MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

October 21, 2019 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, EMA Director Elise Brown

**Guest(s):**  None

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:04 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Peavey moved and Selectman Hall seconded approval of the October 7, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments:** See discussion under Nature Conservancy energy efficiency funding opportunity agenda item below.
5. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories:** TA Ortmann shared an article in the Republican Journal regarding the "Joy to be Bald" fundraiser and a section of Senator Herbig's 2019 Legislative Update referencing Liberty Fire Chief Bill Gillespie.
   2. **Revaluation project status report:** TA Ortmann reminded the Selectboard that Garnett Robinson will be meeting with them as the Liberty Board of Assessors at 5 PM next Monday, October 28, 2019 to review abatement requests.
6. **Old Business** 
   1. **Tax acquired and sold property**
      1. **Sheff quitclaim deed:** The Selectboard signed the Quitclaim deed for Map 3 Lot 8-8.
      2. **Soule RETTD signature:** The Selectboard also signed the RETTD for Map 20 Lot 84.
   2. **Other:** None.
7. **New Business**
   1. **Approval of Clerk's appointment of Karen Fitzmaurice Election Warden for November elections:** Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the appointment of Karen Fitzmaurice Election Warden for November 2019 elections. Unanimous.
   2. **Signature on Municipal Valuation Return:** The Selectboard signed the 2019 Municipal Valuation Report. TA Ortmann will be forwarding a copy to the State as required.
   3. **Snow shoveling arrangements:** The Selectboard noted the great job that Luke Davis did last year and asked TA Ortmann to see if Luke is interested in doing it again this year.
   4. **Question about whether Town woodlots are posted by Town:** TA Ortmann noted he received an inquire based upon a Liberty resident who saw No Trespassing signs near the Town Woodlot off Ridge School Road. Based on discussions with Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds and the Selectboard there is no policy to close Town woodlots to hunting. However, since this woodlot is currently being harvested, we will ask hunters not to hunt there this year, including putting a notice on our WEB site.
   5. **Supplemental tax bills:** TA Ortmann noted that during his review of Homestead exemptions there were several mailing addresses different than the property address. In some cases the simple explanation was that someone else is paying the tax bill. In the three cases where the discrepancy was unexplained we sent a letter to the property owner September 24 asking for proof of Liberty residency by October 10. We did receive proof of residency for one property owner, but there was no response from the other two. The Selectboard signed Supplemental Valuation Assessment Notifications for the owners of Map 6 Lot 61 (Account 967) and Map 3 Lot 34 (Account 381).
   6. **Other:** The Selectboard asked TA Ortmann to invite Representative Zeigler to attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting to provide an update on local issues and to hear about legislative issues.
8. **"11th hour" items**
   1. **Budget Committee organizational meeting:** TA Ortmann confirmed the Selectboard's authorization for him to spend the necessary time to work with the Budget Committee in a manner similar to past years.
   2. **Revisiting Nature Conservancy "energy efficiency funding opportunity":** TA Ortmann reported that Elise Brown's home energy performance company is not listed as a "Qualified Partner" for this municipal program. The Selectboard asked TA Ortmann to check with Qualified Partners to see if any are interested in working with us.
9. **Adjournment:** 7:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator