

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING #3-91

JANUARY 29, 1991 - 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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ITEM #20-91      TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED SAVINGS IN THE FY 91  
                    (CURRENT) MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGETS.  
                    (PUBLIC HEARING)

ITEM #21-91      TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO THE FORMATION OF A BUDGET  
                    REVIEW COMMITTEE .

ITEM #22-91      TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO A RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
                    PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.

OTHER BUSINESS:

END OF AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING

M I N U T E S

FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #3-91

FREEPORT TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

JANUARY 29, 1991 - 7:30 P.M.

Regular X Special     

Chairman's Call to Order Present Absent Excused

Edward Bradley, Chairman X  
Flying Point

Vaughndella Curtis, Vice-Chairman  
Pine Street X

Kirk Goddard, X  
Mast Landing

Robert Stevens  
Porter's Landing X

Edward Campbell, X  
Gay Drive

William Grady, X  
Elm Street Extension

Andrew Arsenault, X  
US Route 1

Moved and Seconded - To waive the reading of the Minutes  
of Meeting # 2-91 held January 22 and accept the Minutes  
as printed.

(Councilors Goddard & Curtis (5 Ayes) (0 Nays)

SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES #3-91  
JANUARY 29, 1991

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ITEM #20-91

**MOVED & SECONDED:** That the proposed savings in the FY 91 (Current) Municipal and School Operating Budgets be subject to Public Hearing.

(Councilors Campbell & Curtis) (5 Ayes) (0 Nays)

**MOVED & SECONDED:** That the Public Hearing be closed.  
(Councilors Campbell & Curtis) (6 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Note: Councilor Grady arrives at 7:35 p.m.

**BE IT ORDERED:** That the proposed savings in the FY 91 (Current) Municipal and School Operating Budgets, be accepted.

(Councilors Grady & Campbell) (6 Ayes) (0 Nays)

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ITEM #21-91 **MOVED & SECONDED:** To table Item #21-91 until February 5, 1991.

(Councilors Bradley & Grady) (6 Ayes) (0 Nays)

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ITEM #22-91

MOVED & SECONDED: To adopt a resolution concerning property tax relief.

(Councilors Goddard & Campbell) (6 Ayes) (0 Nays)

WHEREAS, property taxes have more than doubled in the past seven years and continue to rise dramatically due in large part to State mandates that are beyond the control of local government; and

WHEREAS, municipalities are almost exclusively dependent on property taxes as a source of municipal revenue for the operation of municipal programs that provide basic services for all Maine residents; and

WHEREAS, Maine's current tax structure is unfair because it depends so heavily on the property tax to provide critical services and that tax fails to reflect the ability of the taxpayer to pay such taxes; and

WHEREAS, State funding programs unfairly penalize municipalities which experience an increased property valuation without regard to whether that increased valuation fairly reflects an increased income level of the residents of any such municipality; and

WHEREAS, municipalities have few options to remedy such problems unless the State enacts legislation which provides alternate or additional sources of revenue for State programs or eliminates or modifies the requirements in those programs; and

WHEREAS, increased property taxes create additional development pressure on municipalities by forcing landowners to consider the sale or subdivision of undeveloped land in response to rising property taxes; and

WHEREAS, rising property taxes also create an additional impediment to the maintenance and development of affordable housing for persons of moderate income, many of whom are lifelong residents of their communities; and

WHEREAS, the municipality of Freeport has become increasingly concerned about all these problems and the growing property tax burden borne by its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the impact of property tax inequity is experienced particularly by retired citizens and people living on fixed income;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the municipality of Freeport strongly urges the Maine Legislature and the Governor of the State of Maine to take an active leadership role in the enactment of meaningful property tax relief and in supporting the principle that the State should pay for the programs that it creates and controls.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MOVED & SECONDED: To adjourn at 8:55 p.m.  
(Councilors Campbell & Curtis) (6 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Recorded by,

Mary Lou Halla  
Council Secretary