

**Town of Freedom  
Regular Board Meeting  
February 28, 2022**

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

Other Officials: Planning Board Member Lyle Morgan

Others: 12

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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

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

Town Board Meeting – From January 10, 2022

A motion was made by John Hill to accept the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2022 as submitted. Seconded by Dustin Bliss.

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

Work Session- February 15, 2022

A motion was made by R. Nick Morgan to accept the Work Session meeting minutes from February 15, 2022 as submitted. Seconded by John Hill.

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

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**Supervisor Dustin Bliss told the Board that Resolution #2 needed to be tabled. Bookkeeper Jessica Dart has been told to hold off on the Board passing this just yet, from Williamson Law Book, the accounting program company.**

**III.**

**TOWN OF FREEDOM**

RESOLUTION #1-2022

February 28, 2022

A Resolution of Approval

WHEREAS, Dustin Bliss, Town Supervisor has completed the annual checklist for review of the Justice Court Records,

AND WHEREAS, he seeks the Town Board's approval

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom, does hereby approve the annual check list as submitted.

Motion by: John Hill, Seconded by Josh Aarum

Roll call:

Aarum: Aye

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Milks: Aye

Hill: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Bliss: Abstain

Clerk: Morgan Date: 02/28/2022

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IV.

**TOWN OF FREEDOM**

RESOLUTION #2-2022

February 28, 2022

A Resolution of Approval

WHEREAS, the New York State Comptroller will no longer be recognizing the Trust and Agency (payroll account) for annual reporting,

AND WHEREAS, the payroll service needs authorization to change payroll from coming out of Trust and Agency to either General or Highway Checking accounts,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom, does hereby authorize Jessica Dart, Town of Freedom Bookkeeper, to work with Complete Payroll (payroll service) to properly change payroll checking accounts according to budget classifications. Please note, Trust and Agency account will be closed by resolution at a future date.

Motion by: \_\_\_\_\_, Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Roll call:

Morgan:

Hill:

**TABLED**

Aarum:

Milks:

Bliss:

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: //

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V.

**TOWN OF FREEDOM**

RESOLUTION #3-2022

February 28, 2022

A Resolution of Approval

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WHEREAS, we have been recommended to have separate checking accounts for each district/fund in the Town of Freedom,

AND WHEREAS, the proper distribution of such funds will help make using our new accounting software from Williamson Law Book work more effectively and report more accurate numbers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom, does hereby authorize Dustin Bliss, Freedom Supervisor and Jessica Dart, Freedom Bookkeeper, to establish the following checking accounts at Five Star Bank:

- 1) Fire District #1 – Arcade
- 2) Fire District #2 – Delevan
- 3) Fire District #3 – Farmersville
- 4) Lighting District
- 5) Safe Act Grant

These accounts will be limited to receipts and disbursements under their specified classification.

Motion by: John Hill, Seconded by Josh Aarum

Roll call:

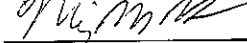
Aarum: Aye

Milks: Aye

Hill: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Bliss: Abstain

Clerk:  Date: 02/28/2022

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**VI. TOWN OF FREEDOM**

RESOLUTION #4-2022

February 28, 2022

A Resolution of Amending the 2022 Budget

WHEREAS, there was a clerical error on the 2022 Budget, that was not caught prior to its approval,

AND WHEREAS, said error must be corrected in order to submit our Annual Comptroller Report,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom, does hereby amend the 2022 Budget to include on the line A1990.4 (Special Item Contingent) the amount of \$5,650.00. This does not change any totals on page 2 of the 2022 Budget.

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Motion by: Dustin Bliss, Seconded by R. Nick Morgan

Roll call:

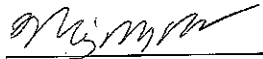
Aarum: Aye

Milks: Aye

Hill: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Bliss: Aye

Clerk:  Date: //

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**VII. Councilman Geoff Milks wrote a speech and read the following to the public:**

We live where Liberty Street leads us into our hometown of Freedom. It is more important now than ever for each of us to uphold our community's sacred namesake as Albany and the current federal administration erode our freedoms with each passing day.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Cattaraugus County Legislature for being bold enough to pave the way to declaring our County a Constitutional County and pledging their allegiance to "We the People" of Freedom, of America and the Constitution rather than the autocrats in Albany. The Legislature made a proclamation in much the same way our forefathers penned the Declaration of Independence and sent it overseas to England about 245 years ago and sparked the Revolution that led us to our current wealth, affluence and God given, unalienable rights.

