MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

January 6, 2020 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar of Voters Gail Philippi, Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Ambulance Chief Chris Birge and Assistant Chief Jason Earl, Budget Committee members Chair Elise Brown, Secretary Dorothy Harrison, Judith Fuller, Joy Hadsell, Betsy Levine, Melanie Ripley, and Joan Tax

**Guest(s):**  Mary Jane Welch, Ian Collins, Heidi Perkins, Katherine Albee

1. **Open Public Meeting:** 6:00 PM
2. **Meeting with McLain Road and Howes Cove Road residents:** At the December 16, 2019 Selectboard meeting concerns were noted about property adjacent to road and frozen culvert repair activity on McLain Road (Map 3 Lot 3B, 322 McLain Road). TA Ortmann was asked to contact the property owners to request information about how the residents are disposing and treating the wastewater generated by their residential use, to ask that all dogs on the property be properly licensed, and to contact Maine Assessment & Appraisal Services on the TRIO entry to confirm there were no structures on the property as of April 1, 2019.

The property owner Katherine Albee and three of her neighbors, Mary Jane Welch, Ian Collins, and Heidi Perkins, asked to meet with the Selectboard. Ms. Albee explained her unease receiving the certified letter in the context of having expressed her concerns about the culvert all summer and having the Sheriff called on her. She felt as though she was trying to follow the chain of command in notifying the Town about a problem and, rather than someone just calling her she receives a letter that feels hostile to her. She asked exactly what she still needs to do. Selectman Peavey noted that when the Selectboard receives questions or concerns they need to communicate in writing so there is a record of the concern and the follow-up. Selectman Steeves noted that she is a neighbor just up the street and invited Ms. Albee to come and talk to her if there are issues in the future. Selectman Steeves clarified that Ms. Albee had already registered her dog, so the only other request was that she provide information about how she and her wife are disposing of and treating the wastewater generated by their residential use.

The Selectboard then joined the Budget Committee meeting in progress.

1. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the December 23, 2019 minutes. Unanimous.
2. **Swearing in of Budget Committee members:** This was completed by Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar of Voters Gail Philippi as the Budget Committee convened.
3. **Joint meeting with Liberty Budget Committee**
	1. **Road Commissioner:** Road Commissioner Reynolds discussed her budgets with the Budget Committee before the Selectboard arrived. She will join the groups again on January 20th to answer any questions.
	2. **Fire Chief:** Fire Chief Gillespie discussed his budget noting how some line items changed a little but his bottom line proposal for operations and payroll are the same as last year for a total of $70,000.
	3. **Ambulance:** Ambulance Chief Chris Birge and Assistant Chief Jason Earl discussed the proposed budget. They are proposing a 6.3% increase over last year to a total of $74,649. There was considerable discussion about the impact of Montville's decision last year and the challenges faced by volunteer ambulance services across the country.
4. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
5. **Officials/Public comments:** None.
6. **TA informational items**
	1. **Media stories:** TA Ortmann noted the story in the Republican Journal about the Liberty Fire Department's successful efforts to help rescue a horse that broke through the ice in Trues Pond.
7. **Old Business**
	1. **Snow Shoveling:** No new information.
	2. **Problematic Subdivision - update:** TA Ortmann shared that he met with Attorney Kelly to deliver his memo outlining the events leading to the problematic subdivision.
	3. **Abatement denial appeal - update:** TA Ortmann shared his conversation with Garnett Robinson about how the Tree Growth abatement denial appeal process now includes a mediation phase. He noted he has given Attorney Kelly a copy of the abatement appeal just in case the Selectboard decides his assistance in the mediation process would be helpful.
	4. **Other:** None.
8. **New Business**
	1. **Other:** None.
9. **"11th hour" items:** None.
10. **Adjournment:** 7:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator