

**Town of Freedom
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 16, 2026**

Board Members Present: Josh Aarum, Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler

Other Officials: Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty and
Planning Board Member Lyle Morgan

Others:2

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Supervisor Josh Cutler.

I. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Led by Supervisor Josh Cutler

II. Executive Session to discuss potential candidates for Town Board:

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to close the Regular Board Meeting and open an Executive Session at 7:01 pm. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to close the Executive Session and open the Regular Board Meeting at 7:23 pm. Seconded by Denise Willard.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler

III. Filling the vacant Town Board position:

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to accept Cory Higgins to fill the vacancy on the Town Board, the term will expire on December 31, 2026. Seconded by Denise Willard.

Roll Call: Ayes-4 Josh Aarum, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler

IV. OATH OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILMAN S.R. CORY HIGGINS

V. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Town Board Meeting – From January 19, 2026

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to accept the Regular Board Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2026, as submitted. Seconded by Denise Willard.

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**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

VI. TOWN OF FREEDOM

RESOLUTION #2-2026

February 16, 2026

A Resolution of Approval

WHEREAS, Joshua Cutler, 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: Josh Aarum, Seconded by Denise Willard

Roll call:

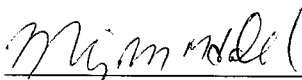
Aarum: Aye

Higgins: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Willard: Aye

Cutler: Abstain

Clerk:  Date: 2/16/2026

VII. TOWN OF FREEDOM

RESOLUTION # 3-2026

February 16, 2026

A resolution authorizing the Records Management Officer to dispose of certain records.

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WHEREAS, the State of New York Education Department has established a Disposition Schedule for Archives Record Retention identified as Schedule MU-1, which is a guideline for the disposal of certain records, and

WHEREAS, said Schedule MU-1 identifies the following records of the Town of Freedom as being disposable:

- 1) General Vouchers – 2016-2019
- 2) Highway Vouchers – 2015-2019
- 3) Monthly Reports to the Town Board – 2015-2019
- 4) Tax Collector Receipts/Slips – 2016-2019
- 5) Bank Records – Clerk, DEC, and Tax Collector – 2016-2019
- 6) Bank Records – Supervisor – 2016-2019
- 7) Insurance Policies – 2014-2019
- 8) Tentative Assessment Rolls – 2018-2019
- 9) Final Assessment Rolls – 2013-2016
- 10) Handicap Parking Tags – 2018-2019

WHEREAS, the Records Management Officer of the Town of Freedom has identified the aforementioned documents to be available for disposal.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town Board of the Town of Freedom does hereby authorize the Records Management Officer to dispose of the previously identified records in accordance with accepted practices.

Motion by: Josh Cutler, Seconded by Denise Willard

Roll call:

Aarum: Aye

Higgins: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Willard: Aye

Cutler: Aye

Clerk:  Date: 2/16/2026

VIII. TOWN OF FREEDOM

RESOLUTION #4-2026
2026

February 16,

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A Resolution transferring funds in the General Fund accounts to close end of year
2025 retro-active correction . . .

The Town Board of the Town of Freedom, pursuant to Town Law Section 112, Paragraph
1 wishes to:

Transfer funds from: A1120 (Non Property County sales Tax), a surplus in the amount of
\$5,000.10

To: A1420.4 (Attorney Contractual Expenditures) in the amount of \$5,000.00
A8010.4 (Building Inspector Contractual Expenditures) in the amount of \$0.10

Total - \$5,000.10

Motion by: Josh Cutler, Seconded by: Denise Willard

Roll call:

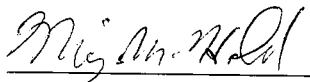
Aarum: Aye

Higgins: Aye

Morgan: Aye

Willard: Aye

Cutler: Aye

Clerk:  Date: 2/16/2026

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Filling the vacant Planning Board position:

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to accept John Bauer to fill the vacancy
expiring December 31, 2026. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

X. New Business:

- 1.) Freedom Clean Up - Set Date, Time, and Place, also Postcards:** Supervisor
Josh Cutler stated that he has been getting a quote for postcards to send one to all
the taxpayers to tell them the dates of junk days. Highway Superintendent said
that we always have ads put in the paper, there are flyers placed at the Sandusky

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One Stop, Post Office and the Town Hall, there are signs placed all over the town and it's always the same weekend, the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. Councilman Josh Aarum asked how much are post cards. Josh C. told him that it was about \$150.00. The board decided no postcards. Councilman S.R. Cory Higgins suggested that maybe we could put a bigger sign in high traffic areas. Jim said that a bigger sign at the welcome to Freedom signs on both ends of Route 98, and one at the end of Eagle Street. Josh A. suggested making the signs funny to get attention. Josh will design a sign, he will get 5 signs, to put around town.