As Ronald Reagan so famously stated, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

It is now time for our generation to rise to the occasion and defend our freedom and pass it on to the generations to follow. As your town councilman, I declared an Oath of Office to uphold the United States Constitution and the NYS Constitution. I did not and will never pledge my allegiance to the corruption that is happening in Albany or Washington D.C. I am honored to introduce to the residents of Freedom, a resolution that declares our independence from Albany's intrusion in our local affairs and our loyalty to the Constitution and Freedom's citizens:

**Councilman Josh Aarum wrote a speech and read the following to the public:**

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Freedom NY Speech - 2/28/22

History is doomed to repeat itself unless good men and women stand up.

We have an opportunity today to make a real stand, a real difference, and for us as a town board to make a resolution that I see as absolutely essential.

Today we have the chance to publicly commit to accountability to the people. People who shouldn't have to wonder where elected representatives really stand. Our stance should be unmistakable: power in the hands of the people. A commitment to constitutionality is commitment to individual liberties.

We look around at the world post covid and see an abundance of authoritative power grabs and tyrannical leaders changing the rules through quote unquote executive and emergency powers.

That is just not how it is supposed to work. We agreed on the rules, it is called our constitution and today we as a town draw our line in the sand and let big government know that if they try and change the rules in the middle of the game, bypassing the systems we have in place - we will not comply.

Our allegiance is to God, our Families and to the constitution and bill of rights. Not to the executive branch's whims.

And our town, the town of FREEDOM NY needs to represent this allegiance. I have had the opportunity to talk with many of our fellow citizens in this town and while we may not agree on all things the one trend that you can't help but see is the underlying heartbeat of every Freedom Resident, the desire to let freedom ring.

Our towns name may be a symbol for every American, but for us the rich history and legacy of our town goes much deeper into the idea of Freedom itself. Buried a quarter mile from where we stand now lies the remains of revolutionary war heroes. One by the name of Daniel Bakeman who not only fought in the revolutionary war, he was the last living soldier to receive his pension from the war. And was member to the longest lasting marriage in American history.

We walk on the road of patriotism and family values that these heroes of the revolution paved for us, and it is our right and our duty to carry the torch they lit 250 years ago.

What better town to take that stance than Freedom, what better time than now. We have seen what mandates look like when they roll down from Albany, and we have seen our neighbors willingly comply or lose their livelihoods. But today we take a stand, we demand that our government acts in good faith and plays by the rules that we agreed upon. Or we will not comply.

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Our kids are still masked in schools, our nurses are leaving their jobs for medical freedom, our federal workers and military men and women have been relieved for not taking a vaccine. We can disagree on many things, but we have to stand for freedom and democracy and we cannot abandon our systems for the lofty and empty promises of safety.

Thomas Jefferson once said "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither Liberty or safety.

When does it stop? It stops when good men and women stand up. And today that is what I ask this town to do. I ask the men and women of this town to support our board as we move forward to accept this resolution, and I ask the men and women of this town to support us in the days to come as we abide by it.

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**Resolution of the Town of FREEDOM,**

Supervisor- Dustin Bliss

Members of the Town Council: Josh Aarum, Geoff Milks, John Hill, & R. Nick Morgan

Clerk: Mindy Holland

DATE: 2/28/2022

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 5      YEAR: 2022

MOVED BY: Geoff Milks      SECOND BY: Josh Aarum

TITLE: DECLARING THE TOWN OF FREEDOM'S SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES & NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONS

WHEREAS, members of the Town Board of The Town of Freedom, being elected to represent the people of the Town of Freedom, are sworn by their oath of office to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the New York State Constitution and Laws, including the New York State Civil Rights Law, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Freedom supports protecting the rights provided to its citizens under the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Freedom stands and will continue to stand in strong opposition to any law that unconstitutionally restricts or infringes, its citizens' constitutional rights, and

RESOLVED, that the Town of Freedom supports and respects the Constitution of the United States of America and its amendments, and will strive to provide essential services to its citizens. Also, the Town will strive to establish an environment in which the citizens of Freedom can pursue life, liberty, and happiness unencumbered by excessive and oppressive governmental mandates and intrusions into their day-to-day lives. The goal of the government of this Town is to uphold the freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights. The Town recognizes that governments in the United States of America - at all levels - are to be restrained and limited and that the power of government resides in the people.

