***TOWN WARRANT***

**STATE OF MAINE**

**TOWN OF LIBERTY**

***To:*** Henry Hall, Resident of the Town of Liberty, in the County of Waldo, and 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**, 3 Serenity Lane, off Pinnacle Rd. in said Town, on **Saturday, the 28th day of March, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.** in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

*9:20 am Town Clerk Gail Philippi announced the new voting procedure and called the meeting to order.*

**ARTICLES:**

### ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS

1. To elect by written ballot a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*Warren (Bud) Steeves nominated Andrew Worcester, Judy Fuller seconded. Andrew Worcester elected by written ballot, 3-0.*

*Boy Scouts lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Richard and Maria King spoke about enacting a local foods ordinance for Liberty. Senator Mike Thibodeau thanked the citizens of Liberty and said that it had been 90 years since Maine has had a senate president from Waldo County. Sue Pelletier, representing Liberty Gardeners, said that her report was not in the Annual Report. Barbara Worcester of the Ivan O. Davis Liberty Library said they were holding a game afternoon on Sunday.*

1. To establish town office hours as follows:

Monday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

*Dana Philippi made a motion to accept the article as read, Hannah Hatfield seconded. Pass.*

1. To elect the following positions:

* 1. Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Town Agent; (one year)
* *Dana Philippi nominated Gail Philippi, Bob Kohl seconded. Philippi elected.*
* 2. Treasurer; (one year)
* *Dana Philippi nominated Betsey Davis, Lloyd Chase seconded. Davis elected.*
* 3. Fire Chief; (one year)
* *Dana Philippi nominated Bill Gillespie, Elise Brown seconded. Gillespie elected.*
* 4. Road Commissioner (one year)
* *Dana Philippi nominated Tammy Reynolds, Bud Steeves seconded. Reynolds elected.*
* 5. School Board Representative (3 years)
* *Dana Philippi nominated Kathy Eikenberg, Judi Fuller seconded, Eikenberg declined. Philippi withdrew the nomination. HL Whitney nominated Lloyd Chase, Dana Philippi seconded, Chase declined. Whitney withdrew the nomination. Steve Chapin made a motion to pass the article by, Pam Chase seconded. Steeves, responding to the question of what happens if the vacancy is not filled, said that the Selectmen will appoint someone. Cindy Frost nominated Richard Frost. Chapin withdrew the motion to pass by. Frost spoke of his work in ME, PA and CT school systems as school psychologist and guidance counselor. D. Philippi made a motion that nominations cease, P. Chase seconded the nomination of Frost. Frost elected.*

1. To elect a Second Selectman to serve on the Board of Selectmen, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term.

*Bud Steeves nominated Steve Chapin, Chapin accepted the nomination. J. Fuller motioned that nominations cease. D. Philippi seconded the nomination. Chapin elected.*

1. To elect a Budget Committee not to exceed 7 members to assist the Selectmen by meeting periodically with the Board of Selectmen and Treasurer to review financial accounts of the Town and assisting in budgeting town funds.

**Selectmen Recommendation: Elect current board.**

*Duane Jewett speaking on behalf of Steve Jewett declined the nomination. Barbara Worcester nominated Barry Worcester. D. Philippi made a motion to elect the current board without Jewett and adding Worcester, Barbara Rehmeyer seconded. 7 members of the Board elected.*

1. To fix compensation, from taxation, for the following positions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Selectmen Recommendation** | **Budget Committee Recommendation** |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Town Agent | 26,000.00 | 26,000.00 |
| Town Administrator | 15,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| First Selectman |  | 5,500.00 |
| Second Selectman |  | 5,000.00 |
| Third Selectman |  | 5,000.00 |
| Treasurer | 6,500.00 | 6,500.00 |
| Code Enforcement Officer | 5,250.00 | 5,250.00 |
| Fire Chief | 5,250.00 | 5,250.00 |
| Road Commissioner | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Animal Control Officer | 1,800.00 | 1,800.00 |
| Registrar of Voters | 850.00 | 850.00 |
| Tax Map Coordinator | 800.00 | 800.00 |
| Plumbing Inspector | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Emergency Management Director | 525.00 | 525.00 |
| Totals | 69,975.00 | 70,475.00 |

