

TOWN WARRANT STATE OF MAINE TOWN OF LIBERTY

To: **Autumn Jackson**, 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 28th day of March 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.
2. To elect a Third Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. (This seat is currently filled by Selectman Jewett)
3. To elect the following positions:
 - a. Fire Chief (one year).
 - b. Road Commissioner (one year)
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.

The current members are: Ken Wunderle, Jane Leibler, Sheila Fountain, Dana Philippi, Joe Meadows, Pete Beckford, and Harry Schadei.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

5. 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.

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

ITEM	<i>Adopted FY26</i>	<i>Recommended FY27</i>
Select Board	\$15,000	\$15,000
Town Administrator	\$21,840	\$27,300
Tax Collector	\$5,000	\$5,000
Town Clerk	\$35,000	\$36,120
Benefits	\$6,000	\$5,000
Deputy	\$10,000	\$10,000
Registrar of Voters	\$1,500	\$1,500
New: Training Stipend	-	\$1,200
Treasurer	\$20,000	\$20,640
Fire Chief	\$ 9,500	\$ 10,000
Emergency Management Director	\$1,500	\$1,500
Road Commissioner	\$10,000	\$10,000
Code Enforcement Officer	\$5,250	\$5,250
Animal Control Officer	\$4,000	\$ 4,250
Plumbing Inspector	\$500	\$500
E911 Addressing Officer	\$1,500	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$146,590	\$154,760

7. To see what sum of money the Town will raise, from taxation, for the following accounts:

ITEM	<i>Adopted FY26</i>	<i>Recommended FY27</i>
Legal Services	\$2,000	\$2,000
Assessor's Agent	\$10,125	\$11,000
Software and Computer Services	\$18,000	\$18,000
Digital Tax Maps	\$3,500	\$3,500
Insurance	\$25,000	\$25,500
TCSWMO	\$33,203	\$32,924
General Administration	\$35,000	\$40,000
Streetlights	\$3,300	\$3,900
General Assistance	\$2,000	\$2,000
Animal Control/Shelter	-	\$1,900
Payroll Expenses	\$13,000	\$14,634
Planning Board	\$3,000	\$3,000
Town Building Snow Shoveling	\$600	\$600
Office Equipment Reserve	\$2,000	\$2,000
EMA Operations	\$ 250	\$250
Cemeteries and Mowing	*	\$13,940
Community Hall	\$7,000	\$3,000
Community Hall Capitol Reserve	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$158,978	\$179,148

**We combined all mowing expenses into one line for FY27.*

8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to take a loan in anticipation of taxes, as necessary, for the purpose of paying Town obligations.

9. To see what sum if any, the Town will raise and appropriate for interest on any tax anticipation note taken out for the purpose of paying Town obligations.

Recommend: \$4,000 from Property Tax Interest.

10. To see if the Town will authorize creation of a dedicated Walker School Building Capital Reserve Account to pay for Walker School building repair and maintenance and to see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to contribute to this new account.

The Budget Committee Recommends: \$57,000.

11. To see if the Town will authorize creation of a dedicated Town Building Capital Reserve Account to pay for town building repair and maintenance and to see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to contribute to this new account.

The Budget Committee Recommends: \$2,500.

12. To see if the Town will move and vote to adopt the updated General Assistance Ordinance Appendices as suggested and prepared by Maine Municipal Association in September 2025. Copies of the proposed ordinance and appendices are available at the Town Office.

LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

13. 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.

ITEM	<i>Adopted FY26</i>	<i>Recommended FY27</i>
Fire Department Operations	<i>\$ 60,000</i>	\$70,000
Fire Department Payroll Expenses	<i>\$ 25,000</i>	\$25,000
Fire Department Capital Reserve	<i>\$ 25,000</i>	\$30,000
TOTAL	<i>\$110,000</i>	\$125,000

14. To see if the Town will add any unspent funds from the Operations account to the LVFD Capital Reserve account. *Fund balance as of February 24, 2026, is \$35,636.71*
15. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from the Payroll Account to the LVFD Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

- 16. 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.
- 17. To see if the Town will authorize LVFD to expend \$10,000 from the Fire Department Operations Account to fund a new digital sign for the Liberty Fire and Rescue Station.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

- 18. 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.
- 19. To see if the Town will appropriate from Liberty Fire & Rescue revenue \$50,000 for expenses for FY27.
- 20. To see if the Town will accept funds from other Municipalities (Palermo and Montville) to defray the cost of payroll expenses.
- 21. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate funds, from taxation, \$85,000 to be used for payroll and training expenses for Liberty Fire & Rescue.