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RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Freedom recognizes that Government must be limited and that the people must be free from unnecessary and arbitrary Governmental overreach and intrusions.

Aye, Josh Aarum, Councilmember

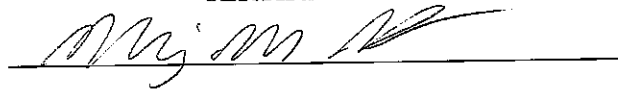
Aye, Geoff Milks, Councilmember

Aye, John Hill, Councilmember

Aye, R. Nick Morgan Councilmember

Aye, Dustin Bliss

CERTIFIED:



Town of Freedom, Clerk

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### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **A. Dog Control Officer:**

1. **Pay increase:** Supervisor Dustin Bliss stated that there needs to be a pay increase to compensate the Dog Control Officer to bring them more in line with other employees working similar hours, with somewhat similar responsibilities. Councilman Geoff Milks asked are we comparing the salaries to other towns. Councilman John Hill stated that he thought they were comparing this to the schedule of what other people in the town do, not looking at other towns. Geoff also asked about housing a dog for 5 days before turning them over to the SPCA, does the Board have any intention of paying them for the five days they are housing the dog, or is that included in the new wage? Dustin stated we need to expect them to do that. Also, any cost that occurs in the job is reimbursable, whether it is proper tool for the job, or care for the animal. Geoff stated by the sounds the SPCA would like them to hold the dog for days prior to taking them to the SPCA. Dustin stated he thinks there is some conflicting information, but the Dog Control officer should know that they must hold the dog for some period of time, and not just turn the dog in. Dustin would like to vote on increasing the annual salary to \$6,000.00 a year. There will be a proper resolution for the next Board Meeting because it is amending the budget.

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to go into executive session at 7:19 pm for the purpose of employment matters. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to close the executive session and reopen the regular board meeting at 7:34 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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**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to appoint Don Howe as the Dog Control Officer for the remainder of 2022, term ending December 31. Seconded by John Hill.**

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

**B. Procurement Policy:** Supervisor Dustin Bliss stated that they revisions had been made that were talked about at the Work Session in February. The Board made a procurement policy to outline how all goods and services that should be procured, and the approval process for those to go through. The new Procurement Policy for the Town of Freedom has been made and is available at the Town Clerks office.

**Dustin Bliss made a motion to adopt the Procurement Policy as proposed. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

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

**C. Investment Policy:** Supervisor Dustin Bliss would like to have a Work Session on this in April. He would like to meet up with Matt Keller the Cattaraugus County Treasure, and Beth Nowak from Five Star Bank to see if the bank is willing to give us the same Investment Policy that Cattaraugus County has.

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to have a Work Session on April 18, at 6:00pm to work on the Investment Policy. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

**D. Agreement for the Expenditure of Highway Moneys: This was agreed on at the Reorganizational meeting, (Needs to be Signed by all Board Members)**

## **IX. New Business**

**A.) On January 10, 2022 at the last Regular Board Meeting, Planning Board Member Dan Meyers resigned after the meeting:**

**A motion was made by John Hill to except the resignation of Dan Meyers from the Planning Board. Seconded by Dustin Bliss.**

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

Supervisor Dustin Bliss asked Town Clerk Mindy Holland to get this position posted in the Arcade Herald. The Planning Board will get all applications or letters of interest to decide who they feel fit for the position. The Town Board will then approve it.

**A motion was made by Dustin Bliss to post the vacancy of the Planning Board in the Arcade Herald and the Arcade Pennysaver to have all application, or interested parties submit their letter of interest by April 7, 2022. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

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



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**B. Comprehensive Plan Survey:** The Planning Board would like to send a survey to the residents of the Town, asking a streamline of questions. The Planning Board would also like to advertise this to let the residents know it's coming in the mail. They would also want to make the survey available online.

**John Hill made a motion that the Town Board supports the Planning Board and the Comprehensive Plan, to send out surveys to the Town Residents. Seconded by Dustin Bliss.**

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

**C. Old Phones, Old Computers, Computer monitors:** Councilmen R. Nick Morgan is waiting for information from a company that will drop off a container that the town can fill with old town electronics that are no longer usable. Town Clerk Mindy Holland has been asked if there is a way we could do a container like this for the residents of Freedom during junk days at Preivity's or could we have one dropped off at the Town Hall a few times a year for the residents. Nick will ask them about a public one, but he would like to get rid of our old electronics first.

