***TOWN WARRANT***

**STATE OF MAINE**

**TOWN OF LIBERTY**

Speakers prior to meeting commencement:

* Erin Herbig, current State Representative.
* Sheriff Jeff Trafton
* Stanley Paige Ziegler, Montville, running for State Rep.
* Jayne Crosby Giles, Belfast running for State Rep.
* Joseph Greenier

Town Clerk Gail Philippi opened the meeting at 9:10 am.

***To:*** Hannah Hatfield, 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 24th day of March, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.** in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

Melinda Steeves presented a plaque and commemorative 1978 and 2018 coins to outgoing Treasurer Betsey Davis who served for 40 years.

### ARTICLES

**ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

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

Melinda Steeves nominated Andrew Worcester, Joy Hadsell seconded. Vote by written ballot, Andrew Worcester elected unopposed 4-0. **Andrew Worcester was sworn in as Moderator.**

1. To establish town office hours as follows:

Monday: 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Tuesday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Thursday: 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday (1st & 4th): 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

(See "Town Office Hours Report" following the Warrant)

Dana Philippi motioned to accept the article as read (AAR), Elise Brown seconded. **Passed**.

Jim Butler made a motion to amend the article to also be open all Saturdays. Melanie Ripley seconded. A vote on the Amendment failed.

The Article as written **passed**.

1. To elect the following positions:
   1. Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Town Agent; (one year)

Dana Philippi nominated Gail Philippi.

Melanie Ripley nominated herself.

Dana Philippi motioned nominations cease, Carolyn Steeves seconded.

Vote was by written ballot. **Philippi was elected**, **69 to 6.**

* 1. Treasurer; (one year)

Betsey Davis nominated Hannah Hatfield, Dana Philippi seconded. **Hannah Hatfield elected.**

* 1. Fire Chief; (one year)

Tobey Kress nominated Bill Gillespie, Elise Brown seconded. Joy Hadsell moved that nominations cease. **Bill Gillespie elected.**

* 1. Road Commissioner (one year)

Carrie Peavey nominated Tammy Reynolds, Joy Hadsell seconded.

**Tammy Reynolds elected**.

* 1. School Board Representative (Richard Frost will complete 3rd year of a 3-year term June 30, 2018)

Kathy Eickenberg nominated Richard Frost, Carrie Peavey seconded.

Carol McGovern nominated BettyLu Davis.

Richard Light nominated himself.

Dana Philippi and Richard King moved that nominations cease.

Vote was by written ballot: **Frost elected with 69, Davis 27, Light 11**.

1. To elect a Second Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. (Carrie Peavey's term is ending.)

Melinda Steeves nominated Carrie Peavey, Theresa Butler seconded.

Peter Mallow nominated Steve Chapin.

Nominations cease, Dana Philippi seconded.

**Carrie Peavey was elected with 69, Chapin 17.**

1. To elect a Budget Committee not to exceed 7 members to assist the Selectboard by meeting periodically with the Selectboard and Treasurer to review financial accounts of the Town and assist in budgeting town funds. Current members are Elise Brown, Joy Hadsell, Dorothy Harrison, Betsy Levine, Dan McGovern, Melanie Ripley, and Barry Worcester. Dan McGovern's "retirement" will create one vacancy. All others have agreed to serve another term.

### Selectboard Recommendation: Elect current committee with one replacement.

There is a new spot for a Budget Committee member.

Elise Brown nominated Judy Fuller, Jane Liebler seconded.

Melinda Steeves nominated Joan Tax. Judy Fuller wins hand vote.

Judy Fuller moves that Joan Tax replace Melanie Ripley, Carolyn Steeves seconds.

Carrie Peavey made a motion to amend the number of members on the Committee.

Judy Fuller withdrew motion. Melinda Steeves made a motion to have the Budget Committee not exceed 8 members, Betty Lu Davis seconded. **Joan Tax is added to the Committee.**

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



Dottie Harrison moved to accept as read, Betty Lu Davis seconded.

