

**Town of Freedom  
Special Meeting, Public Hearing and Work Session  
June 6, 2022**

**Board Members Present: Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**Others: 1**

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**Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**I. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to close the Regular Board Meeting at 7:00 pm.  
Seconded by John Hill**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to open the Public Hearing at 7:01 pm Seconded by  
John Hill**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

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**II. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FARM WORKERS HOUSING GRANT  
PROGRAM**

Supervisor Dustin Bliss stated that due to State requirements he will be withdrawing his application from this grant. He stated either he had to resign from his position as Supervisor or take the money. He chooses not to resign and withdrew from the grant instead.

**Public Comments:**

**No Public Comments**

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**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to close the Public Hearing at 7:02 pm. Seconded by  
John Hill.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to open the Regular Board Meeting at 7:02 pm.  
Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**III. Executive Session for discussion on a potential employee:**

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to close the Special Board Meeting and open the  
Executive Session at 7:03pm. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**A motion was made by John Hill to open the Special Board Meeting and close the Executive Session at 7:46 pm. Seconded by Dustin Bliss.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

#### IV. Hiring of new Highway Employee(s):

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to hire Alan Bly as the new Highway Employee. Seconded by John Hill.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to hire Nate Braun on the condition that he gets the restrictions removed from his commercial driver's license no later than August 1. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**V. The Town Board of the Town of Freedom makes a motion to move forward with the Community Development Block Grant as Eliason between the farmers applying and the State of New York.**

**Motion moved by Dustin Bliss** **Seconded by John Hill**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**VI. The agreement between the Town, Edelweiss Farms, and Schwab Dairy Farm:** The Board revised the agreement that the Town Attorney Eric Firkel wrote up. They decided that the independent contractor should get \$50.00 per hour. They also added if the grant is awarded, 2% of the money or the hourly whatever is greater. Supervisor Dustin Bliss started to strike Bliss Dairy from the agreement.

**R. Nick Morgan made a motion to have Supervisor Dustin Bliss to work with the Town Attorney on the agreement with the noted changes. Seconded by Josh Aarum.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-3 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, & R. Nick Morgan**

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**Abstain-2 John Hill & Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**VII. Supervisor Dustin Bliss told the Town Board that the John Deere Tractor brought in from Auctions International \$40,200.00.**

**John Hill made a motion to accept the \$40,200.00 for the John Deere Tractor. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**VIII. Councilman John Hill told the Board he did get a notice from Invenergy that there will be another Public Statement Hearing for the Article 7, on June 28, at 6:00pm.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:**

**John Hill made the motion to adjourn the Special Meeting at 7:58 pm. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**X. A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to open a Work Session on EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL at 8:05 pm Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**


**XI. EMPLOYEE POLICY AND PROCEDURES MANUAL:**

- The Board talked about cell phones use, health insurance, they eliminated probation pay but all new employees will be on probation for a year. They are removing the verbiage "No person with a felony conviction shall be considered for a position with the Town of Freedom" out of the handbook. They are making Trash Days mandatory for all highway employees to work that day. They also talked about disciplinary action, and how a verbal warning needs to be documented. Also, there will be dismissal for refusal to take a drug or alcohol test.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**John Hill made the motion to adjourn the Work Session at 9:17pm. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan,  
& Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

**Respectfully Submitted By**  
  
**Freedom Town Clerk 6/10/2022**