

**Town of Freedom
Reorganization Meeting Minutes
Saturday, January 7, 2023**

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

Other Officials Present: Grievance Board Member Randy Lester

Others: 3

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Supervisor Dustin Bliss

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

II. SWEARING IN OF INTERM BOARD MEMBER JOSH CUTLER:

III. Due to a formality, the motion in regards to accepting the bid from Lyle Morgan for the purchase of the Meteor Snowblower made at the December 19, 2022 meeting, was not legit because it was not approved by three board members.

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept Lyle Morgan for the Meteor Snowblower. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, Josh Cutler, John Hill, & Supervisor Dustin Bliss

Abstain- 1 R. Nick Morgan

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

A. Regular Board Meeting – December 21, 2022

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted. Motion seconded by R. Nick Morgan

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, Josh Cutler, R. Nick Morgan, & Supervisor Dustin Bliss
Abstain-1 John Hill

V. Audit Declaration and Petty Cash and Annual Audit for:

- A. **TAX COLLECTOR - \$200.00-Bank Statements- Annual Report**
- B. **TOWN CLERK - \$100.00 -Minute Book- Bank Statements- Annual Report**
- C. **JUSTICE - \$150.00**
- D. **HIGHWAY SUPT. - \$200.00**
- E. **BUILDING INSPECTOR – 2021 printout of all permits**
- F. **SUPERVISOR - \$0 petty cash and Supervisor's Books**

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**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept the annual audit of the records as presented.
Motion was seconded by John Hill.**

**Roll call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, Josh Cutler, John Hill, & R. Nick Morgan
Abstain-1 Supervisor Dustin Bliss**

VI. ASSIGNMENTS:

- a. **Set Monthly Board Meeting Time/Date/Place: 7PM on the Third Monday of the month at the Freedom Town Hall (unless otherwise stated)**
- b. **Official Depository: Five Star Bank**
- c. **Official Payroll Service: Complete Payroll, Perry, NY**
- d. **Hourly Wages: *SEE PAGE 6***
- e. **Official Newspaper: Arcade Herald, Olean Times Herald or Pennysaver**
- f. **Mileage Rate: \$.58**
- g. **Town Doctor: Wyoming County Community Health**
- h. **Authorization for Supervisor to Pay Utilities Prior to Meetings (when necessary):**
- i. **Authorization for Supervisor to Invest Town Monies According to Investment Policy:**
- j. **Appointment of the Association of Towns Delegate-Certificate of Designation**
- k. **Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys: (Signed by Board Members)**

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept A-J assignments. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

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

VII. APPOINTMENTS

A) Appointments: (All appointments are for 1 year –ending December 31, 2023 unless otherwise noted.)

- 1. **Deputy Supervisor \$4,500/ Annual: Supervisor Dustin Bliss choose R. Nick Morgan.**
- 2. **Deputy Clerks/Collectors (\$17.50/Hr)(2): Sherry Bernard, Jessica Dart**
- 3. **Deputy to Highway Superintendent (additional \$1.00/Hr): Terry Smith**

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4. **Clerk to the Court** (\$10,500 annual salary): Gillian Koerner
5. **Constables** (\$75.00 per duty on court night and \$25.00 per hour to service papers): Robert Harrington
6. **Dog Control Officer** (\$6,000 annual salary): Don Howe
7. **Bookkeeper/Accountant** (\$17,000 annual salary): Jessica Dart
8. **Town Historian** (\$1,500 annual salary): Lorna Spencer
9. **Deputy Town Historian** (\$1,000): Sherry Bernard
10. **Town Attorney**: Shane & Firkel, P.C.
11. **Town Prosecutor** (\$250.00 per month): Robert Kutzuba
12. **Building Custodian** (\$17.50/hr): Jack Lawrence
13. **Planning Board Member: (\$500 per member), 1 opening to fill expiring 5-year term**: David Reinhard
14. **Building Code Enforcement Official: (\$16,250.00 annual salary)**
Appointed thru 2027: Patrick Cumming

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept the above appointments. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

VIII. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

- A) Building Committee (2):**
 - 1. Josh Cutler
 - 2. John Hill
- B) Highway Committee (2)**
 - 1. Dustin Bliss
 - 2. Josh Aarum
- C.) Insurance Committee (2):**
 - 1. Dustin Bliss
 - 2. Josh Aarum
- D) Parks & Recreation Committee (2):**
 - 1. R. Nick Morgan
 - 2. Josh Aarum
- E) Liaison to the Planning Board (1): Josh Cutler**

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept the above committee appointments. Second by Josh Aarum.

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

IX. POLICY UPDATES:

- A. Emergency Plan :**
- B. Fund Policy :**

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- C. Investment Policy :
- D. Pandemic Plan :
- E. Procurement Policy :
- F. Sexual Harassment Policy :
- G. Employee Handbook:

A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to accept all the above policies. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

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

X. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

General #1 to # 5, Amt. \$32,639.57, Yrly Amt. \$32,639.57.

Motion made by Dustin Bliss to accept the General vouchers as written.
Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

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

Highway # 1 to # 3, Amt. \$18,318.60, Yrly Amt. \$18,318.60.

Motion made by Dustin Bliss to accept the Highway vouchers as
written. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

XI. Councilman John Hill stated that over the last year there have been disturbances during board meetings. John said he feels this has been escalating by Rick Lange and Dan Meyers. He stated it is getting to the point there is violence pending, there has been verbal abuse. There has been abuse to all the Board Members and Supervisor, also the Town Clerk, and other members of the population, in particular John's wife. John feels something needs to be done to band those two people from attending town board meetings because it is not safe coming here anymore. John said that this job is not worth doing with the amount of money that they get paid and the abuse we take. John wanted it on record that if these people are not taken care of and band from at least speaking at a town board meeting, he will be resigning from the position early, and he will not be running again. Supervisor Dustin Bliss asked if John has done any research to see if any recourse can be taken. John stated the only recourse they can take is that his wife and himself are going to file sexual harassment suits, they can give then to the

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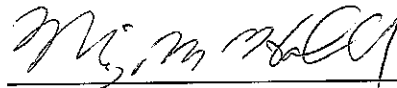
Town Clerk. Dustin stated he shares some of John's concern, especially when things have gotten heated in the past. Dustin has reached out to law authority and the town attorney to what steps the town can take. John stated that under New York State Sexual Harassment Law what they are doing with intimidation, vile language, this his is work place, and the public has a right to be here as well, and both those things fall under sexual harassment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

Dustin Bliss made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17a.m. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

Respectfully Submitted by



Freedom Town Clerk

01/11/2023

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2023

PAY SCALES FOR APPOINTED POSITIONS

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
CLERK ASSISTANTS	12.25	12.75	13.25	14.00	14.50	17.50
CUSTODIAN	12.25	12.75	13.25	14.00	14.50	17.50

ALL APPOINTED POSITIONS PAID FROM BUDGETED PERSONAL SERVICES ACCOUNTS WILL BE PAID ON ANNUAL SALARY PER BUDGETED AMOUNTS.

PAY SCALES

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

- DEPUTY HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – ADDITIONAL \$1.00/HOUR
- SECOND SHIFT (WINTER) DIFFERENTIAL **ADDITIONAL \$100.00/WEEK**