**D. Supervisor Dustin Bliss stated that the old Excavator the Town was offered \$27,000.00 for trade.** The Town of Farmersville offered \$30,000.00 to buy it and it was passed in a board meeting. Dustin talked to Town Attorney Eric Finkel and he stated that it's from one Municipality to another it's up to the Board discretion. Councilmen John Hill stated if we are not required to do sealed bids, then it makes good sense to do good will and accept the offer from the Town of Farmersville.

**John Hill made a motion to accept the offer of \$30,000.00 from the Town of Farmersville. Seconded by Dustin Bliss.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, John Hill, R. Nick Morgan, & Supervisor Dustin Bliss  
Nays-1 Geoff Milks**

**E. Supervisor Dustin Bliss said that the Town needs to sell the John Deere tractor with the mounted brush hog.** The Town of Franklinville does want the complete unit. Dustin feels it's worth more than the excavator. Also, there was no trade in value for this piece of equipment. The Town can either put this on Auction International or get sealed bids. Councilmen John Hill stated if they don't get what they wanted with seal bids, then they will sell it on Auctions International. The Board decided to have a Special Meeting to open bids on March 28, 2022.

**John Hill made a motion to do sealed bids, and advertised in the Olean Times Herald, the Arcade Herald and possibly some State publication, they need to be received by March 28, 2022. Seconded by Josh Aarum.**

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

**Dustin Bliss made a motion to have a Special Board Meeting on March 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm to review sealed bids on the sale of John Deere mowing tractor and brush hog. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

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

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**F. Cameras for the Park:** R. Nick Morgan found some cellular trail cameras, two pack for \$200.00, they also work with Verizon. There is a metal security box that comes with it. These run-on double A batteries. Nick included an option for a second battery pack that charges by a small solar panel. Once set up the cameras sends the first 100 pictures free to a Verizon device, if the Board wants every picture its \$10.00 a month per camera.

**Dustin Bliss made a motion to buy the trail cameras with the solar batteries, and do the \$10.00 a month plan on each camera. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

**G. Town Credit Card:** Supervisor Dustin Bliss will have to set up a Town Credit Card with Five Star Bank.

**A motion was made by R. Nick Morgan for Supervisor Dustin Bliss to go to the bank and set up a credit card. Seconded by John Hill.**

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

**H. iPad for the Board and Clerk:** R. Nick Morgan said the best way to spend the money would be to go with iPad. They are \$449.00 each, for government prices. The keyboards are about \$150.00 each. It is about \$600.00 per device, and we need 6. It is around \$3,600.00 altogether. This is to save on paper, the board packet would be available to them on the devices and they could look back at files as needed. Nick made it clear they should be made for town business only.

**A motion was made by John Hill to purchase 6 iPads with keyboard for \$3,600.00. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

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

**I. Code Outreach Program:** This needs to be tabled till next month because it stated that the town has to work with the Town Attorney. They will need to review the Code Enforcement that the State has passed along.

**X. Public Comment:** NO PUBLIC COMMENT

**XI. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A) Assessors –Repost Submitted
- B) Building Committee –
- C) Building Inspector – Report Submitted.
- D) Highway Superintendent – Report Submitted
- E) Clerk/Collector –Report Submitted
- F) Constable –

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- G) DCO –
- H) Highway Committee –
- I) Justices –
- J) Parks & Recreation –
- K) Planning Board – January Minutes Submitted
- L) Supervisor –Report Submitted
- M) Other Town Officials –

Freedom Senior Citizens card to the Freedom Town Board:

**A motion to accept the reports & communications as submitted was made by Dustin Bliss.  
Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

**XII. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:**

General #24 to # 55, Amt. \$ 11,554.06, Yrly Amt. \$97,017.40.

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

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

Highway #12 to #22, Amt. \$26,264.01, Yrly Amt. 62,625.96.

**Motion made by Dustin Bliss to accept the Highway vouchers as submitted. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

**John Hill made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Seconded by Geoff Milks.**

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

Respectfully Submitted by,



Freedom Town Clerk

03/02/2022