*J. Fuller made a motion to amend the administrative assistant pay to $12,500, the 1st Selectman to $9,000, 2nd Selectman to $8,000, and 3rd Selectman to $7,000. Jim Caldwell asked for the reason for the increase with the administrative assistant being added. Steeves said they still have to train the AA. Chapin said it is a busy year for the Selectboard with the court case involving roads, possible legal action with Cards Against Humanity, and the Stevens Pond Dam leak. He mentioned the general problem of the loss of Town records due to the fire of ’99 and the need to build a road inventory. Chapin said he put in around 1,000 hours last year and the job could easily be full time. The Board does three jobs with the Overseer of the Poor taking the least time and Assessing taking 75% of the time. He said the Assessing needs to equitable and they are about half done with it. He said he didn’t understand the rationale for Fuller’s numbers. Fuller said the rationale was simple: all the department heads are paid the same with the Selectmen just above. Elise Brown asked how much work there was in Code Enforcement. Dana Philippi mentioned a past advisory group working on roads. Chapin said the commission was not active, there are roads in town presumed abandoned, and that the determination of the Bolin Hill Road status needs to done for all roads. Richard Warren made a motion to amend the list keeping the road commissioner at $7,500, Ben Kann seconded. Reynolds said she would not want to make more than Betsey. Caldwell thanked the Selectmen for the explanation and asked if the AA would be hired for the new fiscal year in July. Chapin replied that they have candidates, but it is not a done deal as they need to go through the list, make an offer, have it accepted. HL recommended separating out officers. The motion to amend the Road Commissioner's pay to $7,500 failed.*

*Steeves said the Code Enforcement Officers job varies from year to year, depending on what is going on in town. Chapin said it involves more than construction such as investigating illegal construction and inspecting for Planning Board permits. Pam Chase said the Board has been asked this, but without documentation they can’t answer that. The Board would like to have weekly/biweekly reports to keep in the office like the Animal Control Officer does. Chapin said they will aggressively keep track of this, it is in the CEO manual, and there is certification required to be kept up to date. K. Eikenberg referenced the CEO report in the Town Book-last year he issued 14 permits, works in other communities, but questioned the money he received. J. Fuller said that, as this is an appointed position, the question has to do with pay and not the person. Judith Fischer asked if the current tax rate covered the pay increase. Chapin replied that the tax rate was determined at the time of commitment including 10% county tax and 65% school tax. C. Frost seconded the motion to vote on each item individually. J. Fuller objected. Motion passed by show of hands.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | ***Motion*** | ***Pass/Fail*** |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector/ Town Agent | ***26,000.00*** | ***Pass*** |
| Town Administrator | ***12,500*** | ***Pass*** |
| First Selectman | ***9,000*** | ***Pass*** |
| Second Selectman | ***8,000*** | ***Pass*** |
| Third Selectman | ***7,000*** | ***Pass*** |
| Treasurer | ***6,500*** | ***Pass*** |
| Code Enforcement Officer | ***6,500*** | ***Fail*** |
| Fire Chief | ***6,500*** | ***Pass*** |
| Road Commissioner | ***6,500*** | ***Pass*** |
| Animal Control Officer | ***1,800.00*** | ***Pass*** |
| Registrar of Voters | ***850.00*** | ***Pass*** |
| Tax Map Coordinator | ***800.00*** | ***Pass*** |
| Plumbing Inspector | ***500.00*** | ***Pass*** |
| Emergency Management Director | ***525.00*** | ***Pass*** |

*K. Eikenberg made a motion for the CEO pay to be $5,250, P. Chase seconded. E. Brown asked what the Selectmen think the correct amount is. Steeves replied that the position is just important as the others and requires someone who is willing and competent. Eikenberg referenced the Budget Committee and Selectmen’s recommendation of $5,250 in the report. Steeves said that they had voted in more for a lot of people. Caldwell said the perception is that the CEO doesn’t do as much and that a record is needed of what is being done. Peter Mallow said it is a judgment call as the work can spike or lull. J. Fuller said assurance was needed from the Selectmen that work is getting done. Steeves said he does what the Selectmen ask him to do. Bond Blake asked about the CEO submitting a more detailed report with mileage as evidence of the work. Norman Fuller said the CEO has a job to do, he still has to be there and respond. Dave St. Clair suggested paying everyone an hourly rate of $18.00/hr. Cindy Frost made a motion to end the debate and call it to a vote. CEO pay passes at $5,250.*

*Article 6 as a whole totaling $91,725 passes.*

### TOWN OPERATIONS

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Account** | **Selectmen Recommendation** | **Budget Committee Recommendation** |
| Administration | 35,000.00 | 35,000.00 |
| Legal Fund Reserve | 40,000.00 | 10,000.00 |
| Planning Board | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| TCSWMO | 18,838.75 | 18,838.75 |
| Animal Control | 1,600.00 | 1,600.00 |
| EMA Ops | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Cemeteries | 5,000.00 | 5,000.00 |
| Poor Account | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Street Lights | 3,200.00 | 3,200.00 |
| Insurance | 17,000.00 | 17,000.00 |
| Payroll Expenses | 7,500.00 | 7,500.00 |
| Community Hall | 4000.00 | 4000.0 |
| Total | 138,888.75 | 108,888.75 |

*J. Fuller made a motion to accept the Budget Committees recommendation of $108,888.75, Whitney seconded. C. Frost asked the Selectmen to explain the $40,000 amount in legal funds. Chapin replied that they didn't know we were going to Superior Court when this was first presented to the Budget Committee. They are looking at that amount in legal fees to defend the lawsuit in Superior Court road case and the Cards Against Humanities issue. The lawsuit is by the Pauls to restore the Bolin Hill Road to a road again and be maintained to the Montville town line. Deb Paul said it was her understanding that the Bolin hill road was town road with 14 property owners who have no services and it is difficult to get to the top. She said they approached the Selectmen requesting that they post the road during mud season, said they had a problem with illegal ATVs on the road, and requested gravel. They sent a letter to the Town requesting improvements in so many days, then went to the County Commissioners. The town said it was abandoned, but they (the Pauls) feel they have enough information to take it to court. Paul said she struggles with taxes and doesn’t want to be in court, but the Town shouldn’t have abandoned the road and could have settled the issue more easily.*

*Lou Pelletier asked why the Budget Committee reduced the legal funds. Chapin replied that the BC never had the $40,000 request. Whitney said they knew of possible legal issues, the BC thought there was no way to predict the fees so $10,000 seemed logical. Mark Haskell said we don’t want to give money to lawyers and suggested putting gravel on the road. Chapin said it is not that easy, towns have certain requirements by state law and that we need to defend the suit. Chapin said there is a well-defined document that describes town roads. P. Mallow pointed out that this is just a budgeted number, if it comes in more or less then that is what we spend. Chapin replied in the negative—the town can only spend what is raised. Duane Jewett asked for a ballpark figure of what it would cost to fix the road. Dave St. Clair—responded $800,000. Chapin said the best guess is $800,000-$900,000 and that is why it is not maintained.*

*C. Frost made a motion to amend the legal amount to $40,000, Reynolds seconded. Hatfield asked if there was reserve funds set aside, Chapin said they would have to see where they are but doesn’t think there will be any left. D. St. Clair asked if the town would try to reclaim legal fees to which Chapin replied that would be prudent. Henry Hall clarified that the Town had voted to abandon the road. Betsy Levine asked about mediation. Chapin said at this point it was going to court. D. Jewett asked how many people were permanent residents on the road. Chapin replied 1 permanent and the rest seasonal. Margaret Deutsch motioned to end the debate. Article passed as amended for $138,888.75*

1. **EMERGENCY FUND**: To see what sum of money, if any, the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to appropriate, from surplus, to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during the next fiscal year. (The Town spent $7004 in 2014)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen Recommendation | Budget Committee Recommendation |
| Emergency Fund | 7,004.00 | Not Presented |

