MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

May 13, 2019 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

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

**Guest(s):**  None

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:05 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the May 6, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments:** None.
5. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories – Liberty Baptist Church story:** TA Ortmann shared a story in the Republican Journal about the Church's groundbreaking ceremony for an addition.
   2. **Revaluation project status report:** TA Ortmann reported that another batch of property and owner information has been provided to Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services.
   3. **Marshall Shore parking correspondence:** TA Ortmann shared two emails he received from folks outside of Liberty not pleased with the new parking restrictions. TA Ortmann will reply explaining that our neighbors are still welcome to enjoy the Marshall Shore recreation area but they have to find another way to get there other than their own motorized vehicle.
   4. **Request for the Town to extend electricity along Back Palermo Rd.:** TA Ortmann explained two residents, one experiencing and the other expecting deteriorating pulmonary health requiring the use of an oxygen concentrator that runs on electricity, have contacted us about the possibility of the Town paying for the extension of electricity for about ½ mile along Back Palermo Rd. The Selectboard is sympathetic to the situations, but there is no budget or Town Meeting authorization for this type of work.
6. **Old Business** 
   1. **Update on Madge H. Walker Trust research:** TA Ortmann spoke with Teri Marino, a Financial Counseling Supervisor for MaineGeneral Medical Center and Ethel Whitcome from Waldo County Hospital.

* Fund was established to benefit "needy" patients from Appleton, Liberty, Montville, Palermo, Searsmont, and Washington at certain Hospitals.
* Hospitals use MaineHealth Free Care guidelines and their application to determine eligibility.
* If individual is eligible for MaineCare (Maine's Medicaid Program), they MUST apply for it first in order to be eligible for Trust Fund assistance.
* Waldo County Hospital reviews accounts where there is an outstanding balance and checks to see if patient is eligible for assistance from the Trust. This reduces the number of unpaid bills and costs that have to be written off, thereby helping the bottom line of the Hospital and helps patients avoid credit score penalties from unpaid bills.
* Strong incentive to utilize trust.
* Patient doesn't even have to initiate application process.
* Large discrepancy between number of Liberty residents benefiting from Trust at MaineGeneral Medical Center (0) and Waldo County General Hospital (14) June 2015 through May 2016.
* Large discrepancy between number of residents from all 6 Towns benefiting from Trust at MaineGeneral Medical Center (4) and Waldo County General Hospital (67) June 2015 through May 2016.
  + All 4 using MaineGeneral Medical Center from western-most towns of Palermo and Washington
  + As of May 31, 2016 MaineGeneral Medical Center carried over more than $145,000 of unused Trust funds
* Is there is a way to work with MaineGeneral Medical Center to use some of their carry-over Trust funds to provide more benefit to residents of Towns more likely to utilize Waldo County General Hospital?
  1. **Update on lots on Belfast Augusta Road with two structures:** TA Ortmann noted that the one letter we sent certified mail has been picked up. The other letter was sent regular mail. He will follow up on both situations if they are not resolved and he is not contacted about options.
  2. **Update on Lake St. George Water Level Order:** TA Ortmann shared email correspondence regarding the Lake St. George dam from Kathy Howatt, Hydropower Coordinator for the Bureau of Land Resources at Maine DEP.
  3. **Other - Update on foreclosure of Map 3 Lot 8-2, Account 496:** Selectman Steeves reported that she did have a conversation with the former property owner, now living in Arizona, of this property. She asked TA Ortmann to send him written confirmation that the Town now owns the property through the Maine automatic foreclosure process.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Approval of Clerk's appointment of Election Warden for June elections:** Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Hall seconded approval of Karen Fitzmaurice as Election Warden. Unanimous.
   2. **Scheduling furnace cleaning for town office:** TA Ortmann reported that, while the task list has this scheduled for May, it was just completed in January. The Selectboard agreed with TA Ortmann's suggestion to wait until May 2020 for the next scheduled cleaning.
   3. **Liberty Community Relief Association update:** TA Ortmann met this morning with Theresa Merithew (Health Center Practice Manager), Dr. Matthew Molison (Health Center Doctor), and David Kadonoff (Waldo County General Hospital Regional Account Manager) from the Liberty Health Center to find out more about the Liberty Community Relief Association. Following are bullet points regarding topics discussed:

* The Relief Association was formed many years ago but was officially dissolved in 1972
* There are four individuals who have continued in a volunteer capacity
* Loring Peavey (Chair)
* Diane Grosser ( Sec)
* Jesse Clark
* George Worthing (now resigned)
* Function is to advise on use of interest from the Donald H. Walker Trust #1
* Purpose of Trust is to assist with patient care
* Trust principal is only approximately $40,000 and generates approximately $1,000/year
* Viability of the Relief Association is low if no changes
* If Association continues it will need additional members
  1. **Other:** None.

1. **"11th hour" items**
   1. **Paddling programming on Stevens Pond and Lake St. George:** Ta Ortmann shared an email from Andy Bezon from the Midcoast Conservancy about conducting a paddling program on Stevens Pond and Lake St. George this year. The Selectboard has no problem with the dates and times but asked TA Ortmann to caution him about potential parking/congestion issues. TA Ortmann will ask him to send publicity information we can add to our WEB page once he has finalized the timing and location issues with Kate Ahlefeld from C.A.L.L., Kat Newcombe who is offering the summer swimming program, and Sunshine from Lake St. George State Park.
   2. **ATV Club roadway use permission request:** TA Ortmann showed the Selectboard the map of the section of Back Palermo Road the ATV Club wants permission to use. The Selectboard is favorably inclined to grant permission with the condition they don't ride on the shoulder. The Board asked TA Ortmann to check with Road Commissioner Reynolds to see if she has any concerns or if there should be additional conditions placed on the use of the roadway.
2. **:Adjournment:** 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator