AGENDA
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #8-97
TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MARCH 4, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.

SPECIAL NOTE: THIS AGENDA IS A WORKING AGENDA THAT INCLUDES BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND IS FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL MEMBERS ONLY.

FROM: DALE C. OLMSTEAD, JR.

TO: GENIE BEAULIEU, CHAIRPERSON, LARUE DRIVE
EDWARD CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRPERSON, GAY DRIVE
ALAN HINDLEY, WARDTOWN ROAD
KENNETH MANN, MANN ROAD
CHARLOTTE BISHOP, MAQUOIT DRIVE
STAFFORD SOULE, ARNOLD ROAD
DAVID SOLEY, ARNOLD ROAD

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF #7-97 FEBRUARY, 25 1997 AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRINTED.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS:
PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 30 MINUTES
(NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: TO TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS READ BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON.

ITEM #36-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO AN APPLICATION FOR A FULL-TIME MALT LICENSE FOR RICHARD A. OLSEN, JR. (PUBLIC HEARING).

MOTION: THAT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR A FULL-TIME MALT LICENSE BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING. (Voice Vote)

RICHARD A. OLSEN, JR., D/B/A, FREEPORT COUNTRY CLUB, INC., 2 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, FREEPORT.

MOTION: THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE CLOSED. (Voice Vote)

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE APPLICATION ISSUED TO THE ABOVE NAMED APPLICANT BE APPROVED. (Roll Call)

ITEM #37-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE CONCERNING OVERNIGHT PARKING. (CHAPTER 48) (PUBLIC HEARING).

MOTION: TO TABLE ITEM #37-97 INDEFINITELY. (Voice Vote)

ITEM #38-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE CONCERNING PARKING ON MAIN STREET. (CHAPTER 48) (PUBLIC HEARING).

MOTION: THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING.

MOTION: THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE CLOSED.

MOTION: THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE BE TABLED UNTIL MARCH 18, 1997. (Voice Vote)

ITEM #39-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ON THE PROPERTY TAX RATE.

WHEREAS, A STUDY OF PROPERTY TAXES IN FREEPORT, MAINE, COMMISSIONED BY THE MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST AND DATED OCTOBER 1996, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE TAX RATE IN FREEPORT IS ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE;

WHEREAS, THE STUDY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT PROPERTY TAXES ARE GOING TO RISE IN FREEPORT, BECAUSE, IN PART, THE EXPENSES TO THE TOWN CREATED FROM RESIDENTIAL GROWTH WELL EXCEED THE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THIS GROWTH;

WHEREAS, THE FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL IS CONCERNED THAT THE CURRENT RATE OF RESIDENTIAL GROWTH MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE TAX RATE AND ON THE TOWN'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR A FIRST-CLASS SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE OTHER SERVICES.

THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL, BY VOTE DATED MARCH 4, 1997, HEREBY REQUESTS THAT THE PLANNING BOARD AND THE TOWN PLANNER TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

1. EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF FREEPORT'S YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ON FREEPORT'S TAX RATE AND PROJECTED SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES.

2. INVOLVE THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, THE FREEPORT CONSERVATION TRUST, THE PUBLIC, AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE REGION, WHERE APPROPRIATE, IN SUCH EXPLORATION.

3. IF APPROPRIATE, RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REASONABLY CONTROL YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH IN THE SHORT-TERM OR LONG-TERM.

4. REPORT BACK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH ANY FINDINGS, OPINIONS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN NINETY DAYS.

ITEM #40-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A STREET LIGHT ON SPRING STREET

BE IT ORDERED: THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18, 1997 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO DISCUSS A REQUEST FOR A STREET LIGHT ON SPRING STREET.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: THAT THE PETITIONERS BE NOTIFIED OF THE HEARING. (Roll Call)

ITEM #41-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF A PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE TOWN MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES PLUMMER AS PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT, BE CONFIRMED.

NOTE: THE TOWN MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE AS OF APRIL 1, 1997.

ITEM #42-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO SPONSORING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FREEPORT ELDERS ASSOCIATION.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SPONSOR A GRANT APPLICATION FOR UP TO $50,000 ALLOWING THE FREEPORT ELDERS ASSOCIATION TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT. (Roll Call)

ITEM #43-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A RECREATION FACILITIES BUILDING COMMITTEE.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE, ONE MEMBER FROM FREEPORT COMMUNITY EDUCATION, ONE MEMBER FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AND ONE MEMBER FROM THE SOLID WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED AS THE RECREATION FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: THAT THE RECREATION FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE BE CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES OF:

- HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT;
- SELECTING AN ENGINEER AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SITE SUITABILITY TESTS, AND SITE DESIGN;
- WORKING WITH A DESIGNER, AND SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, IN THE NEEDS AND DESIGN OF THE SITE;
- IDENTIFYING THE BIDDING PROCESS;
- RECOMMENDING A CONTRACTOR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY;
- AND ANYTHING ELSE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT AND RECOMMEND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE CONTRACTOR.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Report from the Freeport Technology Committee.
2. Report and recommendations from the Community Development Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADJOURN.

MINUTES
FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING #8-97
MARCH 4, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.

CHAIRPERSON'S CALL TO ORDER:	Present	Absent	Excused
Genie Beaulieu, Chairperson Larue Drive	X		
Edward Campbell, Vice-Chairperson Gay Drive	X		
Alan Hindley Wardtown Road	X		
Kenneth Mann Mann Road	X		
Charlotte Bishop Maquoit Drive	X		
Stafford Soule Arnold Road	X		
David Soley Arnold Road	X		

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING #7-97 HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 1997 AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRINTED.

> **MOVED AND SECONDED**: TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING #7-97 HELD ON FEBRUARY 25 AND ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRINTED. (Councilors Campbell & Bishop) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - 30 MINUTES.

1. Martin Robles, Chairperson School Committee, reported that the Freeport Teachers Association and the Freeport School Committee voted to ratify and approve a new contract between the Association and the School Department. He stated that negotiating team began working with the School Committee in January, facilitated by Robert Hassen, Superintendent. It is the sincere belief of the School Committee that this three year contract represents a fair settlement to all involved. He noted the terms of the contract. He thanked all of the members on the negotiating team for their hard work.

Councilors Soley stated that the Committee and the teachers association have done an outstanding job.

> **MOVED AND SECONDED**: TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD. (Councilors Campbell & Hindley) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: TO TAKE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF BUSINESS AS READ BY THE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON.

ITEM #36-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO AN APPLICATION FOR A FULL-TIME MALT LICENSE FOR RICHARD A. OLSEN, JR. **(PUBLIC HEARING).**

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION FOR A FULL-TIME MALT LICENSE BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING.

RICHARD A. OLSEN, JR., D/B/A, **FREEPORT COUNTRY CLUB, INC.**, 2 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, FREEPORT.
(Councilors Campbell & Soule) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE CLOSED.
(Councilors Campbell & Mann) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE APPLICATION ISSUED TO THE ABOVE NAMED APPLICANT BE APPROVED. **ROLL CALL VOTE** (Councilors Campbell & Bishop) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #37-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE CONCERNING OVERNIGHT PARKING. (CHAPTER 48) **(PUBLIC HEARING).**

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that this item had to be put on the Agenda because a public hearing had been scheduled. However, since the public hearing was set, the item has been reworked and is in a new format. A new public hearing has been scheduled for March 18, 1997, which will be an ordinance which will prohibit camping in public and in parking lots and on streets.

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO TABLE ITEM #37-97 INDEFINITELY.
(Councilors Mann & Hindley) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #38-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE CONCERNING PARKING ON MAIN STREET. (CHAPTER 48) **(PUBLIC HEARING).**

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE BE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC HEARING.
(Councilors Bishop & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Town Planner Cohen stated that about a year ago, the Town authorized a traffic and parking study which was done. One of the recommendations was to remove parking and loading from Main Street. The Committee reviewed that plan and agreed that it made sense to remove parking in one section of Main Street, on one side, from Holbrook Street to Bow Street. The Committee then requested that Peter Tubbs review this, to see what the impact might be and what changes would need to be made. She described Mr. Tubbs's and the Committee's recommendations.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that this was a hard process was to go through. The Committee felt that this was the best way to do it without being too intrusive.

Ms. Cohen stated that they had requested input from the Merchant's Association; the Association supports this proposal.

Councilor Mann stated that he has never been an advocate of removing parking on streets; he has concerns for safety and for some of the stores who would not benefit from this proposal. He would prefer to experiment with removing parking during the busy traffic times rather than all of the time.

Councilor Campbell stated that this proposal seems to be a reasonable effort to improve the flow of traffic in Freeport. If this does not work, it can be changed

Councilor Hindley stated that he feels the idea of a seasonal approach would be better for the businesses affected. The proposal appears to be setting up a thoroughway through Town. He requested clarification for the handicap areas.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that the east side was selected because of the church.

Councilor Soule stated that the Traffic and Parking Committee has done a lot of work on this and we need to have confidence in their expertise. As a runner, he sees this as a safety issue.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that they looked at the time of day and time of year; this was the easiest way to do this and the Merchant's Association does support this.

Councilor Mann asked if the Economic Development Committee has studied the businesses in Town, re: prospering, etc.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that there is no money available to do this at this time.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING BE CLOSED. (Councilors Bishop & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TRAFFIC AND PARKING ORDINANCE BE TABLED UNTIL MARCH 18, 1997. (Councilors Bishop & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #39-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ON THE PROPERTY TAX RATE.

WHEREAS, A STUDY OF PROPERTY TAXES IN FREEPORT, MAINE, COMMISSIONED BY THE MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST AND DATED OCTOBER 1996, HAS DETERMINED THAT THE TAX RATE IN FREEPORT IS ABOVE THE STATE AVERAGE;

WHEREAS, THE STUDY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT PROPERTY TAXES ARE GOING TO RISE IN FREEPORT, BECAUSE, IN PART, THE EXPENSES TO THE TOWN CREATED FROM RESIDENTIAL GROWTH WELL EXCEED THE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF THIS GROWTH;

WHEREAS, THE FREEPORT TOWN COUNCIL IS CONCERNED THAT THE CURRENT RATE OF RESIDENTIAL GROWTH MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE TAX RATE AND ON THE TOWN'S ABILITY TO PAY FOR A FIRST-CLASS SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO PROVIDE OTHER SERVICES.

THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL, BY VOTE DATED MARCH 4, 1997, HEREBY REQUESTS THAT THE PLANNING BOARD AND THE TOWN PLANNER TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

1. EXPLORE THE IMPACT OF FREEPORT'S YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH ON FREEPORT'S TAX RATE AND PROJECTED SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL EXPENDITURES.

2. INVOLVE THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, THE FREEPORT CONSERVATION TRUST, THE PUBLIC, AND OTHER TOWNS IN THE REGION, WHERE APPROPRIATE, IN SUCH EXPLORATION.

3. IF APPROPRIATE, RECOMMEND AMENDMENTS TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO REASONABLY CONTROL YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTIAL GROWTH IN THE SHORT-TERM OR LONG-TERM.

4. REPORT BACK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL WITH ANY FINDINGS, OPINIONS, OR RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN NINETY DAYS.

(Councilor Soley & Soule)

Councilor Soley stated that the study brought to light that as we grow we face a lot of additional expenses. He stated he feels that the most important issue is our schools; we want to continue to maintain and improve our school system. One of the problems is going to be that as residential growth increases, there will be more students in the school system which will put more pressure and expense on the school system, and threaten improvements to the school system. With added expenses, the tax rate will increase. Planning needs to be done to address these issues.

Councilor Mann stated that the last three years, the Town has kept the tax rate down. He has not heard people say we should put limits on what people can do on their property. The Planning Board is under a mandate to be a planning committee, governed by the State; he does not support this.

Councilor Campbell stated that we are in the top 10% of spending for students in the State; he questions where the "tidal wave" of new students is coming from, as he does not see it. We have raw land and the potential for residential and business growth. He does not see the need to do this at this time.

Councilor Hindley questioned the growth rate per year.

Ms. Cohen stated that the Comprehensive Plan lists the number of units over the decade of the '80's; the numbers are similar now as they were in the '80's; in the last 6 to 7 years, there have been about 40 houses per year. The growth rate is an estimated 23%, compared to other towns.

Councilor Hindley stated that he agrees with Councilor Soley that taxes are high, but perhaps, we should look at how we spend money, reserve accounts, etc.

Miscellaneous discussion followed re: statistics, tax money received from a house per year, costs to educate children, etc.

George Fraser stated that he does not feel this belongs with the Planning Board; we know that the taxes are high, the cost per student is $7,000, the students from Pownal only pay $3,800, etc. This issue is about affordable housing. The Comprehensive Plan tells us to go to residential growth in some areas; this is not a Planning Board issue.

Councilor Soley stated that this is not about affordable housing; people have addressed the Town because of the tax rate; it is about a vision on how we improve schools and keep the taxes down in the long term. We need to talk, to have hearings, etc., to determine the best way to solve the problem. He does not want to exclude affordable housing.

Mr. Fraser stated that it is true that the wide-spread belief is the affordable housing. We need to reconvene the Comprehensive Plan Committee and determine where we want to go; it is not appropriate for the Planning Board to be working on this issue; it is not possible to review this within 90 days.

John Creasy, Planning Board, stated that his concern is it should not be enacted this evening; the issue is more complex; it is not the children driving up the tax rate; the sub-current he hears is affordable housing; he agrees that it is a Comprehensive Plan issue. We need to hear the community voice.

Councilor Soule stated that it seems there are concerns involved around what the recommendations are going to be. He would love to see more study continue.

Chairperson Beaulieu agrees; there seems to be something out of our control; she favors this study to explore all options and come up with the right solutions.

Richard Hendee, Planning Board, stated that this issue is too much for the Planning Board to undertake and agrees that it appears to be a Comprehensive Plan issue.

Discussion followed re: idea of hybrid sub-committee, advisory board, further discussion at the next workshop, widen the focus, etc.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT ITEM #39-97 BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. (Councilors Soley & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #40-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR A STREET LIGHT ON SPRING STREET

BE IT ORDERED: THAT A PUBLIC HEARING BE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 18, 1997 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS TO DISCUSS A REQUEST FOR A STREET LIGHT ON SPRING STREET.
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: THAT THE PETITIONERS BE NOTIFIED OF THE HEARING. **ROLL CALL VOTE** (Councilors Hindley & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #41-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO THE CONFIRMATION OF A PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE TOWN MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES PLUMMER AS PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT, BE CONFIRMED. ROLL CALL VOTE (Councilors Soule & Bishop) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

The Councilors wish Mr. Plummer congratulations and good luck.

NOTE: THE TOWN MANAGER'S APPOINTMENT WILL BE EFFECTIVE AS OF APRIL 1, 1997.

ITEM #42-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO SPONSORING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FREEPORT ELDERS ASSOCIATION.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SPONSOR A GRANT APPLICATION FOR UP TO $50,000 ALLOWING THE FREEPORT ELDERS ASSOCIATION TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT. ROLL CALL VOTE (Councilors Campbell & Hindley) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ITEM #43-97 TO CONSIDER ACTION RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A RECREATION FACILITIES BUILDING COMMITTEE.

BE IT ORDERED: THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE, ONE MEMBER FROM FREEPORT COMMUNITY EDUCATION, ONE MEMBER FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AND ONE MEMBER FROM THE SOLID WASTE RECYCLING COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED AS THE RECREATION FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: THAT THE RECREATION FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE BE CHARGED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES OF:

- HOLDING PUBLIC HEARINGS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC INPUT;
- SELECTING AN ENGINEER AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SITE SUITABILITY TESTS, AND SITE DESIGN;
- WORKING WITH A DESIGNER, AND SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, IN THE NEEDS AND DESIGN OF THE SITE;
- IDENTIFYING THE BIDDING PROCESS;
- RECOMMENDING A CONTRACTOR FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY;
- AND ANYTHING ELSE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT AND RECOMMEND PROJECT ACCEPTANCE FROM THE CONTRACTOR.

(Councilors Mann & Campbell)

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that she has concerns with establishing a committee at this time and would like to amend the make up of the committee.

