MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

July 22, 2019 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar of Voters Gail Philippi

**Guest(s):**  Garnett Robinson, Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:06 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the July 15, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments:** See agenda item 8.a.
5. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories:** TA Ortmann noted a nice story in the Republican Journal about the $2,441 raised during the second annual Ridin' for Riley event. The money raised benefits a scholarship fund honoring Riley Boulay, a Mount View High School junior who died in a car crash in 2017.
   2. **Revaluation project status report:** See agenda item 8.b.
   3. **Meeting schedule with Richard Frost, School Board Representative, RSU #3:** TA Ortmann noted Mr. Frost will be meeting with the Selectboard in August.
6. **Old Business** 
   1. **Sale of Tax Acquired property update:** TA Ortmann reported that we have already received one sealed bid on a property. He also reviewed some confusing information that may dissuade folks from bidding on one of the properties. He is hopeful that research others are doing will help clarify the property's status.
   2. **Other:** None.
7. **New Business**
   1. **Annual review of Homestead exemptions:** TA Ortmann reported that during this annual process he discovered some apparent duplicates. He will be contacting the parties requesting clarification.
   2. **Annual review of Veteran's exemptions:** TA Ortmann reported this list is fairly straightforward and only required confirming whether the Veteran's status changed before or after April 1, 2019.
   3. **Other:** None.
8. **"11th hour" items**
   1. **Fire Chief Bill Gillespie regarding 945 Fishtown Rd:** Chief Gillespie reported on a situation last week where a call about smoke in the home was the result of many electrical devices burning out an old fuse. Pursuant to Title 25, Chapter 315 of the Maine Statutes he condemned the building and refused to return the 2 pole 60amp fuse-holder to the homeowner out of concern that someone could simply replace the burned-out fuse, risking a fire and placing the Liberty Fire Department at liability risk. After discussion Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded officially giving the Fire Chief local authority to condemn a building pursuant to Title 25, Chapter 315 of the Maine Statutes if he believes there is a significant safety issue. Unanimous.

There was also some discussion about the possibility and practicality of using the Hoit Fund to help with family needs in these types of situations.

* 1. **Garnett Robinson regarding revaluation project update and land schedules:** Mr. Robinson reviewed the proposed land schedule. He noted there are many fewer categories and he explained how the structure of TRIO requires changing from a "frontage" system to a "base lot" system to value waterfront property. He noted recent sale values on Lake St. George and "Little Pond" have increased significantly and there are a number of homes under construction. He anticipates total Town valuation to increase significantly this and next year. There was discussion about how this revaluation is likely to increase the percentage of Liberty responsibility for RSU 3 and Waldo County budgets.

Mr. Robinson will be working with TA Ortmann to finalize the letter being sent to taxpayers along with the draft property cards. He will also send a spreadsheet appointment schedule for taxpayers wanting to meet with Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services to discuss any errors on the draft card.

* 1. **Community Hall Generator appropriation and payments:** TA Ortmann explained that the contractor installing the Community Hall generator has not yet completed the project. $6,500 was allocated for the project with $5,750 spent prior to June 30, 2019. The Selectboard noted that the entire $6,500 was obligated in FY19, so, given that accrual accounting records expenses when they are incurred regardless of when cash is exchanged, it is their understanding (and intent) that the $750 balance should also show as a FY19 expense.
  2. **Problem with the Upper Hostile Valley Road Cemetery:** Jalen Babin, our mowing contractor, has informed us that brush from an abutting property appears to have been dumped in the Upper Hostile Valley Road Cemetery. TA Ortmann will draft a letter to the abutters for Selectboard review next week.

1. **Adjournment:** 7:57 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator