

**Harpswell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 22, 2026
Harpswell Town Office
APPROVED 2-5-26**

This meeting was held in the Select Board Meeting room at the Town Office and was available remotely by Zoom. Instructions were included on the published agenda and on the Town's website. Links to a video recording of the meeting are also available on the Town's website.

Selectmen Present: Chairman Kevin E. Johnson; Selectman David I. Chipman; Selectman Matthew Gilley

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Gaudet, Treasurer & Deputy Town Administrator.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted with one change. Consideration of Purchase of a Ford Pickup Truck for Orr's/Bailey Island FD added as 5A.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Select Board's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman observed that the emergency wood pile at the front of the Town Office appears to be getting used properly (for emergency purposes only).
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Town Administrator Eiane reported on the following:
 - **Public Hearing:** The Harpswell Community School is available for a Public Hearing on the two referendum items on the Town Meeting ballot; scheduled for February 11, 2026 at 6 PM.
 - **Dog Licenses:** The Public is reminded that dog licenses obtained after the January 31st deadline are subject to a state-imposed penalty of \$25.
5. **Consent Agenda:** The Select Board unanimously; 1) approved Minutes from the 12/18/25, 12/31/25, and 1/8/26 Select Board meetings; 2) accepted the resignation of Jeremy Jones from the Energy & Technology Committee; 3) authorized A/P Warrant 4 totaling \$122,077.98 and PR Warrant 3 totaling \$28,318.56.
- 5A. **Purchase of Ford Pickup Truck for OBIFD:** Ben Wallace, Chief of OBI Fire Department, asked the Select Board to approve purchase of a new pick-up truck (recently authorized for RFP). One vendor – Autotronics – responded to the RFP. Autotronics can meet all but one of the terms required in the RFP – a stipulation for a 10-year, 60k extended warranty. Autotronic can obtain a 10-year / 100k warranty from Ford. They also indicated that the cost of the warranty had not been included in the original quote provided to the Town and would need to be added. In addition, Chief Wallace indicated that the Department would like to strip out the cost of a radio installation from Autotronic's quote, preferring to order the unit (and its installation) separately from a Town supplier. This will actually save the Town money. The updated cost of the truck would be \$106,020.00; the cost of the radio would be \$2,379.35. The total cost of \$108,379.55 remains well within the Emergency Vehicle reserves of the Town. The Select Board unanimously approved the proposals for both the truck and radio, and authorized Town Administrator Eiane to sign all necessary documents.
6. **Letter of Support for Harpswell Heritage Land Trust Grant Application:** Mary Ann Nahf, Chairman of the Town's Conservation Commission asked the Select Board to sign a letter of support for a grant that the Land Trust is seeking. The Land Trust & Conservation Commission are planning to educate the

community on the critical need for protecting the Town's vernal pools. Among the many important roles that vernal pools play in our environment, one is the critical contribution it plays in re-charging our aquifers. The grant would pay for a State Biologist to review vernal pools on Town property and educate the public; as well as pay for new signage visible to the public on their hikes on Town trails. The Select Board unanimously agreed to support the effort and signed the letter.

7. **2026 Budget Review:** Administrator Eiane reviewed the 2026 budget with the Select Board through department 3115. (see attached)
8. **Public Comment:** None.
9. **Other Business:** Terri Gaudet, Treasurer & Deputy Town Administrator, addressed two items with the Select Board. The Treasurer; 1) asked that \$7,776 for sprinkler work be authorized; 2) asked that an updated list of 'Carry-over' funds from 2025 to 2026 be approved. The new total for Carry-over funds would be \$3,439,331, reflecting about \$60k in changes from the list originally approved. The Select Board unanimously approved the updated list.
10. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hubbard
Recording Secretary

Attachments: Budget Review

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