**TOWN WARRANT**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**TOWN OF LIBERTY**

***Speakers prior to the commencement:***

* *Paige Zeigler Spoke* 
  + *about next year being his final year as his term is up*
  + *2000 bills being worked through about electric breaks for the next 10 years*
* *Andre addressed his letter regarding withdrawing from the RSU*
* *Tammy Reynolds said condolences to Linda Breslin and*
* *Tammy Reynolds's congratulated Barb Rehmeyer on the librarian award.*
* *Melinda Steeves introduced Lindsey Pottle Town Clerk*

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 **Saturday, the 25th day of March, 2023 at 9:00** in the forenoon, then and there to act on the following articles to wit:

**ARTICLES**

**ELECTION OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

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

*Tammy Reynolds's nominates Andrew Worcester, seconded by Melinda Steeves. Andrew Worcester was elected with 3 written votes.*

1. To see if the Town will vote to make the Tax Collector position appointed beginning FY24 rather than being elected at Town Meeting.  
   *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Tammy Reynolds's. None opposed, article passes*
2. To elect the following positions:
   1. Tax Collector - *Tammy Reynolds's nominates Nicole Gates, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes.*
   2. Fire Chief (one year) - *Tammy Reynolds's nominates Bill Gillesbe, seconded by Elise Brown. None opposed, article passes.*
   3. Road Commissioner (one year) - *Barbara Rehmeyer nominates Tammy Reynolds's, seconded by Betty Lou. None opposed, article passes.*
3. To elect a Third Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. (Duane Jewett’s term is ending.) *Melinda Steeves nominates Duane Jewett, seconded by Joe Meadows. None opposed, article passes.*
4. To elect a Budget Committee not to exceed 8 members to assist the Selectboard by meeting periodically with the Selectboard and Treasurer to review financial accounts of the Town and assist in budgeting town funds. Current members are Elise Brown, Judith Fuller, Dorothy Thornton, Betsy Levine, Melanie Ripley, Danny McGovern, and Henry Hall.   
   *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes.*

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

1. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to transfer unexpended balances to any account requiring said funds for the purpose of balancing accounts.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes.*

1. To fix compensation, from taxation, for the following Town Official positions:

*Tammy Reynolds's makes a motion to amend Bill Gillespies pay to $13,000 out of taxation. Discussion with Melinda Steeves about taking it out of Ambulance or Revenue, Bill Gillespie said he is fine taking it out of ambulance. Tammy Reynolds's withdraws amendment of taking it out of taxation and makes motion to accept as read. Call to vote for 131,500$ None opposed, article passes.*

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Town Agent | $24,426 | $39,750 |
| Deputy Town Clerk | $25,000 | $13,500 |
| Treasurer | $ 10,000 | $10,000 |
| Deputy Treasurer | $ 1,500 | $ 1,500 |
| First Selectman | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 |
| Second Selectman | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 |
| Third Selectman | $ 5,000 | $ 5,000 |
| Town Administrator | $18,200 | $19,000 |
| Code Enforcement Officer | $ 5,250 | $ 5,250 |
| Fire Chief | $ 9,500 | $ 9,500 |
| Road Commissioner | $10,000 | $10,000 |
| Animal Control Officer | $ 4,000 | $ 4,000 |
| Registrar of Voters | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
| Plumbing Inspector | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| E911 Addressing Officer | $ 1,000 | $1,000 |
| Emergency Management Director | $ 1,500 | $1,500 |
| **TOTAL** | $126,876 | $131,500 |

*Tammy Reynolds's asks if we can move to article 16-23 so Fire Chief can go to Montville town meeting, seconded by Andre Blanchard. None opposed, passed.*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation, for the following accounts: Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. Discussion on the floor

*Tammy Reynolds's stated maps are not updated, and we are paying for something we are not getting. Tammy Reynolds's makes a motion to not accept this fee of $3500.00. Andre Blanchard states he will check in with Axis to see what the process to get them updated is. Jake Ojala asks what company it is. Joe Meadows thinks we should leave money the way it is and let the select board decide what to do regarding the maps.*

*Betty Lou Davis asks how cemetery mowing works? Melinda Steeves said the town is obligated to mow veterans and that we use to have a committee, Discussion on the floor about how the Hunts Cemetery operates and if the town should be getting some of the revenue or have access to the records.*

*Tammy Reynolds's removes her motion and accepts as read, call to vote for $142,335.25. None opposed, article passes*.

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Administration | $30,000 | $30,000 |
| Assessor’s Agent | $ 11,250 | $10,125 |
| Digital Tax Maps | $ 3,200 | $ 3,500 |
| Legal Fees | $ 8,855 | $ 4,000 |
| Planning Board | $ 3,000 | $ 3,000 |
| TCSWMO | $28,000 | $30,740 |
| Animal Control | $ 1,900 | $ 1,900 |
| EMA Ops | $ 250 | $ 250 |
| Cemeteries / Mowing | $9,800 | $ 9,800 |
| General Assistance | $ 2,000 | $ 2,000 |
| Streetlights | $ 3,300 | $ 3,300 |
| Insurance | $20,000 | $20,000 |
| Payroll Taxes | $ 11,500 | $12,125.25 |
| Parking Management | $ 3,995 | $ 3,995 |
| Snow Shoveling | $ 600 | $ 600 |
| Community Hall | $ 5,000 | $7,000 |
| **TOTAL** | $142,650 | $142,335.25 |

1. **ARTICLE 9:** Shall the Town of Liberty (1) **approve** a capital improvement project consisting of the purchase of solar panels and heat pumps for the Town Office and Fire Station, including transaction costs and other expenses reasonably related thereto; (2) **appropriate** the sum of $100,000 to fund the project; (3) **authorize** the Town Treasurer and the Chair of the Select Board to issue general obligation securities of the Town (including temporary notes in anticipation of the sale thereof) in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed $100,000 to fund the appropriation; and (4) **delegate** to the Treasurer and the Chair of the Select Board the authority and discretion to fix the dates, maturities, interest rates, denominations, calls for redemption (with or without premium), form, and other details of said securities, including authority to execute and deliver the securities on behalf of the Town?

*Elise Brown makes a motion to accept as amended wording it as an “energy efficient renovation” instead of capital improvement project. Andre speaks about the furnace being on its last leg and this improvement would be replacing our main source of heat with heat pumps.*

*Joe Meadows accepts as amended, seconded by Elise Brown. Call to vote none opposed, Article Passes*

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1. TOTAL BOND INDEBTEDNESS

a. Bonds outstanding and unpaid: $ 310,073.15

b. Bonds authorized and unissued (other than this loan): $ -0-

c. Maximum amount to be issued if approved: $ 100,000

2. COSTS

At an estimated maximum interest rate of 4.5% for a ten (10) year maturity, the estimated cost of this bond will be:

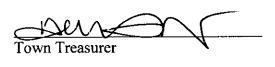
Principal $ 100,000

Interest $ 24,366

Total: $ 124,366

3.VALIDITY

The validity of the bonds and the voter's ratification of the bonds may not be affected by any error in the above estimates. If the actual amount of the total debt service varies from the estimates, the ratification by the voters nevertheless conclusive, and the validity of the bond issue is not affected by reason of the variance.



1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation for the Computers, Security, and IT services.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Sarah Salley. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Computer Services | $17,000 | $17,000 |
| Office Equipment Reserve | $0 | $3,900 |
| **Total** | $17,000 | $20,900 |

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation to supplement the Community Hall Capital Reserve fund. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Community Hall Operations line item, any donation to the fund and fees collected from users of the Community Hall to the Community Hall Capital Reserve account. (Saving for new floors.)

**Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andrea Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Community Hall Capital Reserve Fund | $ 1,000 | $1,000 |

**HIGHWAYS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation for the Roads and Bridges accounts to be used for the maintenance, sand/salt and snowplowing of contracted Town roads and to be used as Town matching funds for any FEMA/MEMA grants received in FY24.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| RDB Maintenance | $ 60,000 | $ 60,000 |
| Salt & Sand | $ 48,000 | $ 60,000 |
| Snowplowing | $189,000 | $206,700 |
| Signs | $ 2,000 | $ 2,000 |
| **TOTAL** | $299,000 | $328,700 |

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate to supplement the Paving Capital Reserve fund. [Fund balance as of July 1, 2023, is $4,405.00]

**Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Cindy Frost. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY23** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| Paving Capital Reserve Fund | $240,000 | $180,000 |

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the RDB Maintenance, and Salt & Sand Accounts to the Paving Capital Reserve account.

**Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass.**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from taxation, to be used to assure proper operation of the Lake St. George and Stevens Pond dams.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

*Joe Meadows let us know that the bottom boards will need to be replaced and Duane Jewett offers to saw boards.*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY23** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| St. George Maintenance | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| Stevens Pond Maintenance | $ 500 | $ 1 |
| **TOTAL** | $1,500 | $1,001 |

**LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to operate the Liberty Volunteer Fire Department, pay Fire Department volunteer firefighters while on the job, and contribute to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. Joe Meadows makes a motion to raise the amount going into the reserve fund from 15k to 25k to reach our goal for a new tanker truck sooner.*

*Call to vote to accept amendment – 1 opposed amendment passes.*

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| **ITEM** | **Adopted FY23** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Fire Department Operations | $ 55,540 | $60,000 |
| Fire Department Payroll Expenses | $ 25,000 | $25,000 |
| Fire Department Capital Reserve | $ 15,000 | $15,000 |
| **TOTAL** | $95,540 | $100,000 |

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Operations account to the LVFD Capital Reserve account. [Fund balance as of July 1, 2023, is $72,365.00]

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Joe Meadows. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Payroll Account to the LVFD Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

**Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will use any donations to the LVFD to offset LVFD Operations or Payroll budget overruns and add any surplus to the LVFD Capital Reserve account.

**Selectboard & Budget Committee Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard None opposed, article passes*

**AMBULANCE SERVICE**

1. To see if the Town will allow the Treasurer to accept and use revenue from Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service billing to pay Liberty Fire & Rescue expenses.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Earle Albert. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will appropriate from Liberty Fire & Rescue revenue $60,000 for expenses for FY24.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will accept funds from other Municipalities to defray the cost of payroll expenses.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate funds, from taxation, $77,000 to be used for payroll and training expenses for Liberty Fire & Rescue.

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

**RECREATION ACCOUNT**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following recreation requests:

*Tammy Reynolds would like to make an amendment to give $450 to Liberty Bum League as they were not able to get the request in on time. Elise explains that we had minimal requests in, so we decided to set 1000$ aside for late requests. Barbara Reymeyer suggested we mail our reminders to get requests in on time. Call to vote to accept amendment passes. Tammy Reynolds accepts as amended, seconded by Melinda Steeves. None opposed, article passes at 2600$.*

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| **Recreation Request** | **Adopted FY23** | **Agency Request** | **Recommended FY24** |
| Liberty/Montville Farm Team | $250 | - | - |
| Mt. View Little League | $100 | - | - |
| Swimming Lessons | $1,200 | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| Walker Bum League | $100 | - | - |
| YMCA | $250 | $ 150 | $150 |
| Recreation Fund | $500 | - | $1,000 |
| **TOTAL** | $2,400 | - | $2,150 |

1. To see if the Town will accept reimbursements from the Town of Montville for maintenance of the recreation area. Montville has been formally requested to raise $3,000 for this account. **Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine for Recreational Account (Income from the State Park estimated at $4,930.00)

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, the amount of $2,350 for Park Maintenance including portable toilets.

*Sara Salley would like to make an amendment to appropriate money from the Recreation account. Call to vote to accept amendment passes. Sara Salley accepts as amended, seconded by Elise Brown. None opposed, article passes*

**LIBERTY LIBRARY**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to help support operation of the Liberty Library.

*Cindy Frost accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. Julie Beckford would like to make an amendment to raise the amount to 9000$ Call to vote to accept amendment passes. Cindy Frost accepts as amended, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes at 9000$*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY23** | **REQUEST** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| Liberty Library Operations | $ 7,000 | **$ 7,000** | **$ 8,000** |

**SOCIAL REQUESTS**

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation for the following:

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andrea Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED**  **FY23** | **AGENCY REQUEST** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| Belfast Area Child Care Services | $ 500 | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Citizens Association Liberty Lakes | $ 300 | $ 400 | $ 400 |
| Garry Owen House | $ 350 | - | - |
| Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County | $ 500 | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Liberty Historical Society | $ 600 | $ 700 | $ 700 |
| Liberty Bicentennial Celebration | $1,000 | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| Lifeflight | $ 913 | $ 934 | $ 934 |
| Maine Public Radio | $ 100 | $ 100 | $ 100 |
| Maine Youth Alliance-Game Loft | $ 400 | $ 400 | $ 400 |
| New Hope for Women Midcoast | $ 750 | $ 900 | $ 900 |
| Spectrum Generations | $ 850 | $ 850 | $ 850 |
| Waldo Cap | $ 4,942 | $ 5,757 | $ 5,757 |
| Waldo County Pet Food Pantry | $ 200 | $ 250 | $ 250 |
| Waldo County Woodshed | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 | $ 1,000 |
| **TOTAL** | $12,405 | $13,291 | $13,291 |

**DEBT SERVICE**

1. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following loans:

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Cindy Frost. None opposed, article passes*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY 23** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| Fire Truck | $33,710.27 | $33,710.27 |

**WALKER-OVERLOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

1. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to supplement the WOMS scholarship Account.

*Barbara Reymeyer accepts as read, seconded by Melinda Steeves. None opposed, article passes. Barbara Reymeyer wants to get the word out to have people apply.*

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| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY23** | **REQUEST** | **RECOMMENDED FY24** |
| WOM Scholarship | $1,500 | $1,500 | $1,500 |

**MILEAGE**

1. To see what rate the Town will vote to authorize as travel expenses for essential travel by any Town Official when such travel is on town business, out of town and Code Enforcement Officer on town business in town, to be paid from the Administration Account. **Recommendation:** Adopt State Standard Mileage Rate: Current rate $.46/mile

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Cindy Frost. None opposed, article passes*

**PROPERTY TAXES**

1. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable to the Tax Collector immediately upon Commitment and:
   1. To see if the Town will determine that the first half taxes not paid 30 days after Commitment are considered delinquent and second payment due first week of May, delinquent 1 day after due date. **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*
   2. To see what sum of interest the Town will vote to charge on all liens and delinquent taxes. **Recommendation: 6%** (The maximum rate of interest that may be charged:8%) *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. Article passes*
   3. To see if the Town will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount more than that finally assessed shall be repaid the amount of the overpayment plus interest from date of the overpayment at an annual rate set 4% below that established in the preceding Article. **Recommendation: 2%** *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Andre Blanchard. None opposed, article passes*
   4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize any action necessary, by the Selectboard and Treasurer, to collect any delinquent taxes outstanding for prior years; and to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired for non-payment of taxes thereon, using a bid process or other such terms as deemed advisable, by the Selectboard and the State, including publishing in local papers, including the right to accept or reject any and all bids, and should the bid process be used, authorize execution of Quit-Claim deeds for such property sold, except that the Municipal Officers shall use the special sale process required by 36 M.R.S \_\_943-C for qualifying homestead property if they choose to sell it to anyone other than the former owner(s). **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Kristine Gorman. None opposed, article passes*
   5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2023-24 year not yet committed. **Recommendation: pass** *Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Duane Jewett. None opposed, article passes*
   6. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of tax abatements and applicable interest from the property tax overlay account. **Recommendation: pass**  *Andre Blanchard accepts as read, seconded by Melinda Steeves. None opposed, article passes*
2. To see if the Town will accept and carry over any Education Block Grants, Emergency Protective Measure Grants, State Revenue Sharing and other funds as may be available to be used toward the FY2024 Budget appropriations. **Recommendation: pass**

*Sarah Salley accepts as read, seconded by Melinda Steeves. None opposed, article passes*

1. Should a vacancy in any elected office arise during the Town Meeting, to vote for a replacement of said official. **Recommendation: pass**

*Sarah Salley accepts as read, seconded by Melinda Steeves. None opposed, article passes*

1. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit established for the Town of Liberty by State law in the event that the FY24 Municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. (Vote must be by written ballot.) **Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves accepts as read, seconded by Sara Salley. Elise Brown states that it is a 2.6% increase. Written Vote. Article Passes Yes-31 No-3*

**GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH, 2023**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Melinda Steeves, First Selectman**

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**Andre Blanchard, Second Selectman**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Duane Jewett, Third Selectman**

**A True Copy: Attest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lindsey Pottle, Clerk, Town of Liberty, Maine**