

2017

Annual town Meeting Results, State of Maine, Town of Liberty, 2017

Liberty, Me.

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Annual Town Meeting Results
STATE OF MAINE
TOWN OF LIBERTY

Read by Town Clerk Gail Philippi:

To: Hannah Hatfield, Resident of the Town of Liberty, in the County of Waldo, and 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**, 3 Serenity Lane, off Pinnacle Rd. in said Town, on **Saturday, the 25th day of March, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** 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.
Judy Fuller nominated Andrew Worcester, Tammy Reynolds seconded. Vote by written ballot, 4-0. Andrew Worcester sworn in as Moderator.

2. To establish town office hours as follows:
Monday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Tuesday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Thursday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Saturday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Dana Philippi motioned to AAR, Joy Hadsell seconded. Passed.

3. To elect the following positions:
 - A. Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Town Agent; (one year)
Dana Philippi nom. Gail Philippi, Judy Fuller seconded. Philippi elected.
 - B. Treasurer; (one year)
Tammy Reynolds nom. Betsey Davis, Dana Philippi seconded. Davis elected.
 - C. Fire Chief; (one year)
Tobey Kress nominated Bill Gillespie. Bill Gillespie elected.
 - D. Road Commissioner (one year)
Jordan Ray nom. Tammy Reynolds, Joanne Pease seconded. Reynolds elected.
 - E. School Board Representative is in 2nd year of a 3-year term
Dana Philippi motioned to pass by, Judy Fuller seconded. Passed by.

4. To elect a Third Selectman to serve on the Selectboard, Board of Assessors and Overseers of the Poor for a three-year term. Henry Hall's term is ending.
Melinda Steeves nominated Henry Hall, D. Philippi seconded. Hall elected.

5. To elect a Budget Committee not to exceed 7 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, Joy Hadsell, Dorothy Harrison, Betsey Levine, Dan McGovern, Melanie Ripley, and Barry Worcester. All

have agreed to serve another term. Selectboard Recommendation: Elect current committee with replacements.

Judy Fuller motioned to elect the current board, D. Philippi seconded. Passed.

T. Reynolds motioned to move Article 23 up and take out of order Jordan Reynolds seconded. A 2/3 vote required. Vote by show of hands, 66 in favor, 46 against. Motion failed.

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18	Change voted at Town meeting
TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR/TOWN AGENT/DEPUTY	26,000.00	28,000.00	
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR	15,000.00	15,000.00	
SELECTMAN FIRST	9,000.00	9,000.00	
SELECTMAN SECOND	8,000.00	8,000.00	5,000
SELECTMAN THIRD	3,000.00	7,000.00	
TREASURER/DEPUTY	6,500.00	8,000.00	
FIRE CHIEF	6,500.00	6,500.00	7,500
ROAD COMMISSIONER	6,500.00	6,500.00	7,500
CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER	5,250.00	5,250.00	
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	2,800.00	2,800.00	
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS	850.00	850.00	
TAX MAP COORDINATOR	800.00	800.00	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR	525.00	525.00	1,525
E911 ADDRESSING OFFICER	500.00	500.00	
PLUMBING INSPECTOR	500.00	500.00	
TOTAL	91,725.00	99,225.00	

D. Philippi motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Carrie peavey motioned to decrease the second selectman pay from \$8K to \$5K and to increase the Fire Chief, Road Commissioner and Emergency Management Director \$1K each. J. Hadsell seconded. Peavey was asked why and she explained that the Town administrator has reduced the work load for the Selectman and she felt that the 3 people in those positions did a lot of work that people do not see. People go to them and they resolve issues and communicate with the Selectmen. Bob Bourassa asked why the 3rd selectman pay was increasing from \$3K to \$7K. Peavey explained that Hall chose to give up his portion last year, but realized it is a lot of work and he should be compensated. Kathy Eikenberg asked if this was an amendment to the existing compensation or the proposed compensation. C. Peavey responded that it was the proposed total of \$99,225. Andre Blanchard asked if the reason was the same for the Deputy Treasurer. M. Steeves responded that there wasn't a Deputy Treasurer last year. J. Fuller motioned to amend the 3rd to \$5K and keep the 2nd as is. Worcester said to keep to the original motion.

J. Bourassa asked who the EMA director was and to explain their duties. Elise Brown said her job is to do the planning side of putting emergency plans in place, assessment, applying for grants and working with the emergency responders and the regional center to coordinate a response. Lately she has been working to

address staffing issues with the ambulance.

Stephanie Pyle asked for clarification: the 3rd selectman pay is going back up to where it was? Peavey said that was right. Worcester called the amendment to a vote. Passed. Melinda Steeves moved to accept the amended article. Passed for a total of \$99,225.

T. Reynolds motioned to move Article 23 up, seconded by Bernard Jackson. Gail Williams asked why move the article? Richard Whittier asked why we were voting on this again. Don Harriman said it put an imposition on people to be here on time. B. Bourassa asked how the article order was established. M Steeves said it was put with the other recreation articles because it is a recreation issue. Lori Mayer said if we move it forward then people who show up later wouldn't be able to vote. A. Blanchard said that was not necessarily the most important article. J. Fuller said she agreed with Blanchard and that if that article was moved up then she would make a motion to move the other articles up. Mark Haskell said he was the cause of the article and that the Maine Moderators Manual saidDenise Glick motioned to end the debate, Joy Hadsell seconded. Passed. Motion to move the article up failed.

7. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to interview and hire an Assessor's Agent to assist in assessment of properties as directed by the Board of Assessors and to see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate from surplus. The Selectboard will appoint the person and he/she will report to the Board of Assessors. Hourly pay rate to be determined by the Selectboard.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
ASSESSORS AGENT (TO HIRE IF NEEDED)	10,000.00	10,000.00

J. Hadsell motioned to AAR, Cindy Frost seconded. B. Bourassa asked if this was an if we need it type of situation? this came up last year and what was the selectboard's experience over the year. C. Peavey said there were many problems with the assessing and not just current issues. They have cleaned up a lot from 2011 forward, but there are still a few pretty technical issues. They feel it would be helpful to have advice from a certified assessor, as they are still new. D. Glick asked if the \$10K from last year was carried over. Peavey replied that it was not. D. Glick asked the Board to speak about the issue of finding an assessor. C. Peavey said they have contacted several but they are all so busy they can't help. They quoted rates of \$70/hour and up. She said although there were a couple certified assessors in town, they feel it should be someone from outside of town. A. Blanchard said he had issues with his assessment due to mistakes made prior to his abatement and asked if this would sort out and provide a solution to issues like his. Steve Chapin said he has been a certified assessor for two years and is familiar with a lot of the problems, there was still work to do when he left. He said his current plan is to get additional training. He said he disagreed with not hiring someone from town--the license obligates him to not show favoritism and he would lose it if he did. B. Bourassa said he appreciated that, but in that type of situation it is not what is happening but the appearance. Article passed.

TOWN OPERATIONS

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
ADMINISTRATION	36,000.00	37,000.00
EMERGENCY FUND (used through 2/28/17)	6,146.00	1,849.08
PLANNING BOARD	3,000.00	3,000.00
TCSWMO	21,638.10	24,979.68
ANIMAL CONTROL	1,900.00	1,900.00
EMA OPS	250.00	250.00
CEMETERY MAINTENANCE/MOWING	8,200.00	7,500.00
GENERAL ASSISTANCE	3,500.00	3,500.00
STREET LIGHTS	3,300.00	3,300.00
INSURANCE	17,500.00	18,000.00
PAYROLL EXPENSES	7,500.00	8,500.00
COMMUNITY HALL	4,000.00	4,000.00
TOTAL	112,934.10	113,778.76

J. Hadsell motioned to accept the recommended amount of \$113,778.76. J. Fuller seconded. Jane Bourassa asked what was TCSWMO. C. Peavey replied it is the transfer station. Fuller asked why their funding was going up when it is now closed on Sundays. Dan McGovern said he was on the Board and that the increase is due to Palermo pulling out of the organization resulting in lost revenue as well as increased transportation costs. They are closed on Sunday because of a DEP issue, trash can't be moved out on Sundays so was piling up on the floor. So, they opened Tuesdays. They decided as a board to not buck the DEP, plus they were the only transfer station in the midcoast open on Sunday. T. Reynolds asked how many people in Liberty go to the transfer station. McGovern said the number is going down though they can't monitor it. He noted that you are paying twice for putting trash in dumpsters and that it all goes to a landfill. He said that they hope to have the cost go down next year, but that they need to go through a budget cycle. P. Mallow asked how they know if Palermo residents aren't continuing to use it. D. McGovern said they are going back to instituting a car tag system and possibly a non-member price. A. Worcester called the article to a vote. Article passed.

9. **LEGAL FUND:** To see if the Town will authorize carrying over the balance remaining from the original appropriation of \$40,000 in 2015. The amount is \$27,954.50 as of February 28, 2017.

S. Chapin motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. No discussion. Article passed.

10. **MILEAGE:** To see what rate the Town will vote to authorize travel expenses for essential travel by any Town Official when such travel is on town business out of town (to be paid from the Administration Account), and for the Road Commissioner (to be paid from Road and Bridges Account) and Code Enforcement Officer (to be paid from the Planning Board Account) on town business in town. Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: Adopt State Standard Mileage Rate (current rate \$0.44/mile)

D. Philippi motioned to AAR, B. Jackson seconded. M. Haskell questioned the wording “town business in town” for the CEO. D. Philippi motioned to amend the article, dropping the “in town”. D. Philippi retracted his motion. A. Worcester called the article to a vote, article passed as written.

HIGHWAYS

11. 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, paving and sand/salt of contracted Town roads and to be used as Town matching funds for any FEMA/MEMA grants received in FY 2017.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
RDB MAINTENANCE	60,000.00	60,000.00
PAVING	100,000.00	-
SALT & SAND	32,000.00	32,000.00
ROADS & BRIDGES (ADDITIONAL PAVING)	100,000.00	-
TOTAL	292,000.00	92,000.00

(NOTE: Please note that the snow plowing contract expires this year. We will be putting it out to bid in May. Please attend the Special Town Meeting that will vote fund this line item.

Elise Brown motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. B. Bourassa asked if Tammy is not expecting any paving expenses. T. Reynolds said no, that they chose not to spend due to anticipated EMA expenses. Worcester called the article to a vote. Article passed.

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
ST. GEORGE MAINTENANCE	1,000.00	1,000.00
STEVENS POND MAINTENANCE	500.00	500.00
TOTAL	1,500.00	1,500.00

J. Fuller motioned to AAR in the amount \$1500, J. Hadsell seconded. B. Bourassa said he had heard there were problems with the dam that were being investigated. T. Reynolds said that they were working on it and that all findings were available on the CALL website. Linda Breslin requested permission to speak as a non-resident. No objections were noted. She said that there was a report on the matter in the annual town book. She said that people were not satisfied with the report they got from the dam evaluator and that CALL was fully committed to working with the Town to fix the problem. A. Blanchard asked if the amount proposed was enough considering they know there is a problem. T. Reynolds said the money being voted on was for the normal maintenance and repair. Article passed.

13. **ENVIRONMENTAL FUND:** To see if the Town will authorize carrying over the balance remaining from the original appropriation in 2003-2004. As of February 28, 2017, the

amount is \$4,376.13, which includes a C.D. maturing 6/13/18.

J. Fuller motioned to carry the money over, B. Jackson seconded. S. Chapin had a question about the article: he thought that at last year's meeting they voted to dissolve the account and move the entire amount into the Stevens Pond fund. M. Steeves said this was what the auditor came up with. C. Peavey said there were some issues that they made sure they checked with the auditor on. J. Fuller asked if it could now be dedicated to the dams. Article to carry over the \$4,736.13 passed.

LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
OPERATIONS	45,000.00	50,000.00
PAYROLL EXPENSES	15,000.00	20,000.00
TOTAL	60,000.00	70,000.00

D. Glick motioned to AAR for the proposed amount of \$70K, J. Hadsell seconded. B. Gillespie asked if there were any objections to him speaking as a non-resident. None noted. Gillespie said it had been a challenging year for them as volunteer fire fighters with fatalities and fires in the area. There have been four fatals in the last 3 months. They lost a firefighter, Matt Taylor, and wanted to erect a new flagpole in his memory. They did other things: 4th of July BBQ, Halloween event, Easter egg hunt. They have worked hard to achieve the SHAPES award which is given to fire departments with a good safety record—a benefit being a discount on workers compensation insurance. Only 78 departments have received the award.

Gillespie began a power point presentation. He said that they disbanded JAWS because all of the involved towns have a mutual aid agreement and each now has in-house equipment and training. He said the JAWS money was split between the towns and Liberty used its share to purchase a set of struts. He said that 12 years ago, they voted on a pay rate of \$10/hour which he would like to amend to \$15/hour for fully trained firefighters with 1 year of experience. He said they had already expended their money for this year due to the volume of calls (106 last year with 90 since July 1, 2016) and manning the station during the blizzard and resulting power station failure.

He said he increased the general budget, they planned to replace the 6” pipes at the hydrants with 8” and put in additional ones at the Main St/220 intersection and at the town office.

Gillespie said 30 year-old Truck 77 needed to be replaced and they specked out one of equal value for grant purposes: 75’ truck with an aerial ladder which one person can operate. He said a ground ladder required 4 people. He said the current aerial ladder failed in December 2016 and would require \$25K to fix it, also its ability to draw water was limited due to a broken seal--\$20K to fix. They decided not to repair the truck because it was going to be replaced. He said the new truck was expensive but it was a worthy investment. They could get a loan for \$25-40K/year. A used 10-

year-old truck could cost about 220K less but they would lose 10years of use. He said they have \$113K in the capitol reserve fund which would have been \$250K if the town had approved the \$25K per year for 7 years as he had been recommending. They also have an issue with the tank truck which comes out of gear because the clutch mechanism is gone. It will be a \$20K repair coming out of the capitol reserve fund.

