

MINUTES

LIBERTY SELECTBOARD

July 7th, 2026

Theresa Butler 1st Selectman

Danny McGovern 2nd Selectman

Dean Bartlett 3rd Selectman

Town Officials: Town Administrator Autumn Oberle, Fire Chief Bill Gillespie, Emergency Management Director Elise Brown, Code Enforcement Officer Garret Lower

Visitors: Bea Turner, Garret Butler, Carol McGovern.

1. Open Public Selectboard Meeting – 6:00 PM

- Selectman Butler made a motion to move discussion on Walker to end of the business portion of the agenda, Selectman Bartlett seconded, all in favor. Passed.

2. Approve Minutes June 16th, 2026 – Approved

3. Public/Official Comment:

- **Bea Turner** - Shared statement from her husband on the noise issues at Roberts shore. 5 years ago, someone moved across from them, the new neighbor is more than noisy. State police have been involved, neighbors are shooting off guns, revving engines, having regular fireworks. House is 60-70 feet from the neighbors. Her dog is scared. Bea shared statement that she does not think it was the intent of the people that fireworks would be used to harass neighbors and harm their animals, she stated that they can't be in their yard in the evening because they must stay inside consoling animals. She stated they are too close to have fireworks go off every day. Vet suggested medication, we should not have to drug our dogs for their nightly entertainment. We feel regulation is in order, we are not asking to ban fireworks, we are asking that permits are required from fire chief and should not be allowed within 500 feet of someone's neighbor's home. Possibly

permitted events with permissible times. Bea stated that enough is enough. Selectman Butler stated that the Selectboard will research and contact Bea when this becomes an agenda item. Bill Gillespie stated that Fireworks can be part of the Maine Forest Service burn permit system.

- **Liberty Graphics** – Bea Turner stated that Liberty Graphics wanted to share they are interested in speed bumps. Tammy provided background on town working with Tom Opper about speed bumps in the past. Tammy will follow up with LG.

4. Business:

a. Mowing Bid

- 4 bids were received in total:
 - Caleb Ross at Ross Property Care for \$4,950/season
 - Kitty Stevens at Stevens Lawn Care for \$300/mow
 - Matthew Avery at Avery Landscaping for \$5,100/season
 - Patrick Liberty at Lawn Masters for \$9,810/season
- Selectman Bartlett made a motion to accept Caleb Ross's bid, Selectman McGovern seconded the motion, all in favor. Passed.

b. Plowing Bid Announcement

- Selectman Butler announced she is abstaining from the Plowing Bid process due to a conflict of interest.
- Selectman McGovern shared that we had a total of 2 bids submitted and used a points system to make a fair and equitable choice.
 - Garret Butler at J&G in Liberty was awarded 80 points.
 - Ryan in Appleton was awarded 20 points.
- Selectman McGovern announced that J&G won the bid.
- Selectman McGovern and Selectman signed the plowing contract provided by Road Commissioner Tammy Reynolds.

c. Code Enforcement Discussion

- Selectman Bartlett stated that Cindy Abbott emailed back saying she could not make it tonight.
- Garret Lower of Pine State Code Enforcement shared about his business providing code enforcement. He has a cell phone that people can reach 24/7.

- Selectman Bartlett wants us to choose education first and asked how Garret would respond to uninformed property owners. Garret stated that education first is his preferred approach. Garret tries to work with property owners instead of against them.
- Garret shared he is willing to maintain monthly office hours.
- Planning Board meets 2nd Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Garret confirmed he is available but might request the meeting be moved to 6.
- Garret can provide recommendations for ordinance changes.
- Tammy asked if Garret could be the Health Officer too, Garret replied he able and willing to be a Health Officer.
- Garret shared he does regular monthly reporting to keep Selectboard up to date.
- Garret shared his pricing structures. He is willing to do the first year for what we approved of in the current budget.
- Selectman Bartlett asked if we should wait to decide, Selectman Butler shared that she feels we have kicked the can too far down the road. Her opinion is that we press forward.
- Selectman Butler made a motion to appoint Garret Lower as Code Enforcement Officer, Selectman McGovern seconded, all in favor. Passed.
- TA Autumn shared we have spots available for Garret to have code@libertymaine.us as an email address. Elise stated she agrees that a transferable town email should be used.
- Selectman McGovern stated he would like us to all agree on how things work. Selectman Butler and Garret will go to the Planning Board meeting to finalize everything and introduce Garret to the Clerk and Planning Board so we all know what is happening moving forward.

d. Tax Foreclosed Properties update

- TA Autumn gave update on Tax Foreclosed properties.
- The Selectboard will research individual properties and determine a list for the realtor.

e. Walker Update

- Facilities
 - Elise Brown requested we put Jim Caldwell on our next agenda for maintenance plan discussion.
 - Elise shared she has received concerned calls about the dumpsters, and RSU 3 only tossed what the RSU and the town didn't want.
 - Bill Gillespie shared fire extinguishers in Walker are due in August.

- Bill needs key and code from Jim. Selectman Bartlett will try to get this from him.
- Fundraising
 - Elise made a draft donation receipt for Nikki,
 - Elise asked if Nikki could send out list of donors, with contact info, every two weeks, Theresa said yes.
- Community Engagement
 - Community Engagement is working with Fundraising team on plan for donations from local business community.
 - Working on major donor campaign, identifying donors and request amounts. Naming rights could really heavily impact major donor campaign.
- Mixed Use Management
 - MUM is working on uses with town office as anchor,
 - Elise encouraged the selectboard to finish our homework regarding town office needs
- Elise asked if we would consider willingness to do a 6-12 month bond,
- TA Autumn asked if relocation cost is included in the budget, Elise said some were.
- Selectboard will send RSU 3 appreciation letter

11th Hour-

a) Carol McGovern on Popcorn Machine, Withdrawal, and Trail Grant

- PTA purchased popcorn machine that was removed from Walker by RSU #3 is being graciously returned.
- No updates on withdrawal
- Trail Grant Discussion
 1. Trail Grant is due July 17th.
 2. 10% matching required. In-kind can be used for matching.
 3. This is a reimbursement grant. Funds must be paid upfront.
 4. Selectman Butler and TA Autumn will work on budget sheet for Grant.

5. Selectman McGovern will get updated quote from Tammy Reynolds.

b) Selectman Butler on Fire Department

- Selectman Butler shared she read a recent post from Life Flight praising Liberty Fire and Rescue and applauded Bill and his team for their work.

c) Fire Chief Bill Gillespie on Ambulance and Fire

- Dylan Chamberlain has been promoted to Deputy Ambulance Chief.
- DEA rules have impacted Fire Station operations; Dillon will help us hit the ground running.
- Currently looking into what radios need to be updated.

d) Selectman Bartlett on Cemeteries

- 5 individuals have signed up for Cemetery committee.
- TA Autumn will create Cemetery Committee web page.

6. Executive Session on Personnel Matters

- Selectman Butler made a motion to enter Executive Session on Personnel Matters at 7:20 PM, Selectman McGovern seconded the motion, all in favor. Passed.
- Selectman Butler made a motion to exit Executive Session on Personnel Matters at 8:38 PM, Selectman McGovern seconded the motion, all in favor. Passed.

7. Warrant: Approved

8. Adjourn: 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Autumn Jackson, Town Administrator