

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 4, 2021
Harpswell Town Office
Via Zoom
Approved February 18, 2021

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

Selectmen Present: Chairman Kevin E. Johnson, Selectman David I. Chipman and Selectperson Jane G. Covey

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator and Treasurer; Paul Plummer, Harbormaster and Marine Resource Administrator; and Mark Eyerman, Town Planner.

Others Present: Lois Skillings, President of Mid Coast Hospital; Dr. Christopher Bowe, Mid Coast Hospital; Mary Ann Nahf, Conservation Commission Chair.

Members of the Board, staff and presenters were participating by Zoom. The meeting was also being broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television and live streamed. The Chair read aloud the procedure for how members of the public could participate; such instructions were also included on the published agenda and on the website.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as written.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Chairman Johnson announced that there was a meeting to discuss wage and salary increases for both salaried and hourly employees, with emphasis on getting employees to the midpoint of the salary range for their respective positions. Chairman Johnson stated that the hourly employees rates were not getting to the midpoint quick enough, so the hourly wages will be increased by \$2.00 per hour. Salaried employees whose salaries were below midpoint were increased an additional 1.2%, totaling an increase of 2.5%. Selectman Chipman read the Third Amendment from the Constitution.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town Administration has been in contact with Central Maine Power (CMP) regarding the reliability of power during storms. CMP sent a crew to Route 123 to cut additional tree limbs. As part of a Betterment Project, CMP plans to bring three-phase power across the Mountain Road in 2022. This upgrade to the power grid would have positive benefits for upcoming capital projects, including the HVAC system at the Town Office and the Recycling Center rehabilitation project. The Energy and Technology Committee recommended that the Town convert its 164 street lights to LED fixtures. While CMP is willing to fund the conversion and retain ownership of the fixtures, the Town Administration has reached out to a company for an estimate should the Town decide to own its fixtures. Administrator Eiane reminded residents that there is a weekly food truck at the Town Office on Thursdays.

- 5. Consent Agenda: 1. Approval of the minutes; 2. IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate and Policy Amendment; 3. Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to accept the consent agenda [approved the January 21 minutes; accepted the mileage rate of .56/mile and the policy amendment (attached); approved warrant #6 in the amount of \$141,241.13 and payroll warrant #5 in the amount of \$19,316.13]. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 6. Mid Coast Hospital Update:** Lois Skillings and Dr. Christopher Bowe from Mid Coast Hospital provided a COVID-19 update which focused on the vaccine clinic being set up by the Hospital at Brunswick Landing. Please see attached slides for more information.
- 7. Walter Burlock, Jr. Wharf Application, 117 Starboard Lane, Map 58, Lot 70.** The application proposes replacing an existing system with a 6'x100' fixed dock, 3'x40' ramp and 12'x50' float. Chairman Johnson moved to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates, there is no hazard to navigation, no injury to the rights of others in relation to fishing, fowling or navigation; it was seconded by Selectman Chipman. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 8. Harpswell Community Garden Grant Application to the Harpswell Land Trust:** The Community Garden requested approval of its annual grant application to the Harpswell Land Trust. This year's request is for \$5,900. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to approve the grant application. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 9. Browntail Moth Update:** Mary Ann Nahf, Conservation Commission Chair, updated the Board about Browntail Moths. Nahf shared some steps that homeowners can take to mitigate infestations and protect themselves against the moths. Nahf informed residents that Harpswell has strict pesticide ordinance language in place, more information (including information about winter moths) can be found on the Town website under the Environment tab.
- 10. Sign Town Meeting Warrant for the Election of Town Officials:** Polls for voting for the Election of Town Officials, specifically a Town Selectman and a MSAD #75 Board Director, will be open March 13, 2021 at Harpswell Community School from 9am-5pm. The ballots will be ready for absentee voting by Friday February 12, 2021. Residents interested in voting by absentee ballot should contact the Town Clerk's Office. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to sign the warrant. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 11. MidCoast Humane Contract:** Administrator Eiane presented the Board with an annual contract with MidCoast Humane. It is State law that each Town has a place they can take lost domesticated animals. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectwoman Covey, to enter into agreement with MidCoast Humane. Motion passed, 3-0.
- 12. Public Comment:** None.

13. Other Business: Administrator Eiane stated that the Harbormaster and Marine Resources Coordinator, Town Lands Committee, Marine Resources Committee and Harbor and Waterfront Committee requested a workshop with the Select Board to discuss rockweed harvesting in the intertidal zones on Town property and whether it should be prohibited. The workshop will be held March 2, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom. A Town resident also requested a workshop with the Select Board to discuss the Carbon Fee and Dividends. The workshop will be held on March 4, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom. Administrator Eiane reminded the Board of a workshop with the Budget Advisory Committee Monday, February 8, 2021 at 3:00pm via Zoom.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm with no objections.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kayla Matthews
Recording Secretary