**TOWN WARRANT**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**TOWN OF LIBERTY**

To: **Nicole Gates**, Resident of the Town of Liberty, in the County of Waldo, the State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Liberty in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to meet at the **Liberty Community Hall** in said Town, on **Saturday, the 29th day of March, 2025 at 9:00** in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLES**

**ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

1. To elect by a written ballot a moderator to preside at said meeting- *Andrew Worchester nominated and elected as moderator by written ballot.*
2. To elect a First Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. *(Melinda Steeves’ term is ending) Melinda Steves nominated Theresa Butler as first selectman, Duane Jewett seconded. None opposed – Theresa Butler is officially first selectman.*
3. To elect the following positions:
   1. Fire Chief (one year)*.- Bill Gillespie was nominated by Tammy Reynolds and seconded by Elise Brown*
   2. Road Commissioner (one year)- *Tammy Reynolds was nominated by Joe Meadows and seconded by Elise Brown (correction made 7.29.25)*
4. To elect a Budget Committee not to exceed 8 members to assist the Selectboard by meeting periodically with the Selectboard and Treasurer to review the financial accounts of the Town and assist in budgeting town funds.

*The current members are: Theresa Butler, Jane Liebler, Kristine Gorman,*

*Ken Wunderle, Dana Philippi, Joe Meadows, Peter Beckford.*

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to transfer unexpended balances to any account requiring said funds for the purpose of balancing accounts.
2. To fix compensation, from taxation, for the following Town Official positions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Officials** | *2025 Budget* | **Budget Committee Request**  **FY26** |
| Select Board | *$15,000.00* | ~~$16,000.00~~ |
| Town Adminstrator | *$20,800.00* | $21,840.00 |
| Tax Collector | *$3,000.00* | $5,000.00 |
| Town Clerk | *$39,750.00* | $35,000.00 |
| Benefits | *(new line)* | $6,000.00 |
| Deputy Clerk | *$10,000.00* | $10,000.00 |
| Registrar of Voters | *$1,000.00* | $1,500.00 |
| Treasurer | *$10,000.00* | ~~$10,000.00~~ |
| Deputy Treasurer | *$2,000.00* | *(combined with Deputy line)* |
| Fire Chief | *$9,500.00* | $9,500.00 |
| Emergency Management | *$1,500.00* | $1,500.00 |
| Road Commissioner | *$10,000.00* | $10,000.00 |
| Code Enforcement | *$5,250.00* | $5,250.00 |
| 100-75 Plumbing Inspector | *$500.00* | $500.00 |
| Animal Control Officer | *$4,000.00* | $4,000.00 |
| E911 Address Coordinator | *$1,000.00* | $1,500.00 |
|  | *$133,300.00* | **$137,590.00** |

*Theresa Butler makes a motion to change select boards pay from $16K to $15K, Tammy Reynolds seconded all approved passes at $15k.*

*Tammy Reynolds started a discussion on raising the treasurer pay since Hannah will be leaving and we need extra money to attract someone and to pay the new person plus Hannah to train, questions were raised about the type of position and the hours and if someone must be certified. Bill Gillespie also said that ambulances would raise their contribution to help make it a more attractive position.*

*Tammy Reynolds made a motion to raise the treasurer to $20K, Theresa Butler seconded the motion, passes- total being 146590$*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation, for the following accounts:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Accounts** | *2025 Budget* | **Budget Committee Request FY26** |
| Legal Services | *$2,000.00* | $2,000.00 |
| Assessing Agent | *$10,125.00* | $10,125.00 |
| Software and Computer Services | *$15,500.00* | $18,000.00 |
| Tax Mapping | *$3,500.00* | $3,500.00 |
| Insurance | *$25,000.00* | $25,000.00 |
| Tri County Contract | *$29,325.00* | $33,203.00 |
| General Administration | *$35,000.00* | $35,000.00 |
| Streetlights | *$3,300.00* | $3,300.00 |
| General Assistance | *$2,000.00* | $2,000.00 |
| Payroll Expenses | *$13,000.00* | $13,000.00 |
| Planning Board | *$3,000.00* | $3,000.00 |
| Town Building Snow Shoveling | *$600.00* | $600.00 |
| Office Equipment Reserve | *$3,600.00* | $2,000.00 |
| Community Hall Reserve | *$1,000.00* | $1,000.00 |
| EMA Supplies | *$250.00* | $250.00 |
| **Totals** | *$147,200.00* | **$151,978.00** |