J. Caldwell thanked Gillespie for doing a great job and asked what the length of the new truck was vs. the old. Gillespie said it was 7' longer, but shorter in height (11' 2" vs 11'-6") with no problem making it down camp roads because it was designed for rural FD use. T. Reynolds noted it would have a shorter turning radius. G. Williams said she appreciated Gillespie's recommendation to set money aside because it meant paying less interest. Susan Longley thanked all the 1st responders in town. J. Caldwell noted they hadn't put the money aside in the past because the town didn't have the surplus but is now in better shape due to changing budgeting and the fiscal year. C. Peavey said the town was struggling in the past, but now has a strong surplus due to changing the fiscal year and receiving tax payments in 2 installments. She said if we need to borrow money now is the time because interest rates are going up. J. Caldwell noted that the Hostile Valley Bridge loan would soon be paid off. J. Fuller wanted to know how old the tanker is. Gillespie said 16 years and it had cost about \$60K. He said the town had always had a \$20K emergency repair fund and recommended doing it again. A. Worcester called the article to a vote. Article passed.

LIBERTY VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

15. To see if the Town will carry over the current balance of \$113,587.80 for the LVFD Capital Reserve account.
Elise Brown motioned to AAR, D. Philippi seconded. Passed.
16. To see if the Town will add any unspent monies from combination of Operations and Payroll to the LVFD Capital Reserve account.
D. Philippi motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. J Fuller asked for an explanation. Gillespie said that if he came under budget then any monies unspent would go into the CRA, also donations. A. Blanchard asked if they were talking about money from Article 14. Gillespie said, yes, money from 14 goes into 15. Passed.
17. 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.
D. Philippi motioned to AAR, J. Fuller seconded. Passed.
18. To see if the Town will appropriate from surplus \$100,000 to supplement the existing Capital Reserve account.
Bernard Jackson motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Haskell asked how much was in there. Gillespie responded \$113,587.80. C. Peavey said \$686,000 was in the town surplus which was close to what it was a year ago—they are on an even keel. Gillespie said they would take \$100K from surplus with the \$113K CRA monies and a loan for the rest. Peavey said the checking account was staying steady where it used to go down to nothing. The lowest balance in the past year was \$300K. Bourassa said so you are living within the budget. Peavey replied yes, in fact they had to meet with the bank because the FDIC wouldn't insure balances over \$250K.

Fuller asked what the interest rate on the loan was. Gillespie responded anywhere from 1.8-3.8% through the Municipal Bond Bank, variable based on last year. D. Philippi asked if we were still under LD1 and could we amend the article. Worcester replied the article could only be amended down. S. Salley asked if Art. 19 was authorized, would it need to be authorized next year. Gillespie said next year it would be a line item. B. Bourassa asked if they get a loan will they be committing to payments next year and what would the annual payment be. Gillespie said the loan would not exceed \$420K and payments could start at \$40K going down each year. D. McGovern asked what the auditor identified as surplus. Peavey responded it was \$686K, page 115 in the book. McGovern commented that it wasn't risking a lot and we should focus on the \$100K now and vote on the truck later. J. Fuller asked if they anticipated a special town meeting to vote on it. M. Steeves replied yes. Article passed.

19. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to borrow from the Maine Municipal Bond Bank an amount not to exceed \$420,000 for the purchase of a new fire truck. Dottie Harrison motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Henry Hall wondered if this locked us into a decision on the ladder truck, what if they bought a pumper instead. Gillespie said a pumper would be \$400K and \$25K to fix the ladder truck. He would like to get us down to two trucks. J. Fuller said she was supportive but would like to see the payments down to \$25-30K instead of \$40K. A. Worcester said the \$420K could be reduced. Michelle Harriman asked how often have they had to call for an aerial out of town. Gillespie replied they haven't had to because of the current truck. Harriman asked if it got them there quicker and got the fire put out quicker. Gillespie said yes. S. Salley said this is a 15 year loan with a 30 year life span and asked if the truck they have now could be sold. Gillespie responded yes. Richard Sprowl asked if the ladder truck was used on every call and if they had mutual aid with other towns. D. Harrison asked if other towns came here. Gillespie said that Washington comes with equipment we don't have. J. Bourassa asked if other towns have an aerial. Gillespie said Unity has an old one. J. Fuller asked if they get called to Robbins Lumber. Gillespie said not in the past but this truck would. T. Reynolds motioned to call it to a vote, Ellen Mallow seconded, passed. Article passed.

PLANNING BOARD

20. Shall an ordinance entitled, "Town of Liberty Shoreland Zoning Ordinance" be enacted to supersede and replace all previous versions. [Note: the main purpose of this proposed ordinance is to bring our existing Shoreland Zoning Ordinance in line with state statutes.] D. Philippi motioned to accept the Ordinance, Ellen Mallow seconded. B. Bourassa noted this has come up a number of times over the years. S. Chapin said he had worked on the Planning board and the state has Chapter 1000. When they change it the town then has to enforce. When the state makes changes to that then we have to accept it. Liberty decided early on to take a conservative view and adopted their own version with 2 added zones: wetland conservation and resource protection zones. He said if we didn't revise this ordinance then property owners would have to go by two ordinances: the town's and Chapter 1000. He said we periodically update to the State's version and he predicted the process would go on forever. P. Mallow noted that this was posted on the Town website, in the local papers, a public hearing was held, that it's been out there for review. S. Chapin said they would take suggestions on how to notify people better. B. Bourassa said so basically the

changes are mandated. Chapin agreed, though one thing that was taken out was building houses on floating platforms. T. Reynolds motioned to call the article to a vote, J. Hadsell seconded, passed. Article passed.

PARKS & RECREATION

21. RECREATION ACCOUNT:

A. To see if the Town will accept reimbursements from the Town of Montville for maintenance of the recreation area (**Estimate: \$1,500.00**). Montville has been formally requested to raise \$1,500.00 for this account. Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass

H. Hatfield motioned to AAR, J. Fuller seconded. Passed

B. To see if the Town will accept funds from the State of Maine (income from the State Park estimated at \$2,784), and vote to raise \$8,200 from taxation, for the recreation account.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
RECREATION	8,200.00	8,200.00

J. Fuller motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Passed.

C. To see if the funds raised from the State's Refund of snowmobile registrations will be provided to the Palermo Snowmobile Club (**Estimate: \$235**). Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: pass

J. Fuller motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Passed.

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18	Agency request
SWIMMING PROGRAM	800.00	800.00	\$800
MT. VIEW BUM LEAGUE YOUTH BASKETBALL	-	100.00	\$100
LIBERTY FARM TEAMS	350.00	350.00	\$350
LIBERTY T-BALL TEAMS	250.00	250.00	\$250
LIBERTY BASKETBALL TEAMS	300.00	450.00	\$450
WALDO COUNTY YMCA	250.00	250.00	\$250
TOTAL	1,950.00	2,200.00	

HL Whitney motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Passed.

22. To see what sum of money the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for an equipment shed, and to see if the Town will accept reimbursement from the Town of Montville (**Estimate: \$500.00**). Montville has been formally requested to raise \$500.00 for this purpose.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
EQUIPMENT SHED	-	1,000.00

B. Jackson motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. B. Bourassa asked where it was located. M. Steeves said it was closer to the Vena Roberts Ball Field, near where it is fenced. Fuller clarified that we were voting on \$1000. Article passed.

- 23. To see if the Town will vote to authorize a request to the Maine Legislature asking that the ban on PWC's (Jet skis) be removed from Lake St. George, Liberty, Maine.**

Citizen Initiative

Dana Philippi motioned to pass the article by because it had already been discussed a great deal. He then retracted his motion. Mark Haskell motioned to AAR, B. Bourassa seconded. B. Jackson read a letter (on file) from Dan McLean in support of the ban for reasons of safety.

L. Breslin, President of CALL, requested permission to speak on behalf of CALL as a non-resident. No objections. She said when the ban first went into effect they were criticized for not notifying all members, so they did so this time They had received 130 emails with the overwhelming concern of safety without the ability to monitor use. She said that Maine Supreme Court ruled that no one's rights had been violated by the ban—that it is not a fundamental right under the 14th Amendment. She said another concern was this town petitioned the Legislature, and it was passed as an emergency measure because of concerns about safety. M. Steeves said the town had received 55 emails, 47 from non-residents, with 51 in favor of keeping the ban.

K. Black spoke about concerns of monitoring for invasive plants which get drawn in to the intake. She also spoke about the danger to long distance swimmers who try to stay in areas with rocks which are inaccessible to boats but not PWCs. She read from a letter written by Boyd Eaton (on file) and emails from Wayne Cassidy and Cheryl.....from little pond (on file). She said there are 125 Game Wardens statewide and only 60 Game Wardens on duty at any given time covering more than 3,000 lakes and ponds, so the enforcement would not be there.

Robert.... Asked if this eliminated jet boats as well. Haskell replied that it did not. Jane Bourassa spoke in favor of lifting the ban because she hasn't heard of or experienced a negative incident. She said that regular boats can be just as dangerous if operated improperly or with alcohol involved, that Swan Lake allows them with no problems. Steffanie Pyle said she had never had a negative experience with them but that she spoke for a population that can't speak for themselves. She said that jet skis are a threat to loons because they are different from regular watercraft: they can operate in shallower waters, they accelerate and turn frequently causing swamping of loon nests, juveniles and chicks can't dive. PWCs cause higher rates of disturbance to loons and when they are disturbed they don't come back.

Bob Kohl shared a letter (on file) from David Wentworth who was in the US Coast Guard 1978-2001 who cited statistics about PWC operator error resulting in death or injury. M. Steeves motioned to call to a vote, T. Reynolds seconded. Mark Haskell said no, he'd been here 15 years, he should be heard. Motion to end debate passed. HL Whitney asked if it could be reconsidered. Worcester said

someone who voted to end the debate can vote to reconsider. T. Reynolds motioned to vote by written ballot, Debbie Harriman seconded. Lori Mayer motioned we vote to reconsider limiting debate, J. Bourassa seconded. M. Haskell said this was point of order—all presenters of other items were allowed to speak. J. Fuller said let Mark speak. A. Worcester asked revisit question of allowing debate. Susan Longley said procedural votes were not debatable—Worcester was following Roberts Rules. J. Bourassa said yes, Mark deserves chance to speak, Elise Brown doesn't like jet skis but we should keep the discussion going. Motion to reconsider passed. Motion to limit debate failed.

M. Haskell said he'd been a neighbor of Black's on the lake for many years. As kids, they were held accountable for their actions when they were zooming around. He thanked CALL for bringing the issue for discussion. He said the original court case found in his favor, then was remanded back to district court but never taken back for reconsideration. He said he agreed with the safety concerns, he respected wildlife but that wakes from any vessel can disturb and nature also causes erosion. He said existing laws apply to all vessels and that Maine has a law disallowing PWC operation at night. Paula Smith asked what about the fact that Haskell had broken the law. Haskell said he was advised by counsel and a politician to challenge the law.

Warren Ard asked if there was any bodily injury that occurred when jet skis were allowed on the lake and what about the swimmers' responsibility. Haskell said he couldn't answer that. D. Philippi asked if Mark owned a jet ski before the ban. No, but he used them. Toni Clark said they are a toy, saw jet skiers off Millstone Island playing morning to night. She asked Haskell what they should do when we don't have enough wardens. Haskell said some people will be irresponsible whether tubing, fishing or waterskiing and that he has had a lot of contact with the wardens over the past 15 years and noted they are more than willing to come. Bourassa said he had been stopped by wardens and believed that renters on Little Pond were the problem in the past. Ian Collins said he has a hunting and fishing license which tells him where and when he can go, so why should a jet ski owner be able to be on any body of water they want to. Haskell agreed that jet skis shouldn't be able to go everywhere said the issues he's hearing are about safety. Michelle Harriman asked if had ever been proposed that certain areas be restricted. Haskell responded to the best of his knowledge, no, but it could be proposed to the legislature. Tom Opper said he didn't want Haskell's jet ski in front of his place disturbing his thoughts. Haskell said what about a bass boat. Opper responded that that was different. B. Jackson motioned to call to a vote, Diane Messer seconded. Passed. Motion to vote by written ballot passed. Article failed with 36 in favor, 99 opposed.

24. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectboard to establish a committee to create an ordinance regulating the operation of "retail marijuana establishments" for consideration at 2018 Town Meeting. Selectboard has no recommendation but is interested in wishes of the Town.

Sara Salley, HL Whitney and Kerry Black volunteered to be on the committee. Lori Mayer asked what this did. M. Steeves said there are 5 classifications of what could be done for local regulation and the committee is to build an

ordinance if we want one. P. Mallow said under federal law, this is still illegal and the current state administration is not necessarily going to ignore that. Whitney said that it is not illegal to have a committee. Steeves said the state gave itself a deadline of Feb. 1, 2018. Article passed.

INDEPENDENT SERVICES

25. **AMBULANCE:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, a retainer for service, paid to the Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion to AAR by E. Brown, seconded by J. Hadsell. Brown said she would address the three articles together. She said the first 2 articles are what the town is used to seeing on the warrant; the third is in regards to a new proposal. She explained that the ambulance service has talked about needing volunteers every year and has made due with a dwindling group. We're at a critical juncture. Edna Mitchell recently retired after 37 years, so they've gotten together with Montville to work on problems and solutions.

They came up with three options: 1) Do nothing and hope for the best with the concern being dropped calls due to fewer and fewer volunteers and an aging population. The group felt this was unacceptable. 2) Look for another service to take over in the two communities. State law says they have to have a 20-minute response time and these services have to make money, so Delta and Belfast would be reluctant to do this even with a waiver. 3) This option values the local resources and would be done in 2 phases to shore up the ambulance service with paid staff, conserving volunteer spirit for night times and weekends. She said it's difficult to recruit volunteers because EM services are increasingly professional and require many more training hours, and that the problem is not unique to our services. She said we have been getting a good deal with free labor for years. During the day is the highest concentration of runs. She said we have to develop a new business model and possibly grow the capacity to decrease the cost. They are asking for the funding to stabilize the service while looking for a long-term solution. Montville approved \$20,000 at their meeting today, it is half the amount because they are halfway through their fiscal year.

D. Messer asked if there had been an effort to join with the fire department. Brown said the ambulance service has a different legal classification and as a private non-profit they would have to disband, give away their equipment and start over. D. Glick asked how the finances work. Chapin said they use an outside biller and that most claims go to Medicaid/Medicare from which they get a fixed amount of money, generating enough profit to run the service. Certain things they have to buy: a new rig every ten years (current one bought in 2007), heart monitor will be needed (\$25-30K), a power assisted stretcher (\$45K) was recently upgraded. The state is mandating more and more procedures in the back essentially making it a rolling ER. They can do everything else but don't have enough to pay staff. Delta said they need to do 1800 runs/year to be commercially viable and Liberty does approximately 175. He said that in 2003 they had 15 EMTs and 2 to 3 drivers and now have 6 EMTs with 3 on a regular basis. They have 2 reserve accounts: one for big things such as the ambulance and another for training. Training a basic EMT costs \$1K, EMT I costs \$2,500, paramedic costs \$5,500. He said they first need an administrator to put

it all together and make it work. Based on meetings with selectmen from both towns, they came up with \$80,000 for the year. There are more runs in Liberty, but Liberty houses the ambulance and office. E. Brown said how much they will pay is based on estimates—it is a work in progress. She said with the wage laws recently changed and are still being figured out at the State level. As expenses are accrued they will bill the towns monthly. Chapin said each Selectboard will have a representative. C. Frost said it looks like you are looking for an administrator and on call time and run time. Chapin said also drivers on call.

A. Blanchard asked if the \$40K will be each year. Chapin said they will figure it out after the first year because they will know more about costs. Chapin said they can take off the extra \$3K if the first two articles are approved. Brown said Montville approved the article with the \$3K in so we need to leave it. B. Gillespie said it's just setting a benchmark. Brown said the intention is to find a better long term solution. L. Mayer stated we need this in Liberty and they deserve to be paid. J Fuller asked if they need a new rig. Chapin replied not yet. Fuller asked if they have reserves. Chapin replied yes, but we're not asking for that. Mallow but that's not part of this. D. Harrison asked if they had considered if this was going to increase interest and would the daytime pay decrease the nighttime volunteerism. Brown responded that Union uses this hybrid method. M. Haskell suggested they not pigeonhole it as just day or night paid volunteers. C. Peavey said she would just like to make a point that the Selectboard, Fire Chief, Elise and Earle have worked hard to do what's best and there are not too many other options. She motioned to end the discussion, Cindy Frost seconded. Passed. Article passed.

26. **AMBULANCE:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, a stipend for Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service to be used to help defray the cost of training ambulance personnel in the amount of \$3,000.
Cindy Frost motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. Passed.

27. **AMBULANCE:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, reimbursement for payroll expenses incurred by the Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service up to \$40,000, contingent upon Montville approval of same article, and to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, a stipend for Liberty Volunteer Ambulance Service to be used to help defray the cost of training ambulance personnel..

*Information about this article can be found in Liberty/Montville Ambulance Service report.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
TOWN RETAINER	1,000.00	40,000.00
TRAINING	3,000.00	3,000.00
AMBULANCE	4,000.00	43,000.00

Dana Philippi motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. E. Brown motioned to amend to \$39K because \$3K in training had been approved. Brown withdrew the motion. Passed.

28. **IVAN O. DAVIS LIBRARY:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate \$4,700, from

taxation, to help support operation of the Ivan O. Davis Liberty Library.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
IVAN O. DAVIS LIBRARY OPERATIONS	4,800.00	4,700.00

C. Frost motioned to AAR, B. Jackson seconded. Passed

29. WALKER-OVERLOCK MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:

A. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for WOMS scholarship awards in the upcoming year.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
WOM RECIPIENT AWARD	1,500.00	1,500.00

Bernard Jackson motioned to AAR, Lorna Crichton seconded. Passed.

B. To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, to supplement the existing principle of \$67,011.79 in the WOMS account.

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
WOM ADDITION TO PRINCIPLE	1,500.00	1,500.00

Bob Kohl motioned to AAR, HL Whitney seconded. J. Caldwell explained that the money was an investment that a bank was holding and that we had to take the money or they were going to give it to UMaine. T. Clark said that as a member of the committee, she would like to discuss with the Selectboard to discuss where to put the money so that it will earn interest instead of just rolling it over. Caldwell said there were some specific requirements under state law. J. Fuller said her understanding from the auditor was that raising money and adding it to the principal was not allowed. S. Chapin said when the money was managed by JP Morgan they used the interest to pay out on the scholarship, but it was too small an amount. The town needs to find some way to invest it but can only do what state law allows. Clark said they only started asking for money after the account was liquidated and they didn't have the money needed for the scholarships. S. Chapin said that they can only use the interest. E. Brown motioned to move the question and have the committee discuss it, D. Glick seconded. Passed. Article passed.

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

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18	Agency request
AMVETS	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$2,000
BELFAST AREA CHILD CARE SERVICES	500.00	500.00	\$500
BROADREACH	500.00	550.00	\$550
CITIZENS ASSOC. OF LIBERTY LAKES (CALL)	150.00	150.00	\$150
HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE	-	-	\$500
HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS OF WALDO COUNTY	500.00	500.00	\$500
KENNEBEC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	100.00	100.00	\$100
LIBERTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY	400.00	500.00	\$500
LIFEFLIGHT	913.00	913.00	\$913
MAINE PUBLIC	-	-	\$100
MAINE YOUTH ALLIANCE - GAME LOFT	300.00	300.00	\$300
MID-COAST MAINE COMMUNITY ACTION (WIC)	500.00	500.00	\$500
NEW HOPE FOR WOMEN	750.00	750.00	\$750
SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS & SUPPORT CENTER	100.00	100.00	\$100
SPECTRUM GENERATIONS	500.00	500.00	\$500
WALDO CAP	1,726.00	1,295.00	\$1,295
WALDO COUNTY WOODSHED	500.00	500.00	\$500
SOCIAL REQUESTS	9,439.00	9,158.00	

HL Whitney motioned to AAR, Stephanie Pyle seconded. Passed.

DEBT SERVICE

31. To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, from taxation, for the following loans:

ITEM	ADOPTED LAST YEAR (FY17)	SELECTBOARD & BUDGET COMMITTEE PROPOSED FY18
STEVENS POND DAM (last payment 11/18)	3,654.32	3,158.01
HOSTILE VALLEY BRIDGE (last payment 10/22)	9,102.77	8,791.19
DEBT SERVICE	12,757.09	11,949.20

J. Fuller motioned to AAR, L. Crichton seconded. Passed.

PROPERTY TAXES

32. To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable immediately upon commitment to the Tax Collector and:

- A. To see if the Town will determine that taxes not paid 30 days after commitment are considered delinquent.
- B. To see what sum of interest the Town will vote to charge on all liens and delinquent taxes. Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: 5% [The maximum rate of interest that may be charged: 7%]
- C. To see if the Town will vote that a taxpayer who pays an amount in excess of 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.
Selectboard and Budget Committee Recommendation: 1%

D. To see if the Town will vote to authorize any action necessary, by the Selectboard and Tax Collector, 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. Selectboard Recommendation: pass

E. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes for the 2017-2018 year not yet committed.

Selectboard Recommendation: pass

Motion by M. Steeves to do A-E together. Randy Hadsell seconded. Passed.

Motion by M. Steeves to not read the articles. R. Hadsell seconded.

Motion by J. Fuller to amend article 32 to read "To see if the Town will vote to have all taxes due and payable in two installments to the Tax Collector", M. Steeves seconded. Passed.

Article 32A-E passed.

33. To see if the Town of Liberty will accept and carry over any Education Block Grants, State Revenue Sharing and other funds as may be available to be used toward the FY 2018 Budget appropriations thereby decreasing the amount required to be raised by property taxation. Selectboard Recommendation: pass.

HL Whitney motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. A. Blanchard asked if we know any of the amounts. H. Hall said it was about \$40K last year. Passed.

34. To see if the Town will authorize the Selectboard to transfer unexpended and unneeded funds, from certain departments to Surplus.

D. Philippi motioned to AAR, J. Hadsell seconded. M. Haskell asked about the term "certain". C. Peavey said that the auditor advises them whether to roll-over or carry over. Steeves said an example is the Community Hall money- it can be used to put in a floor or roll it into surplus.

35. Should a vacancy in any elected office arise during the Town Meeting, to vote for a replacement of said official.

M. Steeves motioned to pass by, D. Philippi seconded. Passed by.

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 FY 2018 municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. (Vote must be by written ballot.) Selectboard Recommendation: pass

J. Fuller motioned to pass by, D. Philippi seconded. A. Blanchard asked if we are under the limit. M. Steeves said yes. Passed by.

M. Steeves motioned to adjourn, J. Hadsell seconded. Meeting adjourned 2:32 pm.

Minutes recorded by Gail Philippi and Danielle Blake

GIVEN UNDER OUR HANDS, THIS 13th DAY OF MARCH, 2017

Melinda Steeves, First Selectman

Carrie Peavey, Second Selectman

Henry Hall, Third Selectman

A True Copy: Attest

Gail H. Philippi
Town Clerk, Town of Liberty