Councilor Mann stated that there is a need to evaluate the two sites; he envisions an effort to communicate with the Wolf Neck Farm Association, and identify a proposal, before selecting the site.

Councilor Hindley stated that there is agreement that there is a need for recreational fields, but feels that the Wolf Neck Farm option needs further exploration.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT ITEM #43-97 BE POSTPONED INDEFINITELY UNTIL BOTH PROPERTIES CAN BE EVALUATED. (Councilor Hindley) (no second) MOTION FAILS

Horace Gower stated that the Town approved the expenditure of $450,000 to purchase and develop a recreational site; there needs to be someone to control the process and there ought to be a building committee; he does not understand postponing this committee when we know the need is there.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that after reading the minutes from the Recreation Committee made it sound as if the Wolf Neck proposal was not being given further consideration.

Mr. Gower stated that the Council appointed a Recreation Committee to evaluate possible sites and bring forth a recommendation; the Committee reviewed both parcels and favored the Keith property, based on the established criteria. The Wolf Neck opportunity is still available to pursue.

Councilor Soley asked how much it would cost to build 2 baseball fields and road for access for both properties and then add in the factor of $250,000 figure.

Mr. Gower reminded that the Wolf Neck farming cannot be interrupted and to the extent that we do not interfere with that, some land may be available to us. He stated that this is not a question of whether or not we are going to spend some money, but rather, of managing the money we are going to spend. He asked if an opinion has been rendered if they can use referendum money without purchasing the land.

Councilor Soley stated that if we can do it, and save money, we should do so.

Councilor Campbell cannot see spending money on property that we cannot own. We should explore what Wolf Neck may have in mind, and move forward in good faith with the Keith family.

Councilor Bishop stated that these are two completely different deals, one we will own and the other we will use for awhile.

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO AMEND ITEM #43-97 TO READ "BE IT ORDERED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE BE APPOINTED AS THE RECREATION FACILITY BUILDING COMMITTEE". (Councilors Beaulieu & Campbell)

Councilor Hindley stated that he would like to see new members on the committee.

Councilor Mann stated he would like to see this tabled until after April 1st.

Councilor Soule asked Mr. Gower's thoughts on the possibility of new members.

Mr. Gower described the expertise of these positions. He stated that we currently have an excellent committee; perhaps, a few members could be added to the committee; the committee has put a lot into this effort and would like to see this project to fruition.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: (6 Ayes) (1 Nay-Bishop)

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO AMEND ITEM #43-97 BEFORE "HOLDING PUBLIC HEARING" TO ADD, "TO ANALYZE THE RELATIVE COSTS AND MERITS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEVELOPING THE KEITH PROPERTY AND DEVELOPING THE WOLF NECK PROPERTY". (Councilors Soley & Mann) (6 Ayes) (1 Nay-Bishop)

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO AMEND ITEM #43-97 TO ADD AFTER "MEMBERS", "AND A TOWN COUNCILOR APPOINTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAIR". (Councilor Soley & Mann) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ITEM #43-97 AS AMENDED: (6 Ayes) (1 Nay-Bishop)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Report from the Freeport Technology Committee.
John Lunt, Chair Freeport Technology Planning Committee, reviewed the work done, the status of the plan and what the Committee hopes will develop. Maine Department of Education offered $2,500 to every community in the State to support the planning of a community-wide technology plan. Making this a community plan was one of the key elements for the use of those funds. The Freeport Committee has used these funds to acquire a facilitator for its planning process, support attendance for committee members at conferences, etc. The Committee was formed last March to propose a plan for the direction of technology in the schools and how it could be integrated with the technology developments within the community.

The draft of the plan presented views schools and the new library as focal points for the placement of technology that will be available to students and the community. He reviewed the draft of the plan, which represents a broad recommendation of a direction for the community as it looks and plans for technology for the next 5 years. He stated that the Committee would like to workshop with the Council and the School Committee to review the plan, by the end of June 1997.

The parts of the plan reviewed: expenses, training, hardware, network, and a Technology Advisory Board of which Jack Lufkin and Councilor Soule are members.

Discussion followed re: appointment of members, raising the funding, being a good plan, etc.

George Fraser stated that this was not solely a school committee, but rather a community group; some of the funding could come from grants. He stated that computer skills area a necessity now for students and citizens.