*Elise Brown made a motion to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation of $7004.00, Bud Steeves seconded. Mark Haskell asked how much was in surplus. Chapin replied there was probably one half million. They are trying to calculate this during the year taking into account how far they are in arrears on taxes, that collections are down. They have enough to pay 3 months of the school bill. Article 8 passed.*

1. **MILEAGE:** To see what rate the Town will vote to authorize travel expenses for essential travel by any Town Official when such travel is on town business out of town (to be paid from the Administration Account), and for the Road Commissioner (to be paid from Road and Bridges Account) and Code Enforcement Officer (to be paid from the Planning Board Account) on town business in town.

**Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: Adopt State Standard Mileage Rate (current rate $0.44/mile)**

*D. Philippi made a motion to accept the article as read, J. Fuller seconded. No discussion. Article passed.*

**10.** To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to transfer unexpended and unneeded funds, from certain departments to Surplus.

*D. Philippi made a motion to accept the article as read, B. Steeves seconded. No discussion. Article passed.*

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectmen to interview and hire an Assessor's Agent to assist in Assessment of Properties as directed by the Board of Assessors and to see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation. Selectmen will appoint the person and he/she will report to the First Selectman. Hourly pay rate to be determined by the Selectmen.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Position | Selectmen Recommendation | Budget Committee Recommendation |
| Assessor's Agent | 15,000.00 | 10,000.00 |

*J. Fuller made a motion to set the compensation at $0, B. Kann seconded. Chapin was going to suggest the money come from surplus, but only if they actually need it. This article was in because they expected to have 3 Selectmen with no assessing experience. The town needs one person with an assessors license and Chapin got his last year so they don’t need one now. If it passes, it authorizes the Selectmen to appoint an Assessors Agent and not authorize the pay. If the need arises on an emergency basis, they would have to hold a special town meeting. HL Whitney asked if the article could be amended to hire and take the money from surplus. A. Worcester said the source cannot be changed. Article failed.*

**HIGHWAYS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation for the Roads and Bridges account, to be used for the maintenance, paving and sand/salt of contracted Town roads and to be used as Town matching funds for any FEMA/MEMA grants received in FY 2016.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen's Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| RDB maintenance | 60,000.00 | 60,000.00 |
| Paving | 60,000.00 | 60,000.00 |
| Salt and Sand | 32,000.00 | 32,000.00 |
| Totals | 152,000.00 | 152,000.00 |

*D. Philippi made a motion to accept the article as read, J. Fuller seconded. Reynolds said she would like to amend it to $0 for paving to make the total $92,000 to save the $40,000 for legal fees and pay for the library roof cost of $10,000. B. Steeves seconded the amendment. Steeves said the $60,000 wouldn’t pave a lot of road anyway, maybe ½ mile. Steeves wondered how it would affect FEMA - they have to do some capital improvements every year and maintenance counts. E. Brown said that getting FEMA money requires extensive grant writing and their last effort went nowhere as the requirements have gotten stricter. The amendment passed. The article as amended to $92,000 passed.*

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, $1,000, to be used toassure proper operation of the St. George Dam.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen's Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| St. George Dam Maintenance | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Total: | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |

*B. Steeves made a motion to accept the article as read, J. Caldwell seconded. Article passed.*

*S. Chapin made a motion to take a 15 minute break.*

*Pam Chase announced this year’s Boston Post cane holder is Walter Parady and presented the cane to him.*

*Linda Breslin, representing CALL, announced it was the 10th anniversary of Lakekeeper's Camp and that they are holding a raffle in July for a Willy Wilmoth decoy donated by HL Whitney.*

*Christine Burstein, State Representative for 1 year, said she worked hard to get on the Health and Human Services Committee, would like to have people’s input, asked for kids to serve as pages, announced there is an unclaimed property list, and said that it is an honor to be representative.*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, and use from the Environmental Fund as needed, to assess and develop a plan to repair leaks in the Steven’s Pond Dam.

