Council meeting. He is sad about that. There may be a budget reduction there. The other one was in a payroll item that did not warrant we could lower. We are right on the money. The other three were significant revenue investigations he wanted to do that he thought we could get a lot closer in revenue sharing but he is not comfortable. He thought we were as close as we possibly could to come out flat at this point.

Councilor Bradley noted that one of the ones Mr. Joseph focused on was revenue sharing and there was a sort of a fluctuation in the amount of percentage that we thought was going to be approved. He asked if Mr. Joseph has any better information about that or is it the same uncertainty? Mr. Joseph advised that he checked on that today but it has not passed at the State level but it may have in a couple of days. We are

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

still going off the 4% number not the 5% number because that 4% number looks likely to pass not the 5% that was passed out of committee and is not included in the Governor's negotiated budget proposal right now. The negotiated amount that is going around the Legislature right now is 4.25% not the 5% that was recommended by Committee. We are using the accurate number that is likely to happen but there is a chance they might lower that number if they run into a snag and they need to find money in the State budget. Currently it is either 3% or 3.25% in the current year but is an increase over this year.

Councilor Bradley is trying to understand that if something changes in Augusta and it goes up, can we make adjustments to make our tax lower if we want to? Mr. Joseph advised that the Council can do a supplemental appropriation of revenue and use that money to lower the tax rate if it happens before September or October. Councilor Bradley asked Mr. Joseph if he would keep the Council apprised if that number changes in a way that could affect the tax rate? Mr. Joseph explained that when we start meeting in person next month in the Council Chambers, he will even get up and do a dance on tv if it goes down. Councilor Bradley added that he would be glad to watch.

Councilor Bradley asked if the final number we have to raise by taxes is something under \$100,000? Ms. Maloy advised that the number is \$96,000 and change. Chair Egan clarified that it is the amount of increase over today's tax rate not the amount we are raising. It is the increase over what we are currently projecting. Mr. Joseph added that that is assuming that everything stays equal. It is not a guarantee but it is a good measuring block and focusing on the levy keeps us responsible to the taxpayer and avoids using evaluation increases. Evaluation increases is a shell game to hide our actual tax impact we are having and that is why he focuses on the levy number extensively.

Councilor Reighley asked what is our mil rate compared to the other 14 communities? Where do we fall in GPCOG? Mr. Joseph advised mid-low but is not able to answer that question. He could do some research for the next Council meeting. We are close if not over 100% valuation right now because of the real estate market. We are within the 10% range that we are required to be by Law as most of the municipalities around here are. It is difficult to use tax rate as a comparison tool between towns because it does not account for the difference in property values. For example, if you use Gray versus Bowdoinham versus Portland versus Freeport, none of those property valuations of the real estate market for the same house are comparable. Ms. Maloy added that nor is there the same level of service being provided in calculation of that as well. Mr. Joseph stated that the tax bill we are sending out will be \$97,000 higher this year than it was last year.

Mr. Piltch noted that we are raising the levy by \$97,000 this year. We are going to collect on behalf of the School District an additional \$795,000 and will show up in everybody's tax bill. That is something the Council does not have a lot of impact on. We only collect on behalf of the School Board. Councilor Reighley added that County Government is the same way.

Councilor Daniele asked if the Council can keep this as an agenda item after this to talk about tax rate increases and voting that has to go with these tax rate increases? He asked if the Council does anything for Seniors like a discount on taxes or is there any program like that? Mr. Joseph advised that there are programs available that have been discussed by different Councils on at least two different occasions and nobody has wanted to move forward. Some communities have volunteer work programs where retired seniors volunteer at their community centers or Town Hall to lower their tax commitment. There are some tax deferral actions that were pretty unpopular with previous councils. Those are political decisions that you seven Councilors can make. There is nothing like Florida's program where your tax rate freezes and when you pass away or sell the property, the tax rate increases and the next person has to pay it. There are no tools like that in Maine but there are a few small tax breaks that can be made for Senior Citizens. Chair Egan explained the State's Circuit Breaker tax bill program. Ms. Maloy added that the State offers Homestead Exemptions. If you have lived in your home in Freeport longer than 12 months, please stop by

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

our Assessing Department prior to April 1st of any given year and fill out the application. You only have to fill it out once and you get currently \$25,000 off of your assessed value of your home. That is a direct savings to all property owners that have owned a primary residence in Freeport over 12 months. Mr. Joseph explained all the things that are not covered such as B&Bs, investment property, etc.