Town Clerk Mindy Holland confirmed with Jim that anything that still has freon will have a \$15.00 charge.

A motion was made by Josh Cutler for Freedom Clean up days to be May 15 & May 16 between the times of 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, and location will be Preivity's Auto Wrecking. Seconded by Denise Willard.

Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard, & Supervisor Josh Cutler

2) Discussion on Oil Furnace: Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty told the board that the new furnace is running great and that the old furnace was supposed to be a spare. The old one is around 15 years old. Jim can get a new reman burner for \$2,000 but it is still an old furnace or get a new furnace for \$25,000. Jim said that the old one would have been spare one, but it's not in good shape. Another option is just keeping the new furnace, and then put electric in. To put electric heaters in you have to look at the panels to make sure they will be able to handle the heaters. Councilman R. Nick Morgan said that he does not mind a reman for the short term, they will have to figure out a new one financially. Councilwoman Denise Willard asked what size would be needed for the building. Councilman S. R. Cory Higgins asked if they had ever run the heaters in tandem. Jim said no, because this would have been the first year they had two, then the old one quit. Jim said to run them tandem would make a difference. Supervisor Josh Cutler recommends a reman head just for a secondary head. Nick said then they can explore secondary heat and budget it appropriately. Nick would like to see how the two heaters run in tandem to get an idea of how they work. Nick agrees with Josh to get one head for now.

3) Stipend for Town Clerk Mindy Holland for doing DCO job while DCO was out of country:

Josh Cutler made a motion to compensate \$160.00 to Town Clerk Mindy Holland with the time coming out of DCO account. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

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**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan,
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4) Town of Freedom Signs: Supervisor Josh Cutler stated that the Town of Freedom sign on California Hill RD is hanging by bottom bolt. Highway Superintendent asked if all the Town of Freedom signs should be changed. Josh C. said if we got new signs, he would like the wording changed and the right to farm be added. Jim said we can do both “Right to Farm” and “Building Permit Required” Councilman R. Nick Morgan suggested asking Invenergy to pay for new signs for the town. Jim said 12 new signs would be about \$60.00 each. Nick also recommended that they also say established in 1807. Josh asked Jim to get a list of signs and a quote.

5) Light at Cheney and Brown School House RD: There has been a letter sent, and calls. The light remains out and NYSEG has not fixed this light yet.

XII. Public Comment : No Comments

XIII. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

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

Town Clerk Mindy Holland wanted to let the public know that there was an issue with the Escrow company. The escrow money got taken out of individual accounts mid-January, but the checks did not get sent out till the 28th of January. It was sent by USPS normally its UPS. It was two days express. The Escrows sat in Buffalo from January 30 and did not get delivered till February 4. The Clerk cannot process tax bills till payments are in her hands.

- F) Constable –
- G) DCO -Report Submitted
- H) Highway Committee –
- I) Justices –
- J) Parks & Recreation –
- K) Planning Board –
- L) Supervisor –Reports for December and January Submitted
- M) Other Town Officials –

A motion to accept the reports & communications as submitted was made by Josh Cutler. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan

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**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan,
Denise Willard & Supervisor Josh Cutler**

XIV. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

General #30 to # 52, Amt. \$8,304.09, Yrly Amt . \$70,637.54.

**Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the General vouchers as
submitted. Seconded by Josh Aarum.**

**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

Highway #17 to #26, Amt. \$13,975.52, Yrly Amt. \$180,854.50.

**Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the Highway vouchers as
submitted. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.**

**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

Lighting District #2 to #2, Amt. \$482.83, Yrly Amt. \$883.33.

**Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the Lighting District vouchers as
submitted. Seconded by Josh Aarum.**

**Roll Call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

**Josh Cutler made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Seconded by
Nick Morgan.**

**Roll call: Ayes-5 Josh Aarum, S. R. Cory Higgins, R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard,
& Supervisor Josh Cutler**

Respectfully Submitted by,



Freedom Town Clerk

02/23/2026