**MINUTES**

**LIBERTY SELECTBOARD**

**July 15, 2025**

Theresa Butler 1st Selectman

Danny McGovern 2nd Selectman

Duane Jewett 3rd Selectman

**Town Officials:** Town Adminstrator Autumn Jackson, EMA Director Elise Brown, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Animal Control Officer Henry Dow

**Visitors:** Carolyn Steeves, Olivia Blood, Robin Dow

1. **Open Select Board Meeting:** 6:00 PM
2. **Approve Minutes:** July 1, 2025 – Approved
3. **Official/Public Comment:**
   1. EMA Director Elise Brown requested that a Selectboard meeting serve as the Waldo County Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Hearing for Liberty. TA Autumn will send out public notice and communicate with Elise about scheduling.
   2. Fire Chief Bill Gillespie gave a series of financial and equipment updates to the Selectboard. Including the receipt of a $15,000 grant to increase Night Stipends from $25 to $50 and an update on Truck 77.
   3. Bill requested $10,000 from the Capital Reserve for Truck replacements and repairs be approved for repairing Truck 77. Selectman Butler made a motion accept, Selectman McGovern seconded, all in favor. The request was approved unanimously.
   4. Bill inquired about Ambulance’s payment for Treasurers payroll services and requested weekly scheduled meetings with Treasurer.
   5. Bill stated the potential need for a full time Fire Chief after he retires.
   6. Bill asked the Selectboard if he could negotiate the purchase of a new Ambulance utilizing recently donated funds, Ambulance delivery takes 3-4 years to complete. Bill mentioned the various pros and cons of different Ambulance features for safety and longevity. The selectboard approved Bill to lead negotiations.
   7. Bill expressed safety concerns for crew members that do Fire calls at crowded properties and structurally unsound properties in town. He suggested we should move towards discussing codes and ordinances to address said properties going forward. He brought up that the difficult part is enforcement and suggested we would need to work with the Waldo County Sheriff’s Department if we chose that path. Elise Brown remarked that often the town must make very tough decisions in those situations as often individuals have very few options. Elise suggested we encourage residents to utilize potential resources during those hard situations.
   8. The audit timeline was discussed.
   9. Bill Gillespie asked if the Budget Committee should change their timeline to accommodate the audit. No decision was made.
   10. Elise Brown stated that the Liberty Fire Department is in a very good position.
4. **Business:**
   1. **Animal Control Officer** 
      1. Henry Dow was confirmed as Liberty’s Animal Control Officer and took his oath.
   2. **Swim Lessons**
      1. Carolyn Steeves shared some history on the Liberty and Montville Swimming Lesson Program and introduced Olivia Blood one of the two new swim instructors.
      2. Olivia and the Selectboard decided on July 25th 2025 for Swim Lesson sign-ups and a start date for lessons of July 28th 2025.
      3. Lessons will take place Monday-Thursday from noon to 2:00 PM for 2 weeks.
      4. Olivia Blood and Eliza Barret will be co-teaching.
      5. The selectboard discussed the potential pros and cons of allowing non-residents to attend and if a fee should be associated with non-resident attendance.
      6. The Selectboard made the final decision with input from Carolyn and Oliva to charge a $40 fee per student for non-residents and set priority during the sign-up process for Liberty and Montville residents. Swimming Lessons will remain free for Liberty and Montville residents ages 3-14.
      7. TA Autumn will send out sign-up posters and send employment paperwork to Olivia and Eliza.
      8. Selectman Butler and TA Autumn will go over sign-up form for updates.
   3. **Sale of Tax Acquired Property –** No update from, our realtor, Erin Merrifield
      1. Town office has been receiving many calls about Pinnacle Rd property and redirecting callers to Erin.
   4. **CD Rates -** 
      1. Deputy Treasure Nicole Gates requested that TA Autumn ask Selectboard if they would like to move CD for HOIT from Androscoggin Bank to First National. First National offered to match our prior rate of 3.6900% if we move the funds.
      2. Selectman Butler suggested we should be offered a better rate to move the funds and offered to contact First National about improved rates.
      3. Selectman McGovern and Selectman Jewett agreed. TA Autumn will update Nicole.
   5. **Parks and Recreation Update –** 
      1. Bobby O’Leary spoke with TA Autumn on the phone earlier in the day to say he could not come to the Selectboard meeting but wanted questions answered
      2. Bobby requested to know where donations for Parks and Recreation should be made out to and if said donations are tax deductible.
      3. Selectman Butler stated that checks may be made out to “Town of Liberty” and donations are tax deductible as we are a 501c3. TA Autumn will provide this information to Bobby.
      4. Bobby requested an opportunity to meet with the Selectboard and hear expectations from the town for Parks and Recreation Committee. The Selectboard suggested the Committee meet regularly and invite them to meetings. TA Autumn will communicate this suggestion and assist with scheduling.
5. **11th Hour-**
   1. Selectman Butler mentioned we could use Trail Grant to add a kiosk.
   2. TA Autumn asked if we knew what next steps for a vote for accepting the Walker School building were. Selectman McGovern said RSU3 will provide direction and a timeline.
6. **Warrant:** approved
7. **Adjourn:** 7:36 PM

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Autumn Jackson, Town Administrator**