MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

March 23, 2020 6:00 PM

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

Carrie Peavey, 2nd Selectman

***Excused:*** *Henry Hall, 3rd Selectman due to health precautions*

**Town Officials:** Administrator Kenn Ortmann, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Treasurer Hannah Hatfield, CEO Don Harriman, Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds, EMA Director Elise Brown, Clerk/Tax Collector/Registrar of Voters Gail Philippi

**Guest(s):**  None.

1. **Open Meeting:** 6:00 PM (closed to the public due to Coronavirus - COVID-19 - situation)
2. **Approve Minutes:** Pursuant to review Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded approval of the March 16, 2020 minutes. Unanimous.
3. **Warrant Review and Approval:** Done.
4. **Officials/Public comments**
   1. **Coronavirus COVID-19 update:** EMA Director Elise Brown provided an update on her activities to date. She also suggested we begin thinking about the mental health impacts of the isolation some residents may be experiencing during this crisis. Following a discussion about the fact that all of her recent activity is related to the Coronavirus COVID-19 issue and no time is being spent on typical EMA activities, Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded paying the EMA Director on an hourly basis for all Coronavirus COVID-19 related activities. Unanimous.

Fire Chief Gillespie provided an update on procedures the Fire Department and Ambulance Service are following and on securing medical supplies from the State. He also noted that folks have been dropping of money and supplies that will allow for additional resources for the Amvets and Baptist Church food pantries.

Following a discussion about how many taxpayers are anxious about the next tax bill due on May 5, Selectman Steeves moved and Selectman Peavey seconded a motion to defer accruing interest on unpaid taxes until 30 days after the Governor cancels the Maine civil state of emergency. Unanimous.

The Selectboard also asked all Departments to defer non-essential expenses until we know more about cash flow over the next several months.

TA Ortmann will include discussions about the Town's cash flow, Town Office hours, and about Food Pantry support on next week's agenda.

TA Ortmann will update the Town's WEB page to reflect our policies related to the Coronavirus COVID-19 situation as well as links to State and Federal WEB sites.

1. **TA informational items**
   1. **Media stories:** None.
   2. **ZOOM meeting option:** TA Ortmann will explore this option as a way to have Selectboard meetings comply with the new law addressing electronic meetings.
   3. **Digital Map project update:** TA Ortmann reported that our digital tax map contractor has moved to quality control testing.
2. **Old Business** 
   1. **Town Administrator position update:** TA Ortmann reported that the ad has run in the Republican Journal and on the MMA WEB site. We have not received any inquires so far.
   2. **Problematic Subdivision update:** No update.
   3. **Quigg Island update:** No update.
   4. **Other:** None.
3. **New Business**
4. **Telephone system training:** The Grasshopper phone system set up by Elise Brown is adequate for the time being. However, all Town calls, including Fire and Road Commissioner now will go to the Clerk's phone if not picked up in two rings. We will monitor the additional work load as the current Coronavirus COVID-19 situation unfolds.
5. **Revision Energy solar array offer:** First Selectman Melinda Steeves will follow up with Revision energy regarding the best location for the array and the cost of a battery storage system.
6. **Stevens Pond Dam repair:** The Selectboard believes it is appropriate to postpone this expenditure until our cash flow situation stabilizes.
7. **Midcoast Conservancy property tax exemption request:** TA Ortmann will request further information in anticipation of this agenda item next week.
8. **Other:** None.
9. **"11th hour" items:** None.
10. **Adjournment:** 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kenn Ortmann

Town Administrator