

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 11, 2022

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

Town Officials: Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, CEO Don Harriman, Emergency Management Director Elise Brown
Visitors: Linda Breslin, Joe Meadows, Kristine Gorman, Nicole Gates

1. Open Select Board Meeting: 6:02 pm

2. Approve Minutes: April 4, 2022 - Approved

3. Officials/Public Comments –

- a. Linda Breslin stated that C.A.L.L. has been nominated to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Woodard & Curran Foundation in celebration of the life of Marilyn Baer. Linda explained some of the things that will be focused on with this grant money. One big focus will be camp road maintenance, including a workshop for camp road associations and a camp road maintenance manual. A second issue that they would like to target is with individual property owners; putting together and distributing a manual on dealing with things like erosion control, invasive plants, and all of the different rules and regulations. Linda also stated that they have hired Sharon Clark for the Lake Keepers Camp, and she is excited for the year to come. Something the camp kids will be helping with is planting buffer plants in different locations around the water. Linda asked if the town could help with digging the holes for this planting to happen. Selectman Steeves stated that as a heads up there are ground hornets at Stevens Pond in the beach area. Linda stated that she will address that issue. Selectman Blanchard asked Linda if C.A.L.L. Will be doing boat inspections. Linda stated that yes, they have \$3200 for boat inspections and that they have a whole crew ready to go.
- b. FC Gillespie stated that he received an email from the attorney and everything is ready for both attorneys to meet and sign paperwork. It will be coordinated so that the selectboard can be there at closing, and once the signatures are done everything will be ready to go. Selectman Jewett asked when the new ambulance will be on line, and FC Gillespie said that it has already been serviced and is ready to go even with a new stretcher, and once everything is signed and they get a license plate it will be ready for service. FC Gillespie mentioned that they have had 14 calls in 11 days, and 4 of them were in Palermo.
- c. EMD Brown stated that she has started the FEMA grant application for the Halloween storm from 2 years ago in 2020. EMD Brown mentioned that Tammy Reynolds has calculated \$35,000 worth of damage from that storm that still has to be worked on.
- d. Joe Meadows stated that he has noticed that there are areas in town that flood when we have lots of heavy rain. He is wondering if there is anything we can do to help prevent this, or if there can be a list started of problem areas to target. Bill Gillespie stated that the worst areas are near Marshall Shores, Plummer road, Hostile valley, and Fishtown roads and that it has become more and more of a problem in the last 4-5 years. Elise Brown mentioned that she could look into hazard mitigation grants. Selectman Blanchard stated that maybe the village partnership initiative could help.
- e. Kristine Gorman came in to talk about the village partnership initiative. She stated that she has also talked to the DOT commissioner and asked him what we could do with Liberty. She explained how the initiative plans to take small villages and improve them with things like sidewalks and signage. Selectman Blanchard stated that something that could be a big improvement would be sidewalks all the way from the village to Walker School. The problem of parking was brought up, and there was a discussion about where additional parking could take place. Selectman Blanchard stated that the DOT commissioner is willing to brief the whole town and explain the initiative. He would like to get a committee together to start brainstorming. Kristine stated that she would be willing to help and be involved if a vision steering committee was created.

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4. Business

- a. **TA and TC positions-** Selectman Steeves stated that there will be an interview on Thursday with someone who is interested in both positions. She asked Selectman Blanchard to look into insurance and have more information for Thursday.
- b. **Sand Shed** – Selectman Jewett stated that the estimations have gone up because a lot of things have changed and prices have increased. He will be meeting with Ace and Dave tomorrow morning to address the issues with the ledge. The contractor has mentioned that it may be necessary to pin footings to the ledge, they will evaluate and determine the best course of action. Selectman Jewett mentioned that we will be receiving all of the bolts and fasteners on the 25th and the rebar is all at Cox Machine to be bent and welded. He stated that some price increases might include a fuel surcharge as the prices go up. Selectman Jewett stated that overall we are at around a 60 – 70k increase from our original estimate due to necessary changes and price increases. Selectman Steeves stated that we still have the money to cover it, but lets try to get things done before more price increases.
- c. **Broadband Committee** – Selectman Blanchard stated that the broadband committee had a good first meeting, and Jeff Johnson was elected as chair. He mentioned that they are still waiting for the best offers to complete the feasibility study, and that once they are available he will give them to the committee to review.
- d. **ACO** – Selectman Steeves stated that they are waiting to hear from Heidi Blood, and there has been no other interest shown. There was discussion about what other towns like Searsmont and Washington do for ACO, Selectman Steeves is going to look into it.
- e. **Property tax contribution to the school district-** Selectman Blanchard stated that he has sent an email and thinks that it has a good chance for approval. He has researched the DOE process and the amendment process and he will need to get a majority of the school board to agree with the amendment. Selectman Blanchard stated that he thinks the DOE does not have an accurate way to calculate currently and that income based would be more fair, but that he would like to try for a per pupil base. He mentioned that Liberty had a \$150,000 increase in what we pay and that we pay the highest of the towns.

5. **Warrant** – Approved

6. **Adjourn: 7:18 pm**

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole Gates, Deputy Clerk