**Selectmen Recommendation: 1,000**

*B. Kann made a motion to accept the article as read, D. Philippi seconded. Cindy Frost said the Selectmen had mentioned repairs and asked if this was enough money. Steeves and Chapin replied no, but they need to understand what it is first and come up with a plan, using expert help. Article passed.*

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation for the remainder of the current snowplowing contract:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Snow Plowing Contract | 153,900.00 | 153,900.00 |
| Totals: | 153,900.00 | 153,900.00 |

*B. Steeves motioned to accept the article as read, Lloyd Chase seconded. Article passed.*

**LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Operations | 45,000.00 | 45,000.00 |
| Payroll | 15,000.00 | 15,000.00 |
| Capital Reserve | 7,500.00 | 20,000.00 |
| Totals: | 67,500.00 | 80,000.00 |

*J. Fuller made a motion to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation of $67,500, B. Steeves seconded. Henry Hall from the Budget Committee said that the argument was made for them that it would look better for the grant. Fire Chief Bill Gillespie asked for permission as a non-resident to speak. He said he had asked every year for $20,000. He is concerned the 1977 truck which was a 5-8 year fix will have continued expenses. Now they need to start the process of looking for new equipment which will be around $300,000 for a standard fire truck. They took the capital reserve of $41,000 8 years ago to get by. If the town had gone with his plan it would have $100,000 which would give them leverage in applying for a loan. M. Haskell said he supported the need and setting aside funds, he talked to the Selectmen during the break and they said the money goes into the general fund and not into a separate account. Chapin clarified that they do have accounts for the funds, the money is there and set aside and checked on by the auditor every year. J. Caldwell questioned if the town could fund a new truck as it can only afford so much. Gillespie replied that they are not replacing the ladder truck—the money is for a pumper truck and that you don’t know what you are getting with an older truck. HL Whitney said it was discussed at the Budget Committee meeting and that in terms of writing the grant, it looks better with more money available. Gillespie reiterated that towns with a capital reserve fund stand a better chance for grants. E. Brown said that when she was chief they had a similar discussion, that we want to be a town that saves as we go rather than borrow, we need heftier chunks of money, quality used vehicles are harder to find because the larger towns are running their equipment for much longer. If we have a small amount of money, we stand a chance of not getting a reliable used vehicle which saps personnel resources. Motion for $67,500 failed.*

*D. Philippi made a motion to reconsider Article 16, J. Fuller seconded. Motion to reconsider passed. HL Whitney made a motion to accept the Budget Committees recommendation of $80,000, B. Kann seconded. J. Fuller made a motion to amend the article on the floor to $70,000, B. Steeves seconded. C. Frost asked why the selectmen would not put the money aside if they knew they were going to need a new truck. Steeves said that it was cheaper to borrow than have the money sitting in the bank. Haskell asked how much was in the account at the moment. Chapin replied $29,020.13 + $7500 from the current budget = approximately $36,000. Levine mentioned the interest rates would be going up. D. Philippi said he was chief in the 90’s and this was always contentious. The arguments are all valid—the days are gone when you can go to Connecticut and get a $3,000 truck, you get what you pay for. LVFD is in a very good mutual aid situation, more money set aside means a larger grant, a larger amount should be appropriated. Peter Mallow said we are all concerned about taxes, but we need to remember this is the smallest part of the budget. Amendment to put $10,000 in capital Reserve passed. Article 16 with a total of $70,000 passed.*

**LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND**

1. To see if the Town will carry over the current balance of $28,219.20 for the LVFD Capital Reserve account.

*Dana Philippi made a motion to accept the article as read. S. Chapin made a motion to amend the article to read $29,020.13 to correct a typo, J. Fuller seconded. P. Mallow recommended the article just say “to carry over the balance”. Chapin replied he will do that in the future. Caldwell said the numbers should be kept in as they make it direct. Tobey Kress asked if the money goes in a general account. Chapin replied no. Kress asked how the money was invested. Chapin replied that it is not properly invested and that we need to have a better plan though by law the town can only invest in certain things that wouldn’t allow it to lose money. Amendment to the article passed. Article passed in the amount $29,020.13*

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

*Motion by Cindy Frost to accept the article as read, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*

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.