Ms. Maloy advised that here in Finance they work very diligently in particular with the Senior community but really with all residents that it is applicable to in working out payment arrangements. They only send out two tax bills and she is more than happy to accept money every month of the year if someone wants to budget accordingly based on their prior year taxes. She can work with residents to divide that over 12 months and get it so their taxes are paid especially on mortgaged properties. She brings this up because she works with people all the time doing that and it is amazing to her the number of people that are surprised that they do that. A lot of them are pleased. They can set it up with their financial institution to have them do an automatic bill pay. They have made huge advancements in technology on being able to accept these types of payments with minimal impact to residents. They also have a General Assistance Office though we may not be able to help with taxes in that capacity, they can help with other bills for seniors whether it be heating, medical bills, etc. They received a ton of money from residents to help other residents during COVID. They are always exploring options to help residents as much as they can in getting their taxes to a comfortable point that they can afford the monthly payment at that juncture. With past Councils, there really was not a lot of temperament to have basically other residents absorb and pay more in taxes to shelter someone else in their taxes. Mr. Joseph added that that mentality was explicitly discussed but there may be an appetite from the current Council where there wasn't before. The argument that was made was concerns about shifting whether for seniors or young people one segment of the population's tax burden on to another segment. That is a political discussion that can be had and can change from year to year with Councils. If the Council wants to look at those options in detail, maybe we could put it on a future agenda and would be glad to report on any new programs that have come up in the last two years since it was looked at.

Councilor Bradley noted he has been impressed with our budget process but feels that a conversation about the degree of conservative planning is in order for all the reasons that have just been discussed and he would like to see us have that. There are a couple of issues related to our investment policy he wants to be sure to talk about as we have these general conversations about budget going forward. There is a lot of money at stake there and he doesn't understand why we get so little return from so much capital. Questions we can throw into that so we are not talking about an immediate impact. We are talking more about policy and guidance when we get to the exact numbers we deal with every year. Chair Egan agreed to add this to a future agenda during July or August and Mr. Joseph seconded that discussion happening. He noted that they used to talk about investment policy every two years but it doesn't seem like it has been a discussion for five or six years so it is a good time to revisit that policy and what the Town's investment standards are because it hasn't been talked about in six or seven years. He is all for that.

Councilor Reighley commended Ms. Maloy and her Staff for the excellent job that they do. He appreciates all the hard work that goes into this preparation. If we look at other towns and the hair pulling that goes on during budget times versus the degree of ease we are faced with. He thanked Jessica and asked her to thank her staff. Ms. Maloy thanked him and noted she will make sure everybody knows.

Ms. Maloy wanted to point out in discussion with the seniors and any programs, this is not necessarily in relation to seniors as it is out total tax base. She has a historical analysis of the number of 30-day notices that are sent out because they will be going out next week unfortunately. The 5-year historical number of 30-day notices that get sent out is 262. Those are from a high of 332 notices that were sent out last year to a low of 237 in 2016. This year we currently have 269 notices that will potentially go out next week so from a collections standpoint we are right on track from where we usually are at this time of year. They have some residents that take the full amount of time awarded to them by the State to pay taxes regardless

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

of what we do for collection efforts. They feel the point of foreclosure is when they are due to pay their taxes. She brought this up because at the same time we will be sending out 269 lien notices, we currently have only one property from 2019 that is in a payment arrangement to get that paid off. We foreclosed on no properties so she gave this insight to the Council to let it know how diligently we do work with residents to get them to the point of payment before their houses are foreclosed on. Mr. Joseph added that primary residences are not targeted. We will take every conceivable step and will only resort to foreclosure if someone says, "Forget about this. I will not pay my taxes ever. Come try to get it from me." That is the only scenario she has ever seen on a property going to foreclosure or an investment property where someone ignores communication or walks away. Ms. Maloy added that in her time she has not foreclosed on a primary residence yet.

Councilor Piltch pointed out that tonight the Council is voting on appropriations to the Capital Budget. For each of those items do we get to revisit them and approve the individual items? He is looking at things like the Comprehensive Plan Update, Downtown Revisioning, etc. If we appropriate the money tonight, is it the last item we see those things coming before us or do we have to approve a contract for the Comprehensive Plan Update? Ms. Maloy advised that the Council will see it again at the point of awarding the contract based on the dollar amount of it. Most of the Capital items are of a dollar value that will need the authority to come back to Council and actually award the bid. Mr. Joseph noted that pretty much everything on the list will come back in front of the Council at some point except the few thousand-dollar items will not need to come back to the Council. Ms. Maloy advised that there is no established threshold other than the \$100,000 mark that has to go before the Council for authorization. Mr. Joseph pointed out that the purchasing thresholds are \$5,000 and \$10,000 for different steps that need to be taken. Over \$10,000 would be a competitive bid and those most often would be awarded by the Council. More discussion followed.

ITEM # 109-21 To consider action relative to the acceptance of State Funds for fiscal year 2022.

