

**Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 4pm**  
**Approved August 20, 2020**

Selectmen Present: Kevin E. Johnson, Chair; David I. Chipman and Jane G. Covey

Staff Present; Rosalind Knight, Town Clerk; Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator

Agenda Item: Public Hearing to Consider a Request from the Town Clerk to Consolidate the Polls for the November 3 Election

Public Hearing: Chairman Johnson called the Public Hearing to order at approximately 4:00pm

Town Clerk Rosalind Knight explained her reasons for asking the Board to consider consolidation of the polls for the November 3 election. Given the ongoing issues with COVID-19, Clerk Knight was unsure if she could find enough poll workers to staff the three regular polling locations. Clerk Knight stated this election is very important to voters and will be very busy. She will be needing help in the office processing an expected high amount of absentee ballots. The November 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot will be shorter than the July 14<sup>th</sup> ballot, which will allow voters to vote here at the Town Office. Clerk Knight encouraged voters to request absentee ballots early and to return the ballots promptly. Ballots can be requested by calling the Town Clerk's Office, stopping by or online through the Secretary of State.

Selectperson Covey stated she received a call from someone wanting to ensure that all voters are able to vote. Selectperson Covey expressed concern that consolidating the polls to one location may cause a delay to voters and potentially discourage voters from voting in person. There was a discussion about maximizing the space at Harpswell Community School to allow access to as many voters as possible. Clerk Knight encouraged voters to vote by absentee.

Nils Tcheyan asked what the percent of voters at the July 14 election voted by absentee and what percent went to the polls. Mr. Tcheyan also asked how the voting process will be communicated to the public. Clerk Knight responded that about 1300 absentee ballots were sent out and about 700 [actually about 500] people voted at the polls. Communication will be similar to the July 14 election – notices in the Anchor and Times Record; on the Town's website and Facebook; signs at the Town Office; announcements on Channel 14 and at Selectmen's meetings; and signs at the regular voting places directing people to Harpswell Community School.

Absentee ballots will be available 30 days before the vote. People can vote here at the Town Office or take a ballot with them and return in person or by mail or drop box.

Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to consolidate the polls to one location [Harpswell Community School] for the November 3 election; motion passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Sawyer  
Deputy Town Administrator/Treasurer