

Town of Livermore Falls  
2 Main Street, Livermore Falls, Maine 04254  
Phone (207) 897-3321 ~ FAX (207) 897-9397

**Select Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 2nd, 2022**  
**Livermore Falls Town Office**  
**6:30 PM**

**BOARD:** Jim Long, Ernie Souther, Will Kenniston, Bruce Perry

**DEPARTMENT HEADS/EMPLOYEES:** Amanda Allen, Alex Pawson

**RESIDENTS/PUBLIC:** (see sign in sheet)

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Call to Order JL at 6:30pm

**2. Approval of Minutes: July 19, 2022**

ES made motion, Second by BP. Vote 4-0

**3. New Business**

**Property Tax Stabilization**

AP explained the details of the two new State initiatives for seniors 65+. The Tax Stabilization (or Freeze) allows the homeowner to keep the current real estate tax amount frozen by applying each year. No income requirements, and homeowners can reapply for as long as they own their homestead. The State's Tax Deferral program is essentially a loan from the State that pays the homeowner's real estate taxes each year. This loan is to be repaid when the homeowner passes away, the homestead is sold, or if the homeowner moves to a different homestead. The Tax Deferral program has income requirements. AP explained that both programs can be utilized simultaneously.

**Business Recruitment**

JL wants to see if the Board wants to disband the Business Recruitment group. He said they have accomplished a lot in the past year, but that the conversation has become stagnant. JL said we have the Chamber of Commerce and Franklin County Business Development to handle recruitment, so a town committee is redundant. BP asked if it was different from the Planning Board; JL said yes that the Business Recruitment group was a separate of the Planning Board. WK suggested keeping the group intact at some level. ES said he was involved with the group and suggested disbanding it. JL said the groups that exist already, as well as the Town Manager, can serve this purpose. JL thanked the group for their efforts. ES motion to disband the Business Recruitment group, Second by JL. Vote 3-1.

**4. Warrants/Abatements/Deeds/Quit Claim**

JL said they are being worked on.

**5. Board Discussion/Department Head Discussion**

BP had no items to discuss. WK had no items to discuss. ES asked that the MDOT be present at a meeting to discuss their plans for Depot Street. ES expressed concern that the project would essentially eliminate downtown

parking. He stated that the last MDOT project eliminated several parking spaces without prior notice. BP and WK agreed. AA said the Town is meeting with MDOT on August 10 to discuss this future project. JL said he heard concerns from the public and suggested a public discussion/information session to be held after the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Town resident Arin Quintel talked about how she recently got involved with the Planning Board and is concerned with the “green agendas” of solar panel farms and electric vehicle charging stations. BP thanked AQ for getting involved and said that being involved is how government works best. JL said we’re all working toward the same purpose. AQ complimented AA’s tenure as Town Manager as well as the updated website and Facebook postings.

JL suggested increasing compensation for town employees to help keep competitive in the job market with both recruitment and retention. He said surrounding towns have made increases to pay and/or benefits; possibly using ARPA funds to reach this goal. ES said we’ve had two contract negotiations that resulted in increased retirement packages for a certain sector. ES said the Board should look at the entire package (pay, retirement, benefits) to ensure it is fair compensation. JL said he’s not asking for action at this meeting, but it certainly needs to be explored. BP said he’d like to see a list of proposals of what can be done and what is able to be done by the Town. ES said to be cautious with government money because it may disappear and leave the Town stuck. WK and BP voiced their concerns about compensation and employee retention.

JL mentioned the year-end financials in the Select Board packets. JL said if there were further questions about the report to see AA.

AA brought up moving the budget vote to an earlier date beginning in 2023. She stated that budget meetings would need to begin in November so that budgets would be completed in time for the new voting date. The fiscal year would stay the same, but the town budget vote would align with the date of the school budget vote in April instead of at the annual town meeting in June.

## **6. Manager Discussion**

AA said many of her points were discussed already.

JL again thanked AP for maintaining the website/Facebook and mentioned the growth of followers on the pages. BP mentioned that he’s thankful for the information we’re posting for the public on social media. JL motions to enter Executive Session, Second by ES. Vote 4-0.

## **7. Executive Session**

JL motioned to exit Executive Session, Second by ES. Vote 4-0.

ES motioned to back decision to fire Nixon Ortiz, Second JL. Vote 2-1-1.

## **8. Adjournment**

BP motioned to adjourn, Second by JL. Vote 4-0.