

TOWN OF LIBERTY

SELECTBOARD/ASSESSORS
7 Water Street, P. O Box 116
Liberty ME 04949
Ph. 207-589-3014
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MINUTES LIBERTY SELECTBOARD April 4, 2022

Melinda Steeves, 1st Selectman
Andre Blanchard, 2nd Selectman
Duane Jewett, 3rd Selectman

Town Officials: Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, CEO Don Harriman

Visitors: Lise Harold, Dean Bartlett, Ian Jewett, Kate Meadows, Nicole Gates

1. Open Select Board Meeting: 6:02 pm

2. Approve Minutes: Approved unanimously

3. Officials/Public Comments –

- a. Lise Harold asked if there was an application for ACO, Selectman Steeves said that she had her written down on a list of people to consider.
- b. Dean Bartlett had questions about the Memorial Day Parade regarding why the route was changed. He asked how the decision was made and was worried that the decision made was based only on one person's opinion. He also expressed concerns about the fact that the route change was announced on Facebook, seemingly without any community discussion. Selectman Blanchard assured him that they did not authorize any Facebook posts, Selectman Steeves explained that Elise Brown had sent in an Email asking about the parade and expressing concerns with the Pastor speaking and involving religion when everybody has their own different beliefs. FC Gillespie asked who was in charge of the parade planning, and it was decided that it would be best for a committee to be created. Selectman Blanchard read an email from Elise Brown explaining that she did not mean for this to turn into such a big thing, she was just expressing her feelings and asking some questions about the way things are done. Pastor Ian Jewett explained that he planned to keep his remarks about Memorial Day, and not religion or political matters. Selectman Steeves moved to keep the parade route as usual and end at the church, Selectman Blanchard seconded. Selectman Steeves mentioned that Montville will be asked to contribute to the float prizes for the parade.
- c. FC Gillespie inquired about our lawyer viewing the contract, Selectman Steeves will follow up on it.
- d. Kate Meadows had questions about where 'Intent to Build' forms should be going, if the shore-land applications and intent to build forms should be kept as a pair, and was wondering what the planning board does. Selectman Steeves explained that all forms should go to CEO Harriman. CEO Harriman explained that people do not have to fill out both forms, only one is necessary. It was explained that the Planning board deals with ordinances and non conforming lots. Selectman Steeves asked that a group email be created for the planning board for better communication. Selectman Blanchard asked if Kate had started editing the town website yet, Kate has not since she has been out of town.

4. Business:

- a. **School Budget** - Selectman Blanchard stated that there was a \$228,500 increase, which works out to be 1.13%. He has done research and looked at figures from last year, and wants to try to get the figures back to being determined per pupil. He said that the DOE rules make calculations based on total property evaluation, and since we have the highest property evaluation, we pay the most. Selectman Blanchard stated that if it were calculated based on income vs. wealth we would be somewhere in the middle of the district. His calculations show that Unity has the highest income with \$86,000, Brooks the lowest with \$37,000, and Liberty has an income of \$48,203. He stated that he thinks this is a good argument and has sent an email to the DOE to determine who makes the rules on this.
- b. **Sand Shed** – Selectman Jewett stated that the rebar has been ordered from Viking Lumber, and will be delivered to Cox Machine to be bent and welded. He will be touching base with Avery Glidden and others to determine the most cost effective way to go with other steps. Selectman Steeves asked for final numbers, Selectman Jewett will total everything and have figures next week.

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- c. **Broadband Committee** – Selectman Blanchard stated that there is a Zoom meeting scheduled for April 6, and he expects 6 people to be in attendance.
- d. **MMA Revitalization Webinar** – Selectman Blanchard stated that the webinar was very eyeopening. He says that there is already a lot of money coming into the state, but broadband money isn't coming in yet. He stated that the DOT commissioner has said that they will be using the money for routine stuff and then they will be looking for visionary communities to revamp their whole towns. They want to help revamp curbs, sidewalks, everything. Selectman Blanchard stated that he thinks that we should jump on it and form a major planning committee to come up with a visionary plan. Selectman Blanchard stated that the DOT is assisting towns with grant writing, planning, engineering planning etc. and that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Selectman Steeves stated that Selectman Blanchard should start a committee, and that there was already a comprehensive plan made in the past that didn't get approved that he can look at for ideas.
- e. **Emails from community-** Selectman Steeves stated that she received an email from a citizen complaining about their neighbor. Selectman Steeves stated that it sounded like a civil problem and asked if they have tried talking to their neighbor. Heidi Blood emailed asking about the ACO position, Selectman Steeves told her she was welcome to come talk to the selectboard. Selectman Steeves stated that she will be keeping up on all emails to help make sure nothing gets missed during this transition time with TA.
- f. **TA position-** Selectman Blanchard asked if there was an ad in the paper advertising the TA position. Selectman Steeves stated that yes it has been submitted.
- g. **Library-** Selectman Steeves stated that Barb is waiting for the police report for the broken window.

5. **Warrant** – Approved

6. **Adjourn: 7:15 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Gates, Deputy Clerk