*Motion by Bud Steeves to accept the article as read, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*

**PARKS & RECREATION**

### RECREATION ACCOUNT:

* **A**. To see if the Town will accept reimbursements from the Town of Montville for maintenance of the recreation area **(Estimate: $1,500.00).** Montville has been formally requested to raise $1,500.00 for this account.
* **Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**
* *Motion by Bud Steeves to accept the article as read, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*
* **B**. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine (income from the State Park, of approximately **$1,916**), and vote to raise from taxation, for the recreation account.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Recreation | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |
| Totals: | 3,500.00 | 3,500.00 |

* **Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**
* *Motion by J. Fuller to raise $3,500.00 from taxation, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*
* **C**. To see if the Town will move the balance of **$355.92** in the Basketball Forever Account into the Community Hall account to be used toward either an indoor or outdoor basketball court or equipment.
* **Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**
* *Motion by Bud Steeves to accept the article as read, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*
* **D**. To see if the funds raised from the State's Refund of snowmobile registrations will be provided to the Palermo Snowmobile Club (**estimate: $235**).
* **Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**
* *Motion by Dana Philippi to accept the article as read, seconded by Bud Steeves. Article passed.*

1. **RECREATION REQUESTS**: To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following recreation requests. Montville has been formally requested to raise $**400.00** for swim lessons:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Swimming Program | 575.00 | 575.00 |
| Walker Wildcats Softball | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Liberty/Montville Little League | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Liberty Farm Teams | 350.00 | 350.00 |
| Liberty T-Ball Teams | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Liberty BasketBall Teams | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Eleven Towns Youth Hockey | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Waldo County YMCA | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Totals: | 2,625.00 | 2,625.00 |

*Motion by J. Fuller to spend $2,625 as recommended, seconded by Beth Place. Tammy Reynolds said the ball field had been torn up in October and she requested $1,000.00 to fix it. Cindy Frost made a motion to amend the article to $3,625 with $334 to T-ball, $333 to Farm team, and $333 to Little League. Frost made a motion to withdraw the amendment. Article passed in the amount $2,625.00.*

*S. Chapin made a motion to reconsider Article 20B, Bud Steeves seconded. C. Frost moved to increase the amount from $3,500.00 to $4,500.00 from taxation. E. Brown seconded. Melanie Ripley asked if the use could be specified. A. Worcester replied no since it was not written in. Al Crichton asked if the Selectmen could do that, Chapin replied yes. Article passed in the amount $4,500.00.*

**INDEPENDENT SERVICES**

1. **JAWS:** To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the Tri-Town Rescue Jaws team.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Tri-Town Jaws | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Totals: | 500.00 | 500.00 |

* *Motion by D. Philippi to accept article as read, seconded by B. Steeves. Article passed.*

1. **AMBULANCE:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, a retainer for service paid to the Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, a stipend for Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service to be used to help defray the cost of training ambulance personnel.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Town Retainer | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Training | 3,000.00 | 3,000.00 |
| Totals: | 4,000.00 | 4,000.00 |

* *Motion by HL Whitney to accept article as read, seconded by Dana Philippi. Article passed.*

1. **IVAN O. DAVIS** **LIBRARY:** To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to help support operation of the Ivan O. Davis Liberty Library.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Operations | 4,700.00 | 4,700.00 |
| **Building Repair** | 10,000 | Not presented |
| Totals: | 14,700.00 | 4,700.00 |