BE IT ORDERED: That the following categories for State Funds be accepted for fiscal year 2022.

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

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

ITEM #110-21 To consider action relative to the operating budget for Winslow Park for fiscal year 2022.

BE IT ORDERED: That \$337,960 be approved for the Winslow Park budget from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and \$23,000 be approved for the Harb Cottage budget from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. (Bradley & Reighley)

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

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21

JUNE 15, 2021

ITEM # 111-21 To consider action relative to adopting a Non-Emergency Transport (NET) budget for fiscal year 2022.

BE IT ORDERED: That the Non-Emergency Transport Budget in the amount of \$115,000 be approved for fiscal year 2022. (Whitney & Reighley)

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

ITEM # 112-21 To consider action relative to the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget for the Town of Freeport.

BE IT ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made to the several departments for purposes named, that the following revenues estimated be adopted, and that the following amounts to be raised by taxation, said action for fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 Municipal Budget.

<u>FY 2022 Appropriations</u>	
General Government	\$ 1,918,610
Protection and Enforcement	\$ 3,243,285
Health and Welfare	\$ 114,440
Human Service Agencies	\$ 39,800
Community Center Building	\$ 45,600
Public Works/Solid Waste	\$ 2,449,885
Library	\$ 493,720
Unclassified	\$ 2,377,290
Debt Services-Local	\$ 34,595
County/METRO Tax	\$ 1,368,958
Bustins Island	\$ 243,000
Abatements	\$ 25,000
Total Appropriations	\$ 12,354,183
<u>FY 2022 Estimated Revenues</u>	
Non-Property Tax	\$ 2,026,000
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,878,800
Charges for Services	\$ 405,800
Licenses and Permits	\$ 461,700
Fines and Forfeitures	\$ 29,800
Miscellaneous	\$ 81,000
Total Estimated Revenues	\$4,883,100
Amount Transferred from Undesignated Funds	\$ 700,000
Amount to be Raised by Taxation	\$ 6,771,083
Total Revenues	\$ 12,354,183

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made for the Capital items/projects listed below, and that the Capital Budget for FY 2022 be adopted, totaling \$1,247,000:

Police	New Patrol and Changeover Equipment	50,000
	K-9 Recruitment & Training	12,000
Rescue	Powerload Stretcher System Install	60,000
Public Works	Street Sweeper (shared with TIF – 50%)	140,000
Solid Waste	Generator	30,000
	Facility Lighting	37,500
Comprehensive Town Improvements	Spar Cove Rebuild	450,000
	Train Station/Visitor Center Improvements	80,000
	Hunter Road Fields Parking Lot	75,000
	Concord Gully Brook Watershed Restoration	25,000
Municipal Facilities	Computer Upgrades -Townwide	25,000
	File Digitization	10,000
	Maintenance Tractor/Snow Plow	30,000
	Library Public Computers	8,500
	Town Wharf Repairs	7,500
	Revaluation Reserve Fund	7,500
Cable Television	Equipment and other improvements (Channel 14)	4,000
	Equipment Replacement - (Channel 3)	20,000
Boards and Committees	Comprehensive Plan Update	75,000
	Downtown Revisioning	100,000
	Total FY 2022 Capital Budget	\$ 1,247,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following amounts be appropriated from the Reserve Funds to provide for items approved, as presented on the agenda, totaling \$1,247,000:

Police Reserves	62,000
-----------------	--------

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21
 JUNE 15, 2021

Rescue Reserves	60,000
Public Works Reserves	140,000
Solid Waste Reserves	67,500
Public Infrastructure Reserves	630,000
General Administration Reserves	81,000
Building Reserves	7,500
Cable Television Reserves	24,000
Other Reserves	175,000
Total FY 2022 Capital Transfer from Reserves:	1,247,000

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the following appropriations be made for the items and projects listed below and that the Destination Freeport TIF budget for FY 2022 be adopted as presented below, totaling \$375,000:

Sidewalks	45,000
Street Sweeper (Shared with PWR – 50%)	140,000
ACAF Performing Arts Center	75,000
Freeport Economic Development Corporation	115,000
Total FY 2022 Destination Freeport TIF Budget	375,000

(Egan & Reighley) **ROLL CALL VOTE:** (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Chair Egan noted he actually enjoys the budget process. There is no other process participation as a Councilor that lets him know more about what is going on in town than dissecting and going through all the elements of these various budgets and is made dramatically easier by the orderly and logical presentation of material from our Staff. He thanked them.

MOVED AND SECONDED: To adjourn at 8:43 p.m. (Reighley & Lawrence)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Coffin, Council Secretary

COUNCIL MEETING #15-21
JUNE 15, 2021