Town of Freedom
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 19, 2026

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

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

Others: 3

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

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

II. SWEARING IN COUNCILMAN JOSH AARUM:

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

A) Town Board Meeting –Reorganizational Meeting – January 5, 2026

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to accept the Meeting Minutes as submitted. Seconded by Denise Willard.

Roll Call: Aye: 3 R. Nick Morgan, Denise Willard, & Supervisor Josh Cutler
Abstain: Josh Aarum

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IV. Audit Declaration Annual Audit:

Supervisor books got postponed from January 5, 2026, Reorganization meeting because the lack of a quorum:

Supervisor books:

A motion was made by Josh Aarum to accept the Supervisor's annual records as presented. Seconded by Denise Willard

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

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Candidates for Planning Board Position and Town Board Position:** Councilman R. Nick Morgan and Supervisor Josh Cutler will interview the candidates interested in the position.

B. Mortgage Tax:

A motion was made by Josh Cutler to transfer the unspent funds in the amount of $2,341,121.27 to a CD at Five Star Bank for seven months. Seconded by R. Nick Morgan.

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

C. **Plowing across the road**: Highway Superintendent Jim Haggerty said it's illegal per New York State Law to plow across a road. When people push snow across into a ditch it plugs the ditch and causes problems. Jim would like to know if the Town would get sued if the Town does not notify someone to stop pushing snow from their driveway across the road and someone driving down the road hits a pile of snow that is in the roadway from an individual pushing snow from their driveway across the road.
Also there has been an issue with a resident parking on the sidewalk on Route 98. Jim would like him to get a ticket. Jim talked to the person and wrote notes and placed them on his windows. It has become a safty issue for the Highway crew that is plowing the sidewalk because they must drive out on 98 with the tractor to go around the car that is illegally parked on the sidewalk. The board will have the Town Constable give a warning and if he does not comply then a ticket will be issued.

D. Assessors' new hours- every Wednesday 9am -11 am, January and February, starting in March they will be at the Town Hall one Wednesday a month, no further info is available at this time.

VI. Public Comments:

Gary Chamberlain: Asked why there is an empty seat on the board, he stated with an election being just this past November. Supervisor Josh Cutler stated because he was elected to the Supervisor position, it opened his Councilman seat.

VIII. REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS:

A) Assessors –Report Submitted
B) Building Committee –
C) Building Inspector – Report Submitted
D) Highway Superintendent – Report Submitted
E) Clerk/Collector – Report Submitted
F) Constable –
G) DCO –
H) Highway Committee –
I) Justices –

J) Parks & Recreation –
K) Planning Board –
L) Supervisor –Report for January will be submitted for the February Meeting because there needs to be some clarification on certain items from the State Controller. Bookkeeper Jessica Dart is working on this.
M) Other Town Officials – **Wendel Group Reports from 12/18/2025-12/22/2025**

A motion to accept the reports & communications as submitted was made by Josh Cutler. Seconded by Denise Willard

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

IX. APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

General #6 *to #29, Amt. $25,646.59, Yrly Amt.$62,333.45.*

Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the General vouchers as submitted. Seconded by Denise Willard.

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

Highway # 4 to #16, Amt.$29,812.33, Yrly Amt. $166,878.98.

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

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

Lighting District #1 to # 1, Amt.$400.50, Yrly Amt. $400.50.

Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the Lighting District voucher as submitted. Seconded by Denise Willard.

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

Delevan Fire District # 1 to # 1, Amt. $13,000.00, Yrly Amt.$13,000.00.

Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the Delevan Fire District voucher as submitted. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

Farmersville Fire District # 1 to # 1, Amt.$27,000.00, Yrly Amt. $27,000.00.

Motion made by Josh Cutler to accept the Farmersville Fire District voucher as submitted. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT:

Josh Cutler made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Josh Aarum.

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

Respectfully Submitted By

Freedom Town Clerk
01/21/2026