Carrie Peavey mad a motion to amend that **Fire Chief and Road Commissioner receive $7,500 each, an increase of $1,000**. Elaine Pepler seconded.

Andrew Worcester called to a vote, passed.

Judy Fuller moved to amend the Third Selectman to $7,500. Henry Hall the Third Selectman declined the increase.

Worcester called to a vote, **passed**.

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to hire an Assessment Appraisal Services company to perform a comprehensive revaluation of all town properties and to hire a Geographic Information System (GIS) company specializing in the development of digital maps and to see what sum of money the Town will appropriate from surplus to perform these services**.**

****Melinda Steeves moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded.

Discussion.

Carolyn Steeves moved to accept as read with the requirement that it is put out to bid.

Barbara Edmond moved to call the question. Vote on amended article. **Passed**.

Vote on article as amended. **Passed**.

**TOWN OPERATIONS**

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

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Dana Philippi seconded. **Passed**.

1. To see if the Town will raise, from taxation, funds to purchase a TRIO software module to allow for electronic motor vehicle registration and rapid renewal:

Dana Philippi moved to accept as read, Joy Hadsell seconded. **Passed**.

1. **COMMUNITY HALL:** To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, to be used to assure proper operation of the Community Hall.

Discussion. .Jane Liebler moved to call the question, Betty Lu Davis seconded.

Andrew Worcester called it to a vote. **Passed**.

1. To see if the Town will authorize the creation of a designated Capital Reserve Fund to pay for improvements to the Community Hall to be capitalized from unspent monies from the Community Hall Operations line item, any donations to the fund, and fees collected from users of the Community Hall.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass

Melinda Steeves moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded.

Andrew Worcester called it to a vote. **Passed**.

**HIGHWAYS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation and surplus for the Roads and Bridges accounts to be used for the maintenance, paving, sand/salt and snowplowing of contracted Town roads and to be used as Town matching funds for any FEMA/MEMA grants received in FY 2019.

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read with the recommendation of adopting the Selectboard and Budget Committee recommendations ($352,000 & $71,500).

**Passed**.

**Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: Adopt proposed budget with $352,700 raised from taxation and 1/2 of the paving amount, $71,500, appropriated from surplus.**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, to be used to assure proper operation of the St. George and Stevens Pond Dams.

Richard King moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded. **Passed**.

1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize any action necessary, by the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to accept a donation of real estate to be used by the Town for parking in the downtown area.

**Selectboard Recommendation: pass**

Melinda Steeves moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded. **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, to pay Fire Department volunteer firefighters while on the job.

Cindy Frost moved to accept as read, Carrie Peavey seconded. **Passed**.

# LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

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

**Selectboard Recommendation: pass**

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Richard King seconded. No discussion, **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.

**Selectboard Recommendation: pass**

# Judy moved to accept as read, Richard King seconded. No discussion, Passed.

# PARKS & RECREATION

1. **RECREATION ACCOUNT:**
2. 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.

### Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass

Melinda Steeves moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded. No discussion, **Passed**.

1. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine (income from the State Park estimated at $2,784), and vote to raise $8,200 from taxation, for the recreation account.

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Richard King seconded. No discussion, **Passed**.

1. To see if funds raised from the State's Refund of snowmobile registrations will be provided to the Palermo Snowmobile Club (**Estimate: $410**).

### Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Richard King seconded.No discussion, **Passed**.

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

Betty Lu Davis moves to accept as read, Richard King seconded. Discussion. **Passed**.



**INDEPENDENT SERVICES**

1. **AMBULANCE:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate for the Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service from taxation, a $1,000 retainer for service, a $3,000 stipend to be used to help defray the cost of training ambulance personnel, and a reimbursement for payroll expenses incurred by the Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service up to $40,000, contingent upon Montville approval of same article.

Cindy Frost moves to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconds. Discussion. Judy Fuller **amends to remove the contingency**, Gail Philippi seconds.

Fuller and Philippi **withdraw amendment. Passed**.