*C. Frost made a motion to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation of $14,700.00, J. Fuller seconded. Lynn Barboza said she thought we voted to reduce the money from paving to cover this. Bud Steeves said yes and now we need to raise the money. Carrie Peavey asked who would be in charge. B. Steeves said they would raise $10,000 with oversight. He made a motion to amend the article to read $4,700.00 for operations, up to $10,000.00 for the roof repair/replacement under the supervision of the selectmen. As it is a town building, it’s a town function to maintain our property. Connie Welch asked why have the Selectmen oversee and not the CEO and who would oversee it if not the Selectmen? Chapin replied the Library itself. P. Chase said that she and Steeves had met with the library and determined that the town owns the building, that this is not regular maintenance but more a renovation costing more money than the library can afford. J. Caldwell said that the lease outlines who is responsible, he agrees with Bud but said that roofing is maintenance in the eyes of the IRS. Svea Tullberg asked if leaking is the result of heat loss, would that be covered by a roof repair? B. Steeves said that in the meeting it was decided the library will do the interior and town will do the outside. Tullberg said that it would take working together to solve the problem. Dave St. Clair suggested putting on a steel roof. Steeves said that although a metal roof is preferable, the issue was the property line being extremely close and it would shed onto neighboring property. Diane Messer asked if any money was left of the $10,000.00 why not spend it on the interior damage. Steeves said the Town was looking to fix the outside. Barbara Worcester agreed that the library would fix the interior. Norman Fuller said the metal roof was out of the question due to the neighbors fence and the Tool company’s fuel pipes. If proper vents and good shingles are used, you should get 40 years. Carolyn Steeves asked what the vote was for, Worcester replied……. Richard Warren asked why we were micromanaging and made a motion to move the question, Elise Brown seconded. The amendment passed. Article 24 in the amount $14,700.00 passes.*

1. **WALKER-OVERLOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**: **A.** To see what sums the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the WOMS account.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| WOM Scholarship Fund | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Totals: | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |

* *Motion by Dana Philippi to accept the article as read, seconded by Bud Steeves. Toni Clark, Christine Brackett, and Barb Rehmeyer also served on committee but were left out of book. Chapin said there were several omissions, next year they’ll create an errata sheet. Article passed.*

**B.** To see what sums the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for WOMS scholarship awards in the upcoming year.

**Selectmen Recommendation: $1,500**

* *Motion by Dana Philippi to accept the article as read, seconded by Bud Steeves. Chapin said that 10-15 years ago, the town passed an article that no principal could be used. The money for the Walker fund was handled by JP Morgan, they didn’t want to manage it anymore so the money came back to the town which didn’t have a good way to invest it. The agreement of using interest only doesn’t work, so the strategy is to find a better investment then, as the CD’s mature, put them in. Toni Clark said only one scholarship was given as there weren’t enough funds. Chapin said if we don’t have the money or applications, the money can be put back. J. Fuller said in the past, the auditor required it to be used. Lorna Crichton made a motion to move the question, C Frost seconded. Article 25B passed.*

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| AMVETS | 1,000.00 | 1,000.00 |
| Liberty Historical Society | 250.00 | 400.00 |
| Citizen Association for Liberty Lakes (CALL) | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| New Hope For Women | 750.00 | 750.00 |
| Waldo CAP | 2,930.00 | 2,930.00 |
| Spectrum Generations | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Kno-Wal-Lin | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Red Cross | 400.00 | 500.00 |
| Belfast Area Child Care Services | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Hospice Vol./Waldo County | 400.00 | 400.00 |
| Mid-Coast Maine Community Action (WIC) | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Kennebec Behavioral Health | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Maine Youth Alliance - Game Loft | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Broadreach | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Habitat for Humanity | 250.00 | 250.00 |
| Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Waldo County Woodshed | 500.00 | Not Presented |
| LIfeFlight | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Totals: | 9,630.00 | 9,380.00 |

*Dana Philippi made a motion to accept the Selectmen’s recommendation except for $400.00 for the Liberty Historical Society for a total of $9780.00, Gail Philippi seconded. Philippi said they had been asking for the same amount every year but the utility bills are increasing. E. Brown said to vote down the amendment to preserve the Budget Committee process. Chapin said they didn’t have the Waldo County Woodshed in the past to help people in need. Fuller asked if the WCW was a non-profit—Chapin replied that it was. D. Philippi made a motion to withdraw the recommendation to amend and to go with the Budget Committee recommendation plus the Waldo County Woodshed of $500.00 for a total of $9880.00. Pam Chase seconded. Article passed.*

1. To see if the Town will establish an Animal Rescue Fund to accept donations from groups and individuals to provide assistance to animals in need other than dogs and cats; i.e. horses, cows, sheep, chickens, et al. This fund would be administered by the Select Board in consultation with the Animal Control Officer.