*Tammy Reynolds started a discussion about lowering the assessing agent to $0 since she believes they are not doing their job. Others talked about how it would be hard to replace them and the selectboard doesn’t have the bandwidth, Elise Brown made a comment to leave the money and have selectboard research and decide what can be done to make things better.*

*Tammy Reynolds requested this be voted on by written ballot.*

*Lori Mayer made a motion to leave it at $10125.00 and Judy Fuller seconded. Everyone voted via a written ballot. Passes with 52 Yes votes and 16 No votes.*

1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to take a loan in anticipation of taxes, as necessary, for the purpose of paying Town obligations.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes*

1. To see what sum if any, the Town will raise and appropriate for interest on any ~~tax anticipation note~~ Loan taken out for the purpose of paying Town obligations.

*Recommend: $4,000.00 from Property Tax Interest.*

*Melinda Steeves accepts as re-written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes – updated wording*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation to complete mold remediation and fix the leak and address **drainage issues** in the Town Office.

**The Budget Committee recommends $12,500***.*

**Tammy Reynolds started a discussion about when we stop dumping money into the building, talked about the drainage that needs to happen instead of interior repairs***.*

*Melinda Steeves accepts as re-written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes updated wording*

1. To see if the Town will authorize the creation of a designated Maintenance Reserve Account to pay for necessary maintenance to Town buildings. Take any unspent money from building and maintenance and put in reserve acct.

**The Budget Committee recommends $15,000***.*

*Theresa Butler accepts as re- written, Tammy Reynolds seconded- Passes updated wording*

1. To see if the Town will move and vote to adopt the updated General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices as suggested and prepared by Maine Municipal Association in September 2024. Copies of the proposed ordinance and appendices are available at the Town Office.

*Judy Fuller accepts as written, Danny McGovern seconded- Passes*

**LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to operate the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, pay Fire Department volunteer firefighters while on the job, and contribute to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***2025 Budget*** | **Budget Committee Request FY2026** |
| Fire Department Operations | *$ 60,000* | $60,000 |
| Fire Department Payroll Expenses | *$ 25,000* | $25,000 |
| Fire Department Capital Reserve | *$ 25,000* | $25,000 |
| **TOTAL** | *$110,000* | **$110,000** |

*Tammy Reynolds accepts as written, Elise Brown seconded- Passes*

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Operations account to the LVFD Capital Reserve account.

*Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Luther Thorton seconded- Passes*

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Payroll Account to the LVFD Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

*Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Luther Thorton seconded- Passes*

1. To see if the Town will use any donations to the LVFD to offset LVFD Operations or Payroll budget overruns and add any surplus to the LVFD Capital Reserve account.

*Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Luther Thorton seconded- Passes*

**AMBULANCE SERVICE**

1. To see if the Town will allow the Treasurer to accept and use revenue from Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service billing to pay Liberty ~~Fire &~~ Rescue expenses.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Judy Fuller seconded- Passes – Bill Gillespie asks that we take out the word “Fire” as it is for Liberty Rescue.*

1. To see if the Town will appropriate from Liberty Fire & Rescue revenue $50,000 for expenses for FY26*. Elise Brown accepts as written, Kristine Gorman seconded- Passes*
2. To see if the Town will accept funds from other Municipalities (Palermo and Montville) to defray the cost of payroll expenses. *Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Luther Thorton seconded- Passes*
3. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate funds, from taxation, $80,500 to be used for payroll and training expenses for Liberty Fire & Rescue.*Elise Brown accepts as written, Theresa Butler seconded- Passes*

**HIGHWAYS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate taxation for the Roads and Bridges accounts to be used for the maintenance, sand/salt and snowplowing of contracted Town roads and to be used as Town matching funds for any FEMA/MEMA grants received in FY26. *Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Luther Thorton seconded- passes*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Roads and Bridges** | *2025 Budget* | **Budget Committee Recommendation FY2026** |
| RDB Maintenance | *$60,000.00* | $60,000.00 |
| Road Signs | *$1,000.00* | $1,000.00 |
| Paving | *$204,024.00* | $178,000.00 |
| Salt and Sand | *$60,000.00* | $60,000.00 |
| Snow Plowing | *$206,700.00* | $214,500.00 |
| Parking Enforcement | *$3,000.00* | $3,000.00 |
| **Totals** | *$534,724.00* | **$516,500.00** |

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the RDB Maintenance, and Salt & Sand Accounts to the Paving Capital Reserve account. *Theresa Butler accepts as written, Dorthy Thorton seconded- passes*
2. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, to be used to rectify Snow Plowing Contract discrepancy. **Requested amount: $39,000.** *Tammy Reynolds accepts as written, Joe Meadows seconded- passes*
3. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, to be used to assure proper operation of the Lake St. George and Stevens Pond dams.

**Budget Committee Recommendation: $1,000.**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Dorthy Thorton seconded- Passes*

*Tammy Reynolds would like to revisit question 24 and amend the amount to $1.00. Joe Meadows seconded- Passes at $1.00*

**RECREATION ACCOUNT**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following recreation requests:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2025 Budget* | Budget Committee Request FY26 |
| Recreational Requests | *$3,100.00* | ~~$1,500.00~~ |
| Mowing | *$4,900.00* | $4,900.00 |
| Town Parks | *$2,350.00* | $1,550.00 |
| Totals | *$10,350.00* | $7,950.00 |

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Duane Jewett seconded, Barb Reymeyer would like to make a amendment to raise recreation $1000.00- Tammy Renolds Seconded- Recreation would be $2500.00. Passes*

1. To see if the Town will accept reimbursements from the Town of Montville for maintenance of the recreation area. Montville has been formally requested to raise $3,000 for this account.*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes*
2. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine for Recreational Account. *Dana Philippi accepts, as written, Sheila Fountain seconded- Passes*

**LIBERTY LIBRARY**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to help support the operation of the Liberty Library.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | *2025 Budget* | Budget Committee Request FY26 |
| Liberty Library Operations | *$ 15,000* | ~~$ 13,500~~ $17,000 |

*Julie Beckford made a motion to amend the amount from 15k to 17k Dorothy Thorton accepts the amendment Tammy Reynolds seconded- passes as 17K*

**SPECIAL FUNDS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation for the principle in the Willard Overlock Memorial Scholarship account.

*(Request is $1500, Budget Committee Recommendation is $0).*

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, - discussion started about we should be able to pay for 1 student per year on the interest that is accruing we shouldn’t be funding the account. Amended to $0- Theresa Butlers accepts then amendment, Tammy Reynolds seconded passes at 0$*

**MILEAGE**

1. To see what rate the Town will vote to authorize as travel expenses for essential travel by any Town Official when such travel is on town business, out of town and Code Enforcement Officer on town business in town, to be paid from the Administration Account. **Recommendation:** Adopt State Standard Mileage Rate: Current rate $.56/mile