1. **IVAN O. DAVIS LIBRARY:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate $4,800, from taxation, to help support operation of the Ivan O. Davis Liberty Library.

Peter Mallow moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded. No discussion, **Passed**.

### WALKER-OVERLOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate $1,500, from taxation, for WOMS scholarship award(s) in the upcoming year.

Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Dana Philippi seconded. No discussion, **Passed**.



1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate $1,500, from taxation, to supplement the existing principle of $67,011.79 in the WOMS account.

Dana Philippi moved to accept as read, Cindy Frost seconded. Discussion.

Elise Brown moved the question, Ben Kann seconded. **Passed**.



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



Judy Fuller moved to accept as read, Dorothy Harrison seconded. Discussion. Elise Brown suggested that we vote on the **question with a plan to talk with the Woodshed. Passed**.

1. **LEGAL FUND:** To see if the Town will authorize carrying over the balance remaining from the original appropriation of $40,000 in 2015. As of February 6, 2018, the amount is $15,349.59, which includes an anticipated reimbursement of $1,953.26.

### Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass

### Dorothy Harrison moved to accept as read, Judy Fuller seconded. Passed.

1. **MILEAGE:** 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 (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.

### Selectboard Recommendation: Adopt State Standard Mileage Rate (current rate $0.44/mile)

### Melinda Steeves moved to accept as read, Carolyn Steeves seconded. No discussion Passed.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL FUND:** To see if the Town will authorize carrying over the balance remaining from the original appropriation in 2003-2004. *(After reimbursing the general fund for costs already incurred, the amount of $1,376.13, will be available from a C.D. maturing 6/13/18.)*

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass

Judy Fuller moved to carryover the $1,376.13, Melinda Steeves seconded. Discussion. **Passed**.

# DEBT SERVICE

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



# Cindy Frost moved to accept as read, Melinda Steeves seconded. This is the last payment on the Stevens Pond dam. Passed.

# Tammy Reynolds move to revisit Article 10. She’d like to get $8,883.00 into the article. Moderator Andrew Worcester explained that it would need to be done in a new meeting.

# 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:
2. To see if the Town will determine that taxes not paid 30 days after commitment are considered delinquent.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass.

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

### Selectboard Recommendation: 5% *(The maximum rate of interest that may be charged: 7%)*

1. 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.

### Selectboard Recommendation: 1%

1. 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 a bid process or other such terms as deemed advisable, by the Selectboard 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.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass

1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2018-2019 year not yet committed.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass

Judy Fuller made a motion to **dispense with reading the entire article**, Dana Philippi seconded.

Judy Fuller made a motion to accept as read and **recommend voting on A-E all at one time**. Steve Chapin seconded. Discussion.

Gail Philippi made a **motion that Section A read: All taxes will be due and payable in two installments. The first installment is due 30 days after commitment and the second is due no later than the first week of May**. Steve Chapin seconded. Motion to vote on Amendment passed. **Articles 27A-E as amended 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 2019 Budget appropriations thereby decreasing the amount required to be raised by property taxation.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass.

### Judy Fuller made a motion to accept as read, Betsy Levine seconded. Passed.

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to transfer unexpended and unneeded funds, from certain departments to Surplus.

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass.

### Judy Fuller made a motion to accept as read, Betsy Levine seconded. Passed.

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

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass.

Melinda Steeves made a **motion to pass by**, Judy Fuller seconded. **Passed**.

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 2019 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.)

### Selectboard Recommendation: pass

Melinda Steeves made a **motion to pass by**, Judy Fuller seconded. Town Administrator Kenn Ortmann noted that we are still within the limits. **Passed by**.

Melinda Steeves made a **motion to adjourn at 12:40 pm**.

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS \_\_\_ DAY OF MARCH, 2018

Melinda Steeves, First Selectman

Carrie Peavey, Second Selectman

Henry Hall, Third Selectman

A True Copy: Attest

Gail H. Philippi

Town Clerk, Town of Liberty