*Deb Paul amended the article to read “to domesticated animals in need” and to delete “dogs and cats”. Carolyn Steeves seconded. J. Fuller asked why would the town want to administer this. P. Chase replied that the town was restricted to helping cats and dogs and there was a problem with horses this year for which the town was unable to accept donations. J. Fuller asked why was there a need to establish a fund rather than to accept donations. Lynn Barboza motioned to amend the article to be administered by the ACO in consultation with the Selectboard. E. Brown asked if the ACO was expecting to have a problem with this and does the ACO have the intention of handling larger animals. If so, are we insured. D. Paul said that it was our responsibility to deal with livestock and she would like to be able to provide assistance. J. Fuller said we need to vote this down until we have a clearer idea of the liability for the Selectmen. Amendment failed. C. Frost made a motion to call the question, Ben Kann seconded. By a vote of 27 to 34 the article failed.*

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL FUND:** Shall the Town carry over $3,972.99 for the environmental fund?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Environmental Fund | 3,972.99 | 3,972.99 |
| Totals: | 3,972.99 | 3,972.99 |

*B. Steeves made a motion to accept the article as read, Carolyn Steeves seconded. Al Crichton asked if someone could explain what the fund was for. B. Steeves said there was a donation of $10,000 about ten years ago that was earmarked for environmental issues. The town voted to use some of the money for the Stevens Pond Dam. Article passed.*

**DEBT SERVICE**

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following loans:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Account | Selectmen’s Recommendation | Budget Committee’s Recommendation |
| Stevens Pond Dam | 3,985.24 | 3,985.24 |
| Hostile Valley Bridge | 9,102.77 | 9,102.77 |
| Totals: | 13,088.01 | 13,088.01 |

*B. Steeves made a motion to accept the article as read for $13,088.01, Pam Chase seconded. Tobey Kress asked how many years were left, Steeves replied 3 years until 2018 on the Dam and 12 years on the bridge until 2023. Passed.*

**PROPERTY TAXES**

1. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable immediately upon commitment to the Tax Collector and:

**A**. To see if the Town will determine that taxes not paid 30 days after commitment are considered delinquent.

**B.** To see what sum of interest the Town will vote to charge on all liens and delinquent taxes.

**Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: 5%**

**[The maximum rate of interest that may be charged: 7%]**

**C.** To see if the Town will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount in excess of 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.

**Selectmen and Budget Committee Recommendation: 1%**

**D**. To see if the Town will vote to authorize any action necessary, by the Selectmen and Tax Collector, to collect any delinquent taxes outstanding for prior years; and to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired for non-payment of taxes thereon, using a bid process or other such terms as deemed advisable, by the Selectmen and the State, including publishing in local papers, including the right to accept or reject any and all bids, and should the bid process be used, authorize execution of Quit-Claim deeds for such property sold. **Selectmen Recommendation: pass**

**E.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes. **Selectmen Recommendation: pass**

*J Fuller proposed to do A-E together. Steeves motioned to accept the article as read, D. Philippi seconded. Passed.*

1. To see if the Town of Liberty will accept and carry over any Education Block Grants, State Revenue Sharing and other funds as may be available to be used toward the FY 2016 Budget appropriations thereby decreasing the amount required to be raised by property taxation.

**Selectmen Recommendation: pass**.

*Bud Steeves motioned to accept the article as read, Dana Philippi seconded. Passed.*

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

*Bud Steeves motioned to pass by, Steve Chapin seconded. Article passed by.*

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 FY 2016 municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Vote must be by written ballot.)

**Selectmen Recommendation: pass**

*J. Fuller asked if we were above the limit. Chapin replied that the growth rate of the town has been very low and we are under by a fair amount. Worcester said that if there was no action necessary the article can be passed by. J. Fuller made a motion to pass by, D. Philippi seconded. Article passed by.*

*B. Steeves motioned to adjourn, P. Chase seconded. Meeting adjourned 12:23 pm.*

A True Copy: Attest

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gail H. Philippi

Town Clerk, Town of Liberty