DRAFT MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

August 6, 2018 7:00 PM

**Selectboard Attendance:** Melinda Steeves, 1st Selectman

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds, Treasurer Hannah Hatfield

**Guest(s):**  Lucille Peavey and Barbara Rehmeyer, WAO Committee members; Richard Frost, SAD #3 Board Member; Mark Merrifield, property owner at 189 Marshall Shore Road

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 7:00 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the July 16, 2018 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments**
   1. **Richard Frost SAD #3 Board Member:** There was a lengthy discussion about the components of the Revolving Renovation Grant application submitted to the State, the timing and steps in the process, and the potential implications for Walker School. Mr. Frost, who is a member of the School Facilities Committee, explained they have gone through a multi-year process of evaluating the condition of the elementary schools. Typical major problem areas identified included fire, safety, air handling and handicapped accessibility. A number of issues have been addressed at Walker School but the most recent grant of money to add an elevator was inadequate to cover the cost so it remains a problem. The heating system has reached or exceeded its expected life so that is an anticipated problem in the near future.

The recently submitted Construction Grant application proposed closing the Walker School in Liberty and the Morse School in Brooks and construction of a new consolidated elementary school. Mr. Frost explained that the inclusion of these two schools in the application doesn't mean that the final plan will require their closure, but he noted that, with only about 100 students, the Walker School is considerably smaller than the 250 minimum number required for a new school. He also noted that the Construction Grant application process usually takes ten years so no changes are imminent.

He also noted that the State funds 65% of some renovation costs but almost 100% of the cost of new construction, so there is a financial incentive for the District to look closely at new construction opportunities.

There was considerable discussion and skepticism about how much money will really be saved by closing elementary schools.

The Selectboard asked that Mr. Frost convey two messages to the School Board: 1) the importance and significance of the Walker School to Liberty, and 2) Liberty's desire to have the apportionment of SAD #3 costs be based on the number of students served from each community.

* 1. **Dam repair work schedule:** Road Commissioner Reynolds informed the Selectboard that she expects the repair work to begin the second week in September. She will ask Commercial Divers Inc. to send a contract and their guarantee to the Town Office.

1. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories**
      1. **Walker School targeted for replacement:** See discussion with Mr. Frost above.
   2. **Resident correspondence**
      1. **Letter from Henry and Eva Newell re concerns about new construction at 189 Marshall Shore Road:** Road Commissioner Reynolds and property owner Mark Merrifield pointed out a number of inaccuracies in the letter, they noted that this project has very recently been reviewed by the Planning Board, the construction site has been and continues to be inspected by Liberty Code Enforcement Officer Don Harriman, and that the State Licensed Site Evaluator Jamie Marple has also been inspecting the site regularly. Road Commissioner Reynolds said she would contact the Newell's directly to try and address their concerns. The Selectboard agreed to let the Planning Board address any concerns they might have directly with Mr. Merrifield.
2. **Old Business** 
   1. **Follow-up meeting with WAO Scholarship Committee:** The two Committee members and the Selectboard discussed the need to do some additional research on exactly how much of the money currently in the fund is principal and how much is interest available for scholarships. The principle portion of the five-year CD that is maturing later this month will be reinvested and the interest portion placed in a checking or savings account available to the WAO Committee for scholarships. The group consensus was, since some lending institutions are beginning to have more competitive rates, to continue to use the CD investment option, but for a shorter term to give us more options.
   2. **Audit update *(meeting August 14 at 6 PM)*:** TA Ortmann reminded the Selectboard of the meeting with the Auditor scheduled for August 14 at 6 PM.
   3. **Selectboard meeting time and frequency:** Postponed to next meeting.
   4. **Other:** None.
3. **New Business**
   1. **Planning Board candidate interviews:** None.
   2. **Digital Maps:** TA Ortmann reported that the first person we spoke to about this project is no longer interested, so he published a RFP on the MMA WEB site. There has been interest expressed by two firms so far.
   3. **Forest Harvesting Notification Ordinance:** Postponed to next meeting.
   4. **Workplace tobacco policy information:** Postponed to next meeting.
   5. **MMA "Restoring State/Municipal Partnership" material:** TA Ortmann noted we received material that included suggestions about how to hold a Candidates Forum that can provide an opportunity for conversations about a more proactive working relationship between the local and State levels of government.
   6. **Accidental Insurance for Volunteers program:** Postponed to next meeting.
   7. **Waldo County Budget Committee ballot:** There was no volunteer to be a "write-in" candidate.
   8. **Other:**
      1. **Waldo County Emergency Medical Services Mutual Aid Agreement:** Postponed to next meeting.
      2. **Parking on Marshall Shore Road:** Road Commissioner Reynolds and the Selectboard discussed concerns about the number of vehicles parking along the very narrow stretch of roadway near the beach area. People are parking their vehicles on both sides of the roadway and parking in areas clearly delineated "No Parking". This is creating a safety hazard with people crossing the roadway between vehicles and by narrowing the roadway so much that emergency vehicles cannot get through. Ideas discussed included long term solutions like relocating the roadway further away from the lakeshore and creating a permit system limiting access to the lake in this area to Liberty residents, and more immediate actions like appointing a Constable or hiring an off-duty Sherriff to patrol and ticket when necessary, and hiring Totman's Towing Services to patrol the area with authority to tow parking violators immediately.

Commissioner Reynolds will work on a proposal to bring to our next Town Meeting and she will speak with Fire Chief Gillespie to see if he is willing to continue his enforcement activities at least through this next weekend.

Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded authorizing Road Commissioner Reynolds to offer Totman's Towing Services a payment of $150/day to patrol the area with authority to tow parking violators immediately from 3–7 PM Saturday and Sunday. Unanmious.

1. **Other Business:**
   1. **RFP for Banking Services:** Based upon the research by Selectman Hall into current CD rates, the Selectboard asked TA Ortmann to work with Treasurer Hatfield to develop a RFP for the Town's banking services.
2. **Adjournment:** 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator