

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2011

Harpswell Town Office

Approved on January 27, 2011

Page 1 of 4

Selectmen Present: James S. Henderson, Mark E. Wallace and Elinor Multer

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator and Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped and broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television.

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Chairman Henderson stated the Planning Board needs more members and the Board hopes to make appointments next week. Chairman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to adopt the agenda as amended by adding Prepare for Town Line Boundary hearing on February 2 under Other Business; motion passed 3-0.

2. Public Comment: Robert McIntyre stated that it is clear based on the MSAD preliminary figures that Harpswell's assessment will go down by \$483,989.45 and voters should have that information before the February 1 vote on whether to close the West Harpswell School (WHS). The other three towns in the District will see assessment increases but Harpswell's is going down even with an increase in pupils. Since MSDA 75 said no to allowing the opposing view in its mailed information, Mr. McIntyre asked the Board to make a presentation to the Town of the opposing view to closing WHS. Selectman Multer asked if the other three towns had increases in the number of pupils; Mr. McIntyre did not know. There was a brief discussion how the number of pupils, EPS and land values impact assessments. Chairman Henderson responded that the reduction in Harpswell's assessment will probably be in the paper which will be the best way to communicate to voters. Chairman Henderson stated the Friends for Harpswell Education can hand out information as well and he believed if the Town pursued providing information, it may cause a separate controversy that will distract from the vote itself. Mr. McIntyre believes the public hearing is artificial in the manner of exchanging information in a systematic way. Chairman Henderson stated the hearing will provide information but that the question for the vote cannot be changed. Chairman Henderson reported the Town has a responsibility to provide information on issues affecting the Town as the Board has in the past regarding the flood plain maps with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and as with the Department of Marine Resources regarding water quality testing and that perhaps some policy will be needed on how to follow up in the future. Selectman Multer responded that referencing last year's public hearing as artificial is a mistake as there was an extensive exchange of views. Selectman Multer stated she cannot support putting the Friends for Harpswell Education views on the Town's website without a legal opinion as it may subject the Town to having to place other views on other subjects on the website. The Board agreed to place the preliminary MSAD budget information on the website.

3. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane announced that a hearing will be held on LD 69, An Act to Restore the Historical Town Boundary between Harpswell and Brunswick, on February 2 at 10:00 a.m. in room 214. Administrator Eiane reported the Town did receive formal communication from MSAD 75 stating that it will not allow space for information on why WHS should remain open, to be included with the District's information on the closure. Administrator Eiane stated the hearing that was to be held on January 18 regarding the WHS closure was cancelled due to the snow storm and has been rescheduled for January 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Harpswell Islands School. Administrator Eiane stated that absentee ballots are available on the WHS closure vote. Selectman Multer noted the hearing may have to be on Monday, depending on the weather.

4. Selectmen's Announcements: Selectman Wallace reported that he received complaints that the Goodall plow truck drivers are using excessive speed. Selectman Wallace stated he monitors the snow plow services very closely and has met with Ben Goodall about having the drivers slow down. Selectman Wallace asked everyone to drive slowly as the road conditions can change very quickly with dropping temperatures. Chairman

Henderson reported the Town received a request to have any road closures posted as close to possible to alternative routes so that one doesn't travel all the way down Rt. 123, for example. Chairman Henderson announced that after consideration of the recent comments from the public hearing, the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee has decided to withdraw its proposals for this Town Meeting and will continue to work on them. Chairman Henderson thanked the Committee members for its hard work and dedication for many years.

5. 2011 Budget Review: The Board reviewed the proposed 2011 budget and agreed as detailed below and asked for information on some items. Chairman Henderson stated he wants to place an article on the warrant for \$10,000 to continue to support the Town Line Boundary issue by providing funds for hiring a lobbyist, legal advice, etc. Selectman Multer stated she thought the amount was too high, which may cause Town Meeting to reject the whole concept. Selectman Wallace asked if the \$10,000 doesn't resolve the issue, is the Town obligated for more? Both Selectmen Multer and Chairman Henderson agreed the Town could stop at any point. Selectman Multer noted that if the issue doesn't progress this year, she could not support the efforts to continue in 2012. Chairman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to place \$10,000 on the warrant to fund the support for the Town Line Boundary effort; motion passed 2-1 (Selectman Multer opposed and she may recommend \$7,500). Administrator Eiane noted there was a discussion at the Fire & Rescue meeting for strategic planning and some funds may be needed for a consultant or facilitator. The Board agreed to place \$3,500 in the budget for that purpose.

2011 BUDGET REVIEW (with 2010 Actuals)		Actuals	Approp.	BAC	2010 --	Selectmen
<u>Gen. Gov.</u>		2010	2010	2011	2011%	2011
	Elected Officials: Salary and Travel	118,106	119,335	120,962	1.36%	120,962
	Administration & Registrar	255,830	271,505	259,248	-4.51%	259,248
	Assessing	77,792	80,482	81,600	1.39%	81,600
	Public Information	6,606	9,000	7,000	-22.22%	9,000
	Tax Collector's Office	31,643	33,628	34,123	1.47%	34,123
	Town Clerk's Office	40,588	48,277	45,552	-5.64%	45,552
	Codes Enforcement Office	85,216	89,989	92,315	2.58%	92,315
	Planning Office	85,037	70,621	73,213	3.67%	74,513
	Treasurer's Office	1,448	1,750	1,750	0.00%	1,750
	Employee Benefits: Retirement	38,001	43,300	44,814	3.50%	44,814
	Employee Benefits: Health Insurance	158,892	163,740	182,681	11.57%	182,681
	Employee Benefits: Social Sec/Medicare	60,303	62,140	60,264	-3.02%	60,264
	Employee Benefits: Disability	2,520	2,400	3,000	25.00%	3,000
	Risk Management	48,321	48,673	52,141	7.13%	52,141
	Legal	42,611	35,000	40,000	14.29%	40,000
	Memberships: MMA	7,594	7,745	7,784	0.50%	7,784
	Memberships: Midcoast Council of Gov't	7,858	7,859	7,859		7,859
	Memberships: Chamber of Commerce	750	750	750		750
	Memberships: Harpswell Business Assoc.	25	25	25		25
	Memberships: New Meadows River	1,000	1,000	1,000		1,000
	Town Boards/Committees	3,838	4,770	6,705	40.57%	5,405
	Town Buildings, Property & Vehicles	56,152	67,650	62,900	-7.02%	62,900
	Old Town House & Commons	3,927	5,000	11,500	130.00%	11,500
	Town Dock	1,710	3,250	3,000	-7.69%	3,000
	Town Landings	6,353	6,000	9,500	58.33%	9,500
		1,142,122	1,183,889	1,209,686	2.18%	1,211,686
						+bethel pt
<u>Public Works</u>	Snow Removal	416,966	449,785	398,973	-11.30%	398,973
	Road Maintenance	49,893	50,000	100,000	100.00%	100,000
	Road/Street Signs	1,440	2,000	2,000		2,000
	Recycling & Transfer	348,058	360,182	374,844	4.07%	374,844
		816,357	861,967	875,817	1.61%	875,817
<u>Pro. & Safety</u>	Emergency Services: Oper. & Capital	180,000	180,000	180,000		180,000

	ALS, Phone & Central Comm.	16,389	18,000	18,720	4.00%	18,720	
	Fire Warden	1,600	2,000	2,000		2,000	
	Emergency Management	3,618	3,500	4,350	24.29%	4,350	
	Street Lighting	25,890	28,500	26,000	-8.77%	27,000	
	Harbor Management	35,948	38,603	39,026	1.10%	39,026	
	Animal Control	21,428	23,686	23,947	1.10%	23,947	
	General Law Enforcement	294,194	294,194	288,098	-2.07%	288,098	
	Communications	29,547	29,547	30,438	3.02%	30,438	
	Shellfish Conservation: Marine Patrol	166,113	166,113	168,789	1.61%	168,789	
	Shellfish Conservation: Boat Operations	2,196	2,000	3,500	75.00%	3,500	
	Dry Hydrant Maintenance	0	0	2,000		2,000	
		776,922	786,143	786,867	0.09%	787,868	
<u>H&Welfare</u>	General Assistance	14,799	24,000	19,000	-20.83%	19,000	
	Social Service Agencies	16,230	16,230	14,730	-9.24%	14,730	
	Heating Reserve	7,566	6,000	0		0	
		38,595	46,230	33,730	-27.04%	33,730	
<u>Cult. & Rec.</u>	Curtis Library	119,884	119,884	114,988	-4.08%	114,988	
	Orr's Island Library	13,000	13,000	13,000		13,000	
	Cundy's Harbor Library	13,800	13,800	13,800		13,800	
	Harpswell Historical Society	2,000	2,000	3,000	50.00%	3,000	
	Pejepscot Historical Society	500	500	500		500	
	Memorial Observances	1,060	1,200	1,200		1,200	
	Harpswell Community Broadcasting	35,000	35,000	58,000	65.71%	58,000	
	Recreation Department	24,033	30,088	25,545	-15.10%	25,545	
	Recreation Programs	7,250	7,250	7,250		7,250	
	Bailey Island Library Hall	2,582	2,582	2,503	-3.06%	2,503	
	Five Rivers Arts Alliance	500	500	500		500	
	Harpswell Scouting Assistance Assoc	50	50	60	20.00%	60	
NEW	Harpswell Festival	0	0	1,000		1,000	
		219,658	225,854	241,346	6.86%	241,346	
<u>Cap. Reserves</u>	Boat & Motor Replacement		6,000	6,000		6,000	
	Vehicle Replacement & Equip		28,000	25,000	-10.71%	25,000	
	Town Office/Facilities/HVAC		16,000	16,000		16,000	
	Generator Replacement		12,000	0		0	
	Orr's Island Library Reserve	15,000	15,000	15,000		15,000	
	Recycling Center	40,085	0	25,000		25,000	
	Dry Hydrant Reserve		0	0		0	
	Emergency Communications Equip	18,630	0	3,000		3,000	
NEW	conservation fund		0	5,000			more info
NEW	Office equipment		0	5,000		5,000	
NEW	Public, Education, Governmental TV		0	11,000		11,000	
		73,715	77,000	111,000	44.16%	106,000	
<u>Mitchell Field</u>		14,361	8,500	28,650	237.06%	28,650	
<u>Capital Roads</u>	1,000,000 bonding article proposed	3,461	140,000				bond ok
<u>Debt Service</u>		615,344	640,000	437,500	-31.64%	437,500	
<u>Em. Ser. Veh.</u>				200,000		200,000	
<u>Spec. Projects</u>	Failed Septic System	7,566	2,000			5,000	
	MRRA	3,000	3,000			0	
	Town Line boundary	1,625	2,500			10,000	

	FEMA	19,425	20,000	5,000	-75.00%	5,000
NEW	Energy Efficiency		10,000			0
NEW	Local Circuit Breaker Program		0	60,000		60,000
NEW	Wetlands Del. & bound. Survey -Hildreth Rd		0	6,000		6,000
NEW	Emergency Services Strategic Planning					3,500
			37,500	71,000	89.33%	89,500
	2010 ACTUALS	3,732,152				
	APPROPRIATIONS		4,007,083	3,995,596	-0.29%	4,012,097

6. Review of Secret Ballot Items: Administrator Eiane stated the Board at its previous meeting voted to place certain items on secret ballot (timber harvesting, definitions re: mineral exploration, community docks, road ordinance amendment re: driveways, wheelchair amendment, and the appropriation for the Curtis Memorial Library) and after the meeting, it was noted that the Board may want to consider placing the consistency amendments and blasting on secret ballot as they appear to be diminimus. Chairman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to add consistency and blasting to secret ballot; motion passed 3-0. Chairman Henderson raised an issue with the agricultural waste definition in the Solid Waste Ordinance and the fine amount for the second offense. Chairman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to make the fine in 9.3.1 be up to \$100 and not \$250; motion passed 2-0 (Selectman Wallace abstained). Chairman Henderson stated he was willing to have the attorney look at the definition in question for resolution so the proposal can remain on secret ballot.

7. Other Business: Prepare for Town Line Boundary hearing on February 2: Chairman Henderson stated he wants to seek the services of a lobbyist to prepare for the February 2 hearing on the Town Line boundary issue. Chairman Henderson has spoken with Robert Howe and is willing to obtain an estimate. Chairman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to authorize up to \$2,000 for lobbying services for the forthcoming hearing on February 2; motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane stated she was asked if the Board would be meeting with the Carrying Place Assembly (CPA) or one Selectman before the hearing. Chairman Henderson agreed to meet with the CPA. Charles Perow asked if Senator Gerzofsky was involved the last time the issue went to the legislature; Chairman Henderson responded the Senator was not on the Committee.

8. Authorization of the Warrant: Removed.

9. Public Comment: Robert McIntyre stated in light of the Board's decision to not provide information regarding keeping West Harpswell School open, he encouraged the listeners to contact him or Ann Standridge at their email addresses for written information on the subject. Mr. McIntyre briefly reviewed some of the available written material including that the closure of WHS doesn't protect the Harpswell Islands School from a potential future closure. Selectman Multer stated Mr. McIntyre is using scare tactics as there has been no consideration of closing Harpswell Islands School. Charles Perow read a statement (attached) in support of closing West Harpswell School. Selectman Multer noted that if WHS is closed, the District will offer the building to the Town and that decision will require a lot of thought and depending on the pros and cons, the Town does not have to accept it.

10. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Charles Perow Statement

[Attachments are available at the Town Clerk's Office or by email at harpswell@town.harpswell.me.us]