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes*

**SOCIAL REQUESTS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation for the following:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Program** | **Request** | **Budget Committee Suggestion** |
| Winslow Community Cupboard | open | $0.00 |
| Waldo Community Action Partners | $7,015 | $4,724.00 |
| Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County | $500 | $500.00 |
| Waldo County Woodshed | $1,000 | $1,000.00 |
| Waldo County YMCA | $500 | $500.00 |
| Waldo County Pet Food Pantry | $500 | $500.00 |
| Waldo County Bounty | $200 | $200.00 |
| Belfast Area Childcare Services | $500 | $500.00 |
| Liberty Historical Society | $2,700 | $2,700.00 |
| Citizens Association of Liberty Lakes | $800 | $800.00 |
| Midcoast Conservancy | $1,500 | $0.00 |
| Sweetser | $500 | $500.00 |
| New Hope Midcoast | $1,000 | $1,000.00 |
| Life Flight | $934 | $0.00 |
| **Total:** | $17,649 | **$12,924.00** |

*Kristine Gorman would like to amend the Historical Society amount back to $500, Theresa Butler seconded the motion, Gail Philippi would like to amend the amount for the historical society back to $2700.00 this money is going to be used to fix up the building and repair the roof. Call to vote- Passes at $2700.00*

*Article passes at a total of $12924.00*

**DEBT SERVICE**

32. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following loans:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | ***2025 Budget*** | **Budget Committee Request FY26** |
| Fire Truck Bond | *$33,710.27* | $33,710.00 |
| Energy Efficiency Bond | *$13,950.00* | $13,950.00 |
| Energy Efficiency - Overage | *$2,427.00* | --- |
| **TOTAL** | *$50,087.27* | $47,660.00 |

*Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Duane Jewett seconded- Passes*

**PROPERTY TAXES**

1. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable to the Tax Collector immediately upon Commitment and:
   1. To see if the Town will determine that the first half of taxes not paid 30 days after Commitment are considered delinquent and second payment delinquent 1 day after due date. **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steves accepts as written, Theresa Butler seconded- Passes*
   2. To see what sum of interest the Town will vote to charge on all liens and delinquent taxes. **Recommendation: 6%** (The maximum rate of interest that may be charged: 8.5%) *Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Cindy Frost seconded- Passes*
   3. To see if the Town will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount more than that finally assessed shall be repaid the amount of the overpayment plus interest from date of the overpayment at an annual rate set 4% below that established in the preceding Article. **Recommendation: 2%** *Theresa Butler accepts as written, Dorthy Thorton seconded- Passes*
   4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize any action necessary, by the Selectboard and Treasurer, to collect any delinquent taxes outstanding for prior years; and to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired for non-payment of taxes thereon, using terms as deemed advisable, by the Selectboard and the State, authorize execution of Quit-Claim deeds for such property sold, and that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S \_\_943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Sheila Fountain seconded- Passes*
   5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2026-27 year not yet committed. **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steeves accepts as written, Sheila Fountain seconded- Passes*
   6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of tax abatements and applicable interest from the property tax overlay account. *Cindy Frost accepts as written, Theresa Butler seconded- Passes*
2. To see if the Town will accept and carry over any Education Block Grants, Emergency Protective Measure Grants, FEMA Grants, State Revenue Sharing and any other funds as may be available to be used toward Budget appropriations. **Recommendation: pass**

*Dana Philippi accepts as written, Sheila Fountain seconded- Passes*

1. Should a vacancy in any elected office arise during the Town Meeting, to vote for a replacement of said official. **Recommendation: pass**

*Dorthy Thorton accepts as written, Barb Reymeyer seconded- Passes*

1. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Liberty by State law in the event that the FY26 Municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. (Vote must be by written ballot.) **Recommendation: pass**

*Nicole Gates makes a motion to pass by this article, Judy Fuller seconded- Passes*

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, Duane Jewett seconded. all in favor*

**GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS 17th DAY OF MARCH 2025**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Melinda Steeves, First Selectman**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Danny McGovern, Second Selectman**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Duane Jewett, Third Selectman**

**A True Copy: Attest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lindsey Pottle, Clerk, Town of Liberty, Maine**