HIGHWAYS

- 22. 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 FY27.

ITEM	<i>Adopted FY26</i>	<i>Recommended FY27</i>
RDB Maintenance	<i>\$ 60,000</i>	\$60,000
Salt & Sand	<i>\$ 60,000</i>	\$60,000
Snowplowing	<i>\$214,500</i>	\$238,500
Signs	<i>\$ 1,000</i>	\$0
Paving Reserve	<i>\$178,000</i>	\$173,724
Parking Enforcement	<i>\$3,000</i>	\$3,000
TOTAL	<i>\$516,500</i>	\$535,224

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

RECREATION ACCOUNT

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

Recreation Request	<i>Adopted FY26</i>	<i>Recommended FY27</i>
Recreation Fund	<i>\$2,500</i>	\$1,500
Park Maintenance and Portable Toilets	<i>\$2,350</i>	\$3,200
TOTAL	<i>\$4,850</i>	\$4,700

Note: The yearly swimming lessons come from our Recreation Fund Account

25. 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.

26. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine for Recreational Account.

LIBERTY LIBRARY

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

ITEM	<i>ADOPTED FY26</i>	RECOMMENDED FY27
Liberty Library Operations	<i>\$ 17,000</i>	\$ 18,000

SOCIAL REQUESTS

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

ITEM	<i>ADOPTED FY26</i>	AGENCY REQUEST	RECOMMENDED FY27
Winslow Community Cupboard	-	open	0
Waldo Community Action Partners	4724	4800	4800
Hospice Volunteers of Waldo County	500	500	500
Waldo County Woodshed	1000	1000	1000
Waldo County YMCA	500	500	500
Waldo County Pet Food Pantry	500	500	500
Waldo County Bounty	200	500	375
Belfast Area Childcare Services	500	500	500
Liberty Historical Society	2700	700	700
Citizens Association of Liberty Lakes	800	800	800
Sweetser	500	500	500
New Hope Midcoast	1000	1000	1000
Life Flight	-	934	500
Spectrum Generations	-	893	893
H.O.M.E.	-	951	0
Maine Public Broadcasting	-	150	150
Kennebec Behavioral Health	-	185	150
Total:	<i>\$12,924</i>	\$14,413	\$12,868

MILEAGE

29. 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 \$.54/mile

DEBT SERVICE

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

ITEM	ADOPTED FY26	RECOMMENDED FY27
Fire Truck Bond	\$33,710	\$33,602
Energy Efficiency Bond	\$13,950	\$12,042
TOTAL	\$47,660	\$45,644

PROPERTY TAXES

31. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable to the Tax Collector immediately upon Commitment and:
- 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
 - 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: 7%)
 - 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%**
 - 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**

- e. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2027-28 year not yet committed. **Recommendation: pass**
 - f. 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**
32. 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**
33. Should a vacancy in any elected office arise during the Town Meeting, to vote for a replacement of said official. **Recommendation: pass**
34. To see if the Town will vote to allow a 1% discount on taxes paid in full, both installments up front, prior to commitment or within 15 days after commitment. **Recommendation: pass**
35. To see if the town will vote to authorize The Selectboard to form a Tax Club, that will allow monthly interest free property tax payment plans for current accounts. **Recommendation: pass**
36. 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 FY27 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

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS 28th DAY OF MARCH, 2026

Theresa Butler, First Selectman

Danny McGovern, Second Selectman

Duane Jewett, Third Selectman

A True Copy: Attest _____ Lindsey Pottle, Clerk, Town of Liberty, Maine