MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

April 15, 2019 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, Treasurer Hannah Hatfield, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Emergency Management Director Elise Brown,

**Guest(s):**  Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service President Chris Birge, Steve Fountain, 38 Percy Rd, Liberty

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:04 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the April 1, 2019 minutes. Unanimous. *(NOTE: The April 8 meeting was cancelled due to weather so there are no minutes to review or approve.)*
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments**
   1. **Charles Brock regarding taxes due for Map 5 Lot 2, Account 606:** Mr. Brock did not show up.
   2. **Meeting with Elise Brown & Chris Birge, LVAS**
      1. **EMS long range planning:** E. Brown and C. Birge discussed initiating discussions with Montville regarding a Special Town Meeting to consider fully funding the Ambulance service request. In the meantime, they are concerned that amended language contained in the article approved by Liberty might lead someone to assume that, even without full Montville support, that LVAS will be able to cover per diem payroll expenses for 7 days/week coverage of an EMT and a driver. C. Birge and Fire Chief Gillespie stated they will work hard to coordinate Fire and Ambulance resources, but this issue may need to be revisited if Montville doesn't take action by July 1. There was also discussion about the advantages and challenges associated with the Volunteer Ambulance Service becoming a Municipal Ambulance Service.
   3. **Meeting with Emergency Management Director** **Elise Brown**
      1. **EMA Director position:** E. Brown offered to fill the position for another year and the Selectboard accepted her offer with gratitude.
   4. **Meeting with Fire Chief Gillespie:** The Selectboard shared feedback they have received about the amount of mileage paid to Chief Gillespie. He explained how the training he receives, his involvement with other Waldo County Fire Services, the testimony he provides at the State level, and his representation of volunteer fire departments at the State level all benefit Liberty. He further noted that he is not paid for responses to Fire Department calls and that his total reimbursement should be viewed in comparison to the total reimbursement of other Department heads.

Chief Gillespie announced that the Department has again been recognized by the Safety and Health Award for Public Employers (SHAPE) program for the next three years. This recognition is based on an exemplary safety and health management system. Acceptance into SHAPE by the Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards is an achievement that distinguishes the Liberty Fire Department as a model for workplace safety and health. Upon receiving SHAPE recognition, the Liberty Fire Department is exempt from programmed inspections during the three years the SHAPE certification is valid.

1. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories:** TA Ortmann shared the April 2, 2019 Republican Journal article about the Liberty Town Meeting.
   2. **Revaluation project status report:** TA Ortmann reported that the project continues ahead of schedule.
   3. **Digital Map update:** TA Ortmann reported that he and Tax Map Coordinator Gail Philippi will be working to create a database covering 2012 to now showing splits and subdivisions that will need to be included in our updated digital maps.
2. **Old Business** 
   1. **Other:** None.
3. **New Business**
   1. **Attendance at RSU #3 public budget meeting May 22, 2019:** TA Ortmann noted he heard about this meeting but is attempting to confirm it with the RSU. Details of the meeting will be added to our announcements WEB page.
   2. **Hoyt fund CD roll-over options:** Treasurer Hatfield reported that Bangor Savings Bank had the best rates and that she has rolled over the principal amount.
   3. **FY19 third quarter budget/actual comparison:** TA Ortmann shared a report produced by Treasurer Hatfield. There are several areas where expenditures are ahead of 75%, but they appear to be related to the timing of certain costs.
   4. **Dog Licensing violation enforcement process:** TA Ortmann reported on his discussion about process with Animal Control Officer Heidi Blood. She notes that she gets a list of unregistered dogs around February 1. She engages in phone and written communication to encourage dog owners to complete the registration process. While there is no specific timeframe, she does try to get the process wrapped up by mid April. She will request official permission from the Selectboard before issuing a summons to appear in court. The Selectboard discussed how best to encourage dog owners to comply with the law, how in individual circumstances they want to work with the pet owner to get the registration completed, and noted that soon folks will be able to pay registration fees by credit card.
   5. **Other:** None.
4. **"11th hour" items**
   1. **Spirit of America recipient:** After considerable discussion the Selectboard asked TA Ortmann to pass on Barbara Rehmeyer's name as this year's nomination.
   2. **Cleaning Town Office:** The Selectboard asked TA Ortmann to ask that special attention be given this spring to dusting and cleaning up spider webs in the Town Office.
   3. **Dam meeting:** First Selectman Steeves noted the collegial environment with State Departments in working on this issue. The information Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds provided showing the mismatch of the old and new culverts seemed particularly helpful and enlightening to the State. Maine DEP will be doing additional research regarding the "official" required lake level.
   4. **Planning Board Candidate Steve Fountain:** Mr. Fountain stopped by to discuss with the Selectboard his interest in serving on the Planning Board. Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded the appointment of Mr. Fountain as an Regular Member of the Planning Board completing Peter Mallow's term ending 3/31/2020. Unanimous.
   5. **Overlock Room replacement lights:** TA Ortmann will order replacement lights for the Overlock room and other Town Office locations that are as long-lasting and energy efficient as possible.
5. **Adjournment:** 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator