**TOWN WARRANT**

**STATE OF MAINE**

**TOWN OF LIBERTY**

To: **Nicole Gates**, 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 6th day of April, 2024 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.

*Andrew Worcester nominated to be moderator at meeting*

1. To elect a Second Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. (This seat is currently vacant)

Steve Chapin nominated Richard Frost for selectman, Judy Fuller nominated Danny McGovern Thresea Butler seconds Judys motion.

Dan won with 48 votes to Richards 17

1. To elect the following positions:
   1. Fire Chief (one year)*. Dot Thorton nominates William Gillespie, Danielle Blake Seconds her nomination. Passed, none opposed*
   2. Road Commissioner (one year) *Joe Meadows nominated Tammy Reynolds, Jane Libeler Seconds her nominations. Passes none opposed*
2. 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, Danny McGovern, and Henry Hall.

*Kate Meadows nominates Joe Meadows, Tammy Reynolds Nominated Jane Liebler, Gail Philippi nominated Dana Philippi, Elise Brown nominates Kenneth Wetherall, Barbara Rehmeyer nominates Peter Beckford, Jane Liebler nominates Josh St.Clair, Kristine Gorman nominates Thresea Butler, Thresea Butler nominates Kristine Gorman.*

**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 makes a motion to accept as written, Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*
2. To fix compensation, from taxation, for the following Town Official positions:  *Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written for 133300$, Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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| **ITEM** | ***Adopted FY24*** | **Recommended FY25** |
| Town Clerk/Town Agent | *$39,750* | $39,750 |
| Deputy Town Clerk | *$13,500* | 10,000 |
| Tax Collector | *New Line Added* | $3,000 |
| Treasurer | *10,000* | 10,000 |
| Deputy Treasurer | *$ 1,500* | $ 2,000 |
| First Selectman | *$ 5,000* | $ 5,000 |
| Second Selectman | *$ 5,000* | $ 5,000 |
| Third Selectman | *$ 5,000* | $ 5,000 |
| Town Administrator | *$19,000* | $20,800 |
| Code Enforcement Officer | *$ 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** | *$131,500* | $133,300 |

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation, for the following accounts: *Judy Fuller makes a motion to accept as written, Melinda Steeves seconds her motion. Passes as read after discussion on tax maps and assessors.*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | ***Adopted FY24*** | **Recommended FY25** |
| Administration | *$30,000* | $35,000 |
| Assessor’s Agent | *$10,125* | $10,125 |
| Digital Tax Maps | *$ 3,500* | $3,500 |
| Legal Fees | *$ 4,000* | $2,000 |
| Planning Board | *$ 3,000* | $3,000 |
| TCSWMO | *$30,740* | $29,325 |
| Animal Control | *$ 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* | $25,000 |
| Payroll Taxes | *$12,125.25* | $13,000 |
| Snow Shoveling | *$ 600* | $600 |
| Community Hall | *$7,000* | $7,000 |
| Computer Services | *$17,000* | $15,500 |
| Office Equipment Reserve | *$3,900* | $3,600 |
| Community Hall Cap Reserve | *$1,000* | $1,000 |
| **TOTAL** | *$160,240* | $165,900 |

1. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation, for mold remediation services. *The initial quote received to start this work is $4,150.00.*

*(Quote came in after the Budget Committee finalized warrant)*

*Melinda Steeves make a motion to accept as written, Duane Jewett seconds her motion. Steve Fountain states 4k isn’t going to touch the issue, group discussed what are options are and what needs to be done. Article Fails*

*REVISTED*

*Tammy Reynolds makes a motion to raise the amount to 25,000$ for mold remediation, discussion on the floor about what needs to be done. Vote on the floor, for 25,000$. None Opposed, Passes*

1. Shall an ordinance entitled “2024 Amendments to the Subdivision Ordinance of the Town of Liberty Regarding Section 2.2: Preapplication Preliminary Phase A.2. Question and Answer Period” be enacted to be consistent with the Town’s definition of a Major Subdivision? (The proposed ordinance is available for review and inspection at the Town Clerk’s Office and will be available at the Town Meeting.)

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

**EASEMENTS**

1. To see if the voters will approve the grant of an Easement to UniTel, Inc. d/b/a Direct Communications to place a cement pad, cabinet and equipment on a 12-foot x 15-foot portion of the land of the Liberty Fire Station as depicted on Tax Map 9 Lot 32-C?

*Note: UniTel, Inc. d/b/a Direct Communications is the communications company that will create the network for the Waldo Broadband Corporation to provide high speed internet capability to the residents of Liberty, Montville, Freedom, Palermo and Searsmont. The draft Easement and an aerial photograph depicting the location of the Easement area are available in the Town Office for any resident to review.*

*Elizabeth Mcglaughlin makes a motion to accept as written. Joe Meadows seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

1. To see if voters will approve the grant of an easement over a portion of real property owned by the Town of Liberty and located on Main Street, Liberty Maine, depicted on Tax Map 12 as Lot 17, to OVERALL, LLC. *Note: Purchase and Sales agreement is available to review at the Town Office.*

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. Jim Butler explained when he tried to buy it and in the deed, there is restrictions for what can be done. Article Fails*

**HIGHWAYS**

1. To see if the Town will approve the installation of a new dam mechanism at Stevens Pond dam, with a portion of FEMA Grants received (Estimated cost is $65,315.00).

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written, Joe Meadows seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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 FY25.

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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| **ITEM** | ***Adopted FY24*** | **Recommended FY25** |
| RDB Maintenance | *$ 60,000* | $60,000 |
| Salt & Sand | *$ 60,000* | $60,000 |
| Snowplowing | *$206,700* | $206,700 |
| Signs | *$ 2,000* | $1,000 |
| Paving Reserve | *$180,000* | $204,024 |
| **TOTAL** | $508,700 | $531,724 |

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.

*Judy Fuller makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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 makes a motion to accept as written, Joe Meadows seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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| **ITEM** | ***ADOPTED FY24*** | **RECOMMENDED FY25** |
| St. George Maintenance | *$1,000* | $1,000 |
| Stevens Pond Maintenance | *$ 1* | $ 1 |
| **TOTAL** | *$1,001* | $1,001 |

*Tammy Reynolds makes a motion to revisit article #8 everyone agrees to go back article 8.*

**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.

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| **ITEM** | ***Adopted FY24*** | **Recommended FY25** |
| Fire Department Operations | *$ 60,000* | $50,000 |
| Fire Department Payroll Expenses | *$ 25,000* | $25,000 |
| Fire Department Capital Reserve | *$ 25,000* | $25,000 |
| **TOTAL** | *$110,000* | $100,000 |

*Bill Gillespie discussed that his budget was not correct, could have been a typo. Elise Brown makes a motion to raise Fire Department from 50,000$ to 60,000$, Richard Frost seconds her motion. None Opposes, Passes*

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 March 5, 2024, is $33,338.66]

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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).

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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.

*Dot Thorton makes a motion to accept as written. Barbara Reymeyer seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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.

*Judy Fuller makes a motion to accept as written. Luther Thorton seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

1. To see if the Town will appropriate from Liberty Fire & Rescue revenue $50,000 for expenses for FY25.

*Elise Brown makes a motion to accept as written. Dot Thorton seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

1. To see if the Town will accept funds from other Municipalities (Palermo and Montville) to defray the cost of payroll expenses.

*Barbara Reymeyer makes a motion to accept as written. Luther Thorton seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

1. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate funds, from taxation, $78,500 to be used for payroll and training expenses for Liberty Fire & Rescue.

*Dot Thorton makes a motion to accept as written. Luther Thorton seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

**RECREATION ACCOUNT**

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

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. Thresa Butler makes a request to add 1000$ in for the recreation fund for dugouts, Tammy Reynolds seconds her motion. All voted, none opposed article passes for 8450$*

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| **Recreation Request** | ***Adopted FY24*** | **Agency Request** | **Recommended FY25** |
| Swimming Lessons | *$1,000* | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| YMCA | *$150* | $500 | $500 |
| Liberty Teams | *$450* | $600 | $600 |
| Recreation Fund | *$1,000* | - | $1000 |
| Park Maintenance | *$2,350* | - | $2,350 |
| Parking Expenses | *$3,995* | - | $3,000 |
| **TOTAL** | *$8,945* | - | $8,450 |

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.

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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 $5,272.42)

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

**LIBERTY LIBRARY**

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

*Judy Fuller makes a motion to accept as written. Jane Leibler seconds her motion. Jane Leibler requests to raise the amount to 15,000$, Dana Philippi Seconds her request. Everyone Voted, article passes at 15,000$*

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| **ITEM** | ***ADOPTED FY24*** | **RECOMMENDED FY25** |
| Liberty Library Operations | *$ 9,000* | **$ 9,000** |

**SOCIAL REQUESTS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | ***ADOPTED***  ***FY24*** | **AGENCY REQUEST** | **RECOMMENDED FY25** |
| Belfast Area Childcare Services | *$500* | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Citizens Association Liberty Lakes | *$ 400* | $ 800 | $ 800 |
| Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County | *$ 500* | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Liberty Historical Society | *$ 700* | $ 700 | $ 700 |
| Liberty Bicentennial Celebration | *$1,000* | $1,000 | $1,000 |
| Lifeflight | *$ 934* | $ 934 | $ 934 |
| Maine Public Radio | *$ 100* | $ 100 | $ 100 |
| Maine Youth Alliance-Game Loft | *$ 400* | $ 400 | $ 400 |
| New Hope for Women Midcoast | *$ 900* | $ 900 | $ 900 |
| Spectrum Generations | *$ 850* | $ 850 | $ 850 |
| Waldo County Pet Food Pantry | *$ 250* | $ 500 | $ 500 |
| Kennebec Behavioral Health | *-* | $ 40 | $ 40 |
| Belfast Soup Kitchen | *-* | $500 | $500 |
| Waldo County Bounty | *-* | $200 | $200 |
| Willard Overlock Fund | *$1,500* | $1,500 | $1,500 |
| WALDO CAP |  |  | $5000 |
| **TOTAL** | *$8,034* | $9,424 | $14,424 |

To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation for the following: *Waldo Cap Lady explained why there request didn’t make it. Judy Fuller make a request to add 5000$ for Waldo Cap, Melinda Steeves seconds her request, Everyone voted. Article Passes at $14,424.00*

**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 makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

**DEBT SERVICE**

1. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the interest payment due in May 2024 for our Energy Efficiency Bond, in the amount of $1,908.59. **Recommendation: pass**

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **ITEM** | **ADOPTED FY 24** | **RECOMMENDED FY25** |
| Fire Truck Bond | $33,710.27 | $33,710.27 |
| Energy Efficiency Bond | - | $13,950 |
| Energy Efficiency - Overage | - | $2,427 |
| **TOTAL** | - | $50,087.27 |

**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 of taxes not paid 30 days after Commitment are considered delinquent and second payment delinquent 1 day after due date. **Recommendation: pass**
   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: 8.5%)
   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%**
   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**
   5. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2025-26 year not yet committed. **Recommendation: pass**
   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**

*Melinda Steeves makes a motion to accept all as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

1. To see if the Town will accept and carry over any Education Block Grants, Emergency Protective Measure Grants, FEMA Grants, State Revenue Sharing and any other funds as may be available to be used toward Budget appropriations. **Recommendation: pass**
2. Should a vacancy in any elected office arise during the Town Meeting, to vote for a replacement of said official. **Recommendation: pass**

*Dana Philippi makes a motion to accept as written. Melinda Steeves seconds her motion. None Opposed, 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 FY25 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 makes a motion to accept as written. Duane Jewett seconds her motion. None Opposed, Passes*

**Judy Fuller makes a motion to adjourn meeting, Melinda Steeves seconds her motion. None Opposed.**

**GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS 26th DAY OF MARCH, 2024**

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

**Melinda Steeves, First Selectman**

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

**Duane Jewett, Third Selectman**

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