

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022
Harpswell Town Office

5:00pm Chairman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(E) to consult with the Town's legal counsel regarding the legal rights and responsibilities of the Board; motion passed 3-0. At 5:47pm the Board exited Executive Session and recessed until 6:00pm.

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

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator & Treasurer; Art Howe, Fire Administrator; and Paul Plummer, Harbormaster.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was accepted with the removal of item #2 and item #14 moved to item #2
2. **Deed of Gift for Painting.** Gordon Weil, on behalf of himself and his wife Roberta Weil, gifted the painting "Dead Ship of Harpswell" to the Town. He spoke of the artist, David Sparks of Harpswell, who also painted the Town Seal, and the poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, "The Dead Ship of Harpswell." The painting is currently on display in the Selectmen's meeting room.
3. **Public Comment:** Maryann Nahf of the Conservation Commission, reminded the public that February was Browntail Moth Awareness Month. Information is available on the Town website or by calling 211.
4. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman announced that he has placed red signs to signify removal, or pink signs to signify addition, on poles where a street light was to be added or removed. The public has until March 4, 2022 to make comments.
5. **Town Administrator's Report:**
 - Accept Animal Control Officer Resignation. Administrator Eiane requested that the Board accept the resignation of Gail Federico, Animal Control Officer with regret as of May 15, 2022. Ms. Federico has offered to help train the new ACO and to serve as a backup. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the resignation with regrets. Motion passed 3-0.
 - Recommendation for Firefighter wage scale. Fire Administrator Howe reported wage scales for surrounding towns. Selectman Johnson pointed out that a \$5 per hour increase was used in the 2022 budget that is going to Town Meeting. Selectman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman that Firefighters receive a \$5 per hour increase across the board, contingent on Town Meeting Budget approval. Motion passed 3-0.

Public Hearing began at 6:15 pm and concluded at 6:26 pm, see Item 8.

6. **Consent Agenda:** 1) **Approval of the Minutes** 2) **Authorization of the Warrants.** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the consent agenda. [Minutes 1/20/22,

Warrant #6 in the amount of \$744,893.59, and payroll warrant #5 in the amount of \$20,485.09] Motion passed 3-0.

7. **Harpwell Community Garden Grant Application:** Susan Stemper, Chair of the Community Garden, reported that the Community Garden was able to donate 1,360 lbs. of produce in 2021. She reported the 2022 budget included some projects that they were unable to complete in 2021. The Community Garden is seeking approval to apply for a \$9,000 grant from Harpswell Heritage Land Trust and approval to use \$2,400 from the reserve fund. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to authorize the grant application to HHLT. Motion Passed 3-0. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve the use of funds from the special revenue fund for recreation reserve in the amount of \$2,400 pending approval from the Recreation Committee. Motion passed 3-0.
8. **6:15 Public Hearing:**
 - Curtis Memorial Library Appropriation: Administrator Eiane reported that the budget and financial statements for Curtis Memorial Library were posted on the Town's website. Elizabeth Doucette, Director of Curtis Memorial Library, shared that Darling Ford has agreed to donate an Electric Van for use as the new book mobile.
 - Harbor and Waterfront Ordinance Amendments: Paul Plummer Harbormaster explained the two proposed amendments. The first would be that the point of access must be owned by the mooring owner, the Town or someone having specific rights, and the second that the mooring must be inspected every three years. Self-inspection would be allowed if the owner of the mooring affirms that they have inspected the mooring. Helene Marsh Harrower of Paul's Marine asked for guidance on what would be required of mooring inspectors.
 - Shellfish Ordinance Amendments: Paul Plummer, Harbormaster explained a new category for a resident commercial-nonresident commercial license. This category would require 5 years of previous residency. The fees for the license would be the same as a non-resident license. He also explained that prior to town meeting the Commissioner of the Department of Marine Resources would have to approve the change. He also reported the change excluded students from the three proofs of residency requirement for licenses.
9. **Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Project Agreement:** Paul Plummer, Harbormaster, reported that the Town was awarded a grant of \$233,999 to study the effects of helical moorings on eel grass. The agreement with The Nature Conservancy who is the fund administrator, explains what the project entails, timelines and expectations. Twenty moorings will be replaced with helical moorings in Curtis Cove, Dipper Cove and Stover's Cove, and the study will continue until 2027. No cash match is required of the town. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to authorize the Chair to sign the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program Project Agreement after it has been signed by The Nature Conservancy. Motion passed 3-0.
10. **Establish New Town Meeting Date for Business Meeting:** Due to Public Health concerns, Selectman Johnson moved, seconded by Selectman Covey, to move the Business Meeting portion of the March 12 election to a referendum ballot on April 23, 2022 from 9-5. Motion passed 3-0.
11. **Executive Warrant for March 12 Election:** Selectman Covey moved, seconded Selectman Chipman to adopt the Warrant for the March 12 Election of Municipal Officials, and referendum ballot for Curtis Memorial Library. Motion passed 3-0.

12. **2022 Draft Town Meeting Warrant:** Administrator Eiane presented the Board with the Staffs first draft of the 2022 Town Meeting Warrant for the election on April 23, 2022. She explained that the appropriations for Town operations were grouped into one article and there are 26 total articles which will appear in the warrant. She went over the articles in the warrant including five articles relating to the American Rescue Plan Act funds, three articles relating to changes to ordinances, and three articles relating to giving the Board the authority to enter into multi-year agreements. The Board concurred these articles should be limited to 5 years. The Board also concurred that the interest rate for unpaid taxes should revert to 6%. Administrator Eiane mentioned that the Board did have one more week to make any changes to the Warrant before it would be finalized for the voters. She reported the current proposed budget was \$6,337,339.
13. **Selection of Contractor for Septic Replacement Project:** Treasurer Sawyer reported that the Town received a grant from the State of Maine to replace a resident's failing septic systems. Two bids were received and she recommended the Board accept the lowest bid pending DEP approval. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the bid subject to DEP's final decision. Motion passed 3-0
14. **Public Comment:** None
15. **Other Business:** None
16. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary