

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2013
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on March 14, 2013

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Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Elinor Multer and James S. Henderson. Alison S. Hawkes was absent.

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator; Debora Turner, Assessing Agent; Carol Eyerman, Planner; and Jim Hays, Harbormaster

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

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to adopt the agenda as amended by moving item 12 to 5.5; motion passed 2-0.

2. Public Comment: Maryann Nahf, chair of the Shoreland Zoning Review Task Force, reminded the public of Town Meeting and stated the Task Force has prepared ordinance amendments for review and vote at Town Meeting. The amendments are available on the Town's website and she encouraged the public to contact the Town Planner with any questions. There will be a Question and Answer show regarding the proposals that will air on Community Television.

3. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane reported she was contacted by Gail Keezer, of Senator King's Office, who offered the Town assistance with any federal issues. Administrator Eiane replied the Town may be in touch regarding the Federal Emergency Management Agency mapping update. Ms. Keezer attended an Economic Development Forum and expressed an interest in economic development matters in Town. Administrator Eiane reported she met with representatives of the Harpswell Community School Parents and Teachers Organization who are investigating the possibility of acquiring a few playground pieces from the former West Harpswell School. The PTO will be fundraising to replace the grades 3 through 5 playground equipment and are exploring options. Administrator Eiane announced that the annual Town Meeting is Saturday, March 9 and the business meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Polls are open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The 2012 Town Report is at the printers; it will be available for mailing on Monday and is currently posted on-line. Administrator Eiane reported that she and the Road Commissioner met with Goodall Landscaping, including the drivers, to review performance and areas of concern. This was the second meeting which has proven to be beneficial.

4. Selectmen's Announcements: None.

5. Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Accept Heating Donation: Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve the consent agenda [February 21 minutes and a donation from RADM Rich for \$100 for heating assistance]; motion passed 2-0.

12. Sign 2013 Town Meeting Warrant: Administrator Eiane reviewed the two areas that reflect a difference between the warrant in the Town Report and the final warrant – a note was added to article 12's financial statement regarding Cedar Beach Road and "three-quarters" in article 13 was changed to "one-half" as approved by the Board. The Board questioned, in article 12, whether residents, taxpayers and guests are different than the public at large. Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to sign the warrant as is; motion passed 2-0.

6. Consider a Tax Abatement and Supplement: Debora Turner, Assessing Agent, recommended an abatement request for \$28,200 in value and \$162.43 in taxes for tax map 58, lot 84. The property has a very limited building envelope and a deed restriction that prohibits subsurface wastewater disposal systems. Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve the abatement as recommended; motion passed 2-0.

Ms. Turner reviewed that the owner of tax map 62, lot 131 has sold a portion of the property, that was in tree growth, to an abutter, generating a penalty. She reviewed the calculation. Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to assess the supplement for \$780; motion passed 2-0.

7. Rt. 24 Corridor Presentation: Carol Eyerman, Planner, presented a PowerPoint summary on the Draft Route 24 Corridor Plan requested and funded by Maine Department of Transportation. Harpswell, Brunswick, Topsham, Bowdoinham and Richmond representatives have worked with the regional planning organization (Midcoast Council of Governments) to draft a Corridor Plan for Route 24 as it has been identified as a corridor of Regional Economic Significance for Transportation. Chairman Multer asked for more information on the 'bike path audit' that was conducted. Towns are asked to submit comments on the draft plan, after which the plan will proceed to the regional meeting in Topsham. Eventually, Towns will be asked to endorse the final plan.

8. Consider Pott's Point Town Dock Policy: Jim Hays, Harbormaster, stated changes were made based on input received from the Board at the last few meetings. There are 28 spaces available and the policy establishes a priority list with 25 spaces for taxpayers and 3 for non-residents. There was a discussion regarding whether the first priority group should be resident and non-resident taxpayers and the Board agreed. Additionally, language was added to clarify that the lottery process will be held for the applications received on the day the applications exceed the available spaces. The Board asked for a clean version of the proposed policy for final review at the next meeting. Linda Hall asked if it was necessary for the Harbormaster to notify an owner of a dinghy or skiff that is full of water prior to removal. The responsibility for knowing the status of a boat should be up to the owner. Mr. Hays responded that dinghies and skiffs tied to Town property that are full of water add a lot of stress on the pier and since he will have the phone numbers of the registered owners, he will try to reach an owner first to remedy the situation. If the owner cannot be reached or is unable to correct the situation, he will remove the boat and the costs will be assessed to the owner. Ms. Hall asked if "transient and temporary boat tie-ups" should be defined; how the Town would handle someone obtaining a registered space but not using the space; whether new signs will be installed; and if there would be a higher fee for non-residents. The Board responded there will be new signs and since this is a new policy, agreed to wait and see if any of the other points raised by Ms. Hall become an issue.

9. Public Hearing on Secret Ballot Article Re: Curtis Memorial Library Appropriation: The hearing was opened at 7:13 p.m. Chairman Multer stated the Curtis Memorial Library (CML) appropriation is on secret ballot this year as it was discussed on the floor last year, pursuant to the Board's Secret Ballot Policy. C. Matthew Rich stated he spoke against funding the Curtis Memorial Library at a Board meeting in January and he would again tonight. Mr. Rich discussed the library card figures for Harpswell and Brunswick; stated CML did not add any new services in Harpswell and CML does not reach out to Harpswell local libraries. Mr. Rich stated Harpswell should pay on a per card basis. Liz Doucett, Library Director, stated the card figures she provides only includes Brunswick and Harpswell as those are the two relevant funding towns. Ms. Doucett reviewed the services CML provides to Harpswell's local libraries, including access to the inter-library loan book system, consumer health information, and the annual book sale where each library can obtain books at no cost. Henry Korsiak asked if the Town was paying a reasonable amount for the users as out-of-town card holders pay \$65 and Harpswell is paying \$94. Ms. Doucett reviewed the card holder information and compared Harpswell's usage and contribution to Brunswick's. Both towns pay a premium to help support the common good of a community. Chairman Multer noted if Harpswell withdrew, the out-of-town card rate may increase and if it goes beyond \$75, Harpswell would not experience a savings. Selectman Henderson noted Harpswell contributes to CML's operational costs only as Brunswick covers all capital costs. Ms. Doucett noted the Board negotiated a change in the Memorandum of Understanding this year that links Harpswell's contribution to the Federal Cost of Living Adjustment and no longer directly to Brunswick's share of operational costs. Burr Taylor stated it is all in how one attributes value to something and CML has value. Selectman Henderson added if Harpswell went to a per card system it may be a barrier to some. Mary Ann Nahf and Ann Standridge spoke as Harpswell representatives on the CML Board in favor of the Library and its services. The hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m.

10. Consider Conservation Plan for Hildreth Road Property, Tax Map 3, Lot 73: Removed.

11. Lease with Cundy's Harbor for the Pumper Tanker: Removed.

13. Appointment of Motor Vehicle Municipal Agent: Administrator Eiane stated the current Tax Collector is retiring as of the March 9 Town Meeting and her deputy is running unopposed for election as Tax Collector. The State requires the Town to appoint a motor vehicle agent as well. Chairman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to appoint Jill Caldwell as the motor vehicle agent effective March 10; motion passed 2-0.

14. Other Business: None.

15. Public Comment: None.

16. Authorization of the Warrants: Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Chairman Multer to approve warrant #10 in the amount of \$104,688.99; motion passed 2-0. Warrant #11 is for postage to mail the Town Report in an amount not to exceed \$900 and for \$282,644 for the pumper tanker truck that should be delivered next week. There have been some issues with the delivery of this truck that will be leased to Cundy's Harbor and while the contract allows the Town to assess a penalty, it may be complicated determining a penalty. The Town purchases these emergency vehicles but allows the fire departments to direct the process. The Board agreed to pay the full amount and send a letter with the payment expressing concern about the delay. Chairman Multer noted for future leases she would like to see a clause that allows the Town to terminate the lease as the department may. Payroll warrant #9 in the amount of \$14,423 was noted for the record by Administrator Eiane.

17. Administrative Matters: The Board signed the purchase order for the annual Town Report. The Board agreed to have the annual auditor's report at the March 28 meeting.

18. Adjournment: The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer
Deputy Town Administrator

Attachments:

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