MINUTES FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

State of Maine

Town of Liberty

Monday, October 18, 2021

**To: Joe Meadows**, Resident of the Town of Liberty, in the County of Waldo, the State of Maine.

Greetings: In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Liberty in said county and state, qualified by law to vote in town affairs, to **meet at the Liberty Community Hall** in said Town on **Monday, the 18th day of October 2021 at 6 p.m.** in the afternoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

*Meeting opened at 6:00 p.m.*

Article 1: To elect by written ballot a moderator to preside at said meeting.

*Melinda Steeves nominated Andrew Worcester, Duane Jewett seconded. Andrew Worcester voted in by written ballot. Andrew Worcester sworn in.*

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to accept and expend additional funds received for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) from Federal, State, County, and other sources for town purposes consistent with the restrictions of the program(s) until the next scheduled Town Meeting in 2022.

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept as Read; Andre Blanchard seconded. Discussion: Judy Fuller asked how much we would be receiving. Melinda Steeves responded $20,000 from County and $102,000 from State, in 2 payments. Melinda Steeves Motion to Bring to Vote; Andre Blanchard seconded. Passes.*

Article 3: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to authorize the expenditure of monies transferred or awarded by the Waldo County Commissioners to the Town of Liberty, Maine under provisions of the ARPA to the Southwestern Waldo County Broadband Coalition for the purposes of funding a broadband service feasibility study and related expenses, said purposes being eligible for distribution under ARPA infrastructure guidelines and provisions permitting such funds to be expended for broadband infrastructure and to expand access to broadband internet.

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept as Read; Andre Blanchard seconded. No discussion. Passes.*

Article 4: To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from the revenues received from the sale of the recently auctioned properties, for a Fire and Rescue Boat for the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department. **SELECTBOARD Recommends the amount of $64,528.37.**

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept as Read; Andre Blanchard seconded. Discussion: Sara Salley asked if it is 1 boat or 2. Fire Chief Gillespie responded that it is 2 boats in 1 as a package. For a single boat, the cost is around $47,000. For $18,000 more, there is a 2nd boat. Judy Fuller asked if it was also for rescue. Fire Chief Gillespie responded “Absolutely”. Melinda Steeves Motion to Bring to Vote; Duane Jewett seconded. Passes.*

Article 5: To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board to solicit, accept, and award Bids of three (3) years for Contracts for mowing or snowplowing.

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept with “mowing AND snowplowing”. Duane Jewett seconded. No discussion. Passes.*

Article 6: To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to authorize the continuance of the three (3) years for the Snowplow Contract (from **Fall 2020** – Spring 2023) in the amount of $206,700/year.

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept as Read; Andre Blanchard seconded. Discussion: Jo Peavey asked what happened to the Contract that we had. Melinda Steeves responded it is the same contract. Carrie Peavey asked why a Special Town Meeting when 3-year contracts have been done historically for many years. Andre Blanchard responded it was his input that according to guidance from MMA, multi-year contracts must have explicit consent to authorize Selectboard to sign contracts on behalf of the Town, so they are asking approval now to bring into compliance with the law. Carrie Peavey asked if it had something to do with personal agenda. Andrew Worcester stopped the question. Elise Brown said if it had been missed or needs improved on, it should be considered evolution in government. There is no change to the contract. Steve Fountain asked if the Town had approved it before. Andre Blanchard responded the amount of the 3-year contract was approved. Dottie Thornton asked if there was an intent to change anything. Melinda Steeves responded no. Kathy Monroe asked if there was any change to the roads that were to be plowed. Melinda Steeves responded no. Andrew Worcester says that Article 5 allows future 3-year contracts. Next Town Meeting Article 5 should be “authorize to finalize” and be 3 years from that point. Dave St. Clair suggested to pay Jim Butler of J&G Transport (current snowplow contractor) for 2 years. Steve Fountain asked if Butler should be given an extra year since we are voting on a 3-year contract today. Melinda Steeves clarified that this was just a continuance of the three (3) year. Andre Blanchard pointed out “from* ***Fall 2020****”. Carrie Peavey asked why it is a big problem now. Andre Blanchard said anyone in the Town could point it out. Elise Brown reiterated it is not a big problem. Not changing the contract or money. Melinda Steeves Motion to Bring to Vote; Betty Lu Davis seconded. Passes.*

Article 7; To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of $11,584.16 from revenues received from the sale of the recently auctioned properties to supplement the loan from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank in the amount of $339,503 for the purpose of refinancing the Town’s existing fire truck lease/purchase agreement.

*Melinda Steeves Motion to Accept as Read; Andre Blanchard seconded. Discussion: Tammy Reynolds asked about amended the amount to use money from sale of woodlots to pay off much of the Fire Truck Loan then have a smaller amount to borrow from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank. Andrew Worcester points out that “Amendment is out of order”. Judy Fuller asks that we put as much as we can on the loan for the next Warrant. Melinda Steeves says that by going to Bond Bank we are getting a 1.5% interest rate, there was just a penalty for early payoff. Duane Jewett makes not that it is a good interest rate, and we will most likely need a salt/sand shed rebuild soon at upwards of $500,000. Melinda Steeves Motion to Bring to Vote; Andre Blanchard seconded. Passes.*

*Dana Philippi asked to reference storage of private…, Andrew Worcester ceased business. Danny McGovern Moved to adjourn; Teresa Butler seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.*

**Minutes taken by Beth Cohen, Liberty Town Clerk. A True Copy: Attest**