Councilor Mann questioned the cost for this project - an estimated $2 million over 5 years.

Councilor Hindley questioned if there are other members that just school people.

Councilor Soule stated that the Committee has done an outstanding job addressing a complex set of issues. He suggested a workshop to better understand the plan and explore options.

Chairperson Beaulieu stated that we really cannot do anything until after the budget season.

Councilor Hindley suggested that the man from Brunswick could also attend.

Mr. Lunt stated that Jim Brandt is a part of this committee.

2. Report and recommendations from the Community Development Committee.

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO CONSIDER AN ITEM NOT ON THE PRINTED AGENDA. (Councilors Soley & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

MOVED AND SECONDED: TO DIRECT THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO FORM THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS A LOCAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, PURSUANT TO TITLE 13 CHAPTER 81, OR TITLE 13B OF THE M.R.S.A; AND TO BRING THOSE DOCUMENTS BACK TO THE COUNCIL FOR AUTHORIZATION AND EXECUTION. (Councilor Soley & Campbell)

Councilor Soley explained that the Economic Development Committee feels the best way to further economic development and growth is to form an economic development corporation, appointed by the Town Council.

Jack Lufkin, Acting Economic Development Director, provided a synopsis of where the Committee has come from, and how it got to the point of making the request this evening. He stated that the most successful groups are non-profit for they can apply for grants including private sources, etc.

Councilor Mann asked if this would replace the Economic Committee.

Mr. Lufkin stated that this is correct.

Councilor Hindley requested cost figures.

Mr. Lufkin stated that they have figures, an estimated $600, which can be discussed further at the March 25th workshop.

Councilor Mann as about budget figures.

Manager Olmstead stated that $50,000 is recommended for the budget.

Chairperson Beaulieu further described more detail of the development of this plan and Mr. Lufkin's efforts, etc.

Gentleman from L. L. Beans, Committee member, explained the differences between non-profit, etc. The three major goals are diversification, retention and one-stop service for businesses and developers.

Councilor Soley further described the process for business planning, e.g., Eastland Shoe's expansion and AEC Engineering.

Discussion followed re: return recognized from economic development expenses, value of businesses which do not leave Freeport, need to establish the welcoming of business

interest, consistency with the Comprehensive Plan, need to invest in things that make us money, etc.

Mr. Leighton stated that we have to keep the things we have and we need to diversify.

VOTE ON MOTION: (5 Ayes) (2 Nays-Mann, Hindley)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports this evening.

MOVED AND SECONDED: THAT THE MEETING BE ADJOURNED AT 10:15 P.M. (Councilors Bishop & Campbell) (7 Ayes) (0 Nays)

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Goodwin, Recording Secretary

49 Park Street
Freeport, Maine
February 25, 1997

Dale Olmstead
Town Manager
Freeport, Maine

Dear Dale,

This letter is to request the Council to sponsor an application for a Community Block Service Grant, from the Department of Economic and Community Development for April, 1997.

As you know The Freeport Elders Association applied for this grant in 1996 and it was not funded. Eight applications were funded mostly from northern Maine, we ranked eleventh. I am told that that is good for a first try. We are a year older and a more mature organization. We have worked to clarify our goals as was suggested and to be more specific. We have also been advised to give examples. We are now old enough to have some examples of need.

The grant permits requests up to $50,000.00. We shall request that amount which will be needed to fund a salaried person and a van for transportation. In addition we need to expand our program to include afternoon hours with activities that are age appropriate.

We thank you for considering our request. Barbara Gifford, Treasurer, will attend the Council meeting to answer any other questions you may have. There will also be other members present should you have inquiries about our activities..

Please find attached a very tentative budget for this grant application.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Kennedy

Mary M. Kennedy
Chairperson.

TENTATIVE BUDGET
for
ECONOMIC and COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT
GRANT
1997

Transportation	
Van	20,000.00
Maintainence	2,482.00
Salaried staff person	15,600.00
benefits	400.00
Equipment	1,740.
Additional instructors	
nutrition	1,400
afternoon fitness program	3,750
Insurance	1,000.
Treadmill	3,000.
Total	$49,372.00