MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

October 7, 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):**  None

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:00 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Hall moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the September 30, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments:** Fire Chief Bill Gillespie showed the Selectboard the plaque recognizing him as Maine's 2019 Fire Chief of the Year.

He also responded to the Selectboard's question about whether he has any concerns about occupancy issues at the Liberty Craft Brewing location. He explained his belief that it is in the best interests of the business owner, the performers, the patrons, and the Town to protect the safety of all involved. He suggested the Selectboard send a letter asking that the business owner voluntarily invite the Fire Chief to visit the site to review indoor and outdoor structural components as well as how parking may affect the ability of first responders to access the site. TA Ortmann will draft a letter for the Selectboard to review.

1. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories:** TA Ortmann presented a copy of the October 3, 2019 Republican Journal with an article about our meeting with State agencies to discuss the Lake St. George Dam.
   2. **Revaluation project status report:** TA Ortmann noted he has received several additional abatement requests, but most have very little or no objective backup in support of the requested value reduction.
   3. **Reminder about Spirit of America Foundation Tribute scheduled for Thursday, October 10 at 6 PM at the Belfast Boathouse, 34 Commercial Street in Belfast:** TA Ortmann reminded the Selectboard of the event honoring Waldo County recipients, including Barbara Rehmeyer. TA Ortmann noted he plans to attend.
2. **Old Business** 
   1. **Preparation for Special Town Meeting:** The Selectboard discussed the issues they anticipate at the meeting and will meet briefly with the anticipated moderator to insure that discussion about the Revaluation contract doesn't devolve into complaints about individual assessments.
   2. **Proposed 2020 State Valuation – Garnett Robinson review:** TA Ortmann noted correspondence from Garnett Robinson stating the 12% increase is consistent with what he saw during the Revaluation process.
   3. **Nature Conservancy "energy efficiency funding opportunity" – Elise Brown offer of assistance:** TA Ortmann shared Elise's willingness to help in the application preparation.
   4. **Tax acquired and sold property:** No news to report.
   5. **Other:** None.
3. **New Business**
   1. **Adopt General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D & Appendix H 2019-2020:** After noting we don't have much choice in the matter, Selectman Peavey moved and Selectman Steeves seconded adoption of General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-D & Appendix H 2019-2020. Unanimous.
   2. **Other:** None.
4. **"11th hour" items** 
   1. **"Trunk or Treat":** The Selectboard heard from Clerk Philippi and Fire Chief Gillespie about a similar event planned for the Liberty Baptist Church. Chief Gillespie also noted some of the logistical challenges associated with arranging the event in the Town Office parking lot, including where the parked cars will be, what spaces should be reserved for Town business since the office will be open, and making sure there is room for ambulance and fire apparatus access in case of an emergency. Selectman Peavey will contact the organizers and ask them to work directly with Chief Gillespie on the issues.
   2. **Palermo Snow Club Bureau of Parks and Lands Snowmobile Program application:** TA Ortmann presented the Palermo Snow Club application to the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands Snowmobile Program for assistance n maintaining their trail system. The Selectboard reviewed the document and authorized First Selectman Steeves to sign the application.
5. **Adjournment:** 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator