

**Harpswell Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday March 5, 2026
Harpswell Town Office
APPROVED 3-18-26**

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 Agenda:** Approved with no changes. Administrator Eiane said that she would be seeking approval for a hire during her Report.
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Select Board Announcements:** Selectman Chipman indicated that the compactors at the Recycling Center had been fixed and would be back on line tomorrow.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane addressed the following topics:
 - The **2025 Report** has been printed and will be mailed to all residents. It will also be posted online. It includes the Town Meeting Warrant, the proposed 2026 budget, and detailed reports from Town departments. Administrator Eiane thanked Amelia Waszynski for her terrific work in designing the report.
 - Voters can still request and cast **absentee ballots** prior to the Town Meeting. Two secret ballot Articles will be on the absentee ballot, along with votes for open positions on the Select Board and School Board.
 - The Town has been conducting interviews for **three open positions at the Recycling Center**; two full time and one seasonal. Administrator Eiane indicated that the Interview Committee had identified one candidate that they were seeking authorization to hire from the Select Board. Pete Arnold is a well-known Harpswell resident who has stepped forward for a full time position. The Selectmen unanimously approved the hire at \$20/hour.
5. **Consent Agenda:** Selectman Chipman made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including: a) approval of Meeting Minutes for the 2-12, 2-19 & 2-25 Select Board Meetings; b) authorization of the appointment of Lori Falcone to a position of Associate Member on the Conservation Commission; c) acceptance of the resignation of Jenny Zagariello from the Conservation Commission; d) authorization of appointments of election workers to include Christine Donovan-Hall, Lydia Mears, Gordon Warren, Marge Warren, Martha Israel, Susan Pettit, Megan Hubbard, Stephen Pulsifer; e) authorization of Payroll Warrant PR9 totaling \$28,828.38; f) authorization of Accounts Payable Warrant 10 totaling \$164,083.32.
6. **Maine DOT Public Working Waterfront Infrastructure Grant Application:** Maryann Nahf, Chair of the Town's Climate Resiliency and Sustainability Committee, asked for the Select Board to support a grant application that the Committee was prepared to submit to Maine DOT; and approve the use of up to

\$50,000 of uncommitted SPIRA for matching funds. The application would be for grant funding from the Maine DOT Infrastructure Fund; funds to be used to update an engineering study of the Garrison Cove Harbor Landing/shoreline and to implement the study. The Town Lands Committee has been monitoring the erosion and damage to the ramp and realized that rising sea levels combined with stronger and more frequent storms is further jeopardizing a critical asset used by commercial fishermen, shellfish harvesters and the public at large. Selectman Chipman made a motion to support the application and authorize the use of up to \$50,000 for use as matching funds. Selectman Gilley seconded. The Select Board voted unanimously (3-0) to approve.

- 7. Baxter State Park Authority Memorandum of Understanding Re: Overflow Parking:** Administrator Eiane asked the Select Board to authorize the Chair, Kevin Johnson, to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Baxter State Park Authority (BPSA); for overflow parking on BPSA-owned land adjacent to the Harpswell Community School. The agreement would be for one day only (March 14, 2026) to meet the anticipated need for parking at Town Meeting. Selectman Chipman made a motion to approve the MOU. Selectman Gilley seconded. The Select Board unanimously approved (3-0) the motion and Chairman Johnson signed the MOU.
- 8. Sign March 14, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant & Attachment:** Administrator Eiane asked the Select Board to consider a change to one budget Article in the Town Meeting Warrant. Budget Article 42 includes an appropriation of \$6,000 for the Harpswell Neck Physical Education Association, with \$2,000 of these funds earmarked for summer camp. HNPEA has indicated that the camp will not be running this summer. Selectman Chipman recused himself from voting on this matter given his role with HNPEA, and addressed the Select Board from the podium. He regretted the fact that the popular summer camp would not be moving ahead this summer, but indicated that the intent was to bring it back in 2027. The Selectman asked if his fellow Select Board members might allow the funds to be utilized for needed building renovations at HNPEA. Administrator Eiane suggested that this was probably not possible, since the matter would need to be reviewed by the Budget Advisory Committee. Selectman Gilley agreed with this position. Selectman Gilley made a motion to reduce the funding request in the effected Article from \$6,000 to \$4,000. Chairman Johnson seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Chipman recusing).

Administrator Eiane continued by asking the Select Board to approve and sign the Town Meeting Warrant. Selectman Gilley made a motion for approval. Selectman Chipman seconded. The Select Board unanimously approved.
- 9. Contract for Propane Fixed Price Per Gallon:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet asked the Select Board to approve and sign an agreement with Superior Propane to fix a price for propane for the remainder of a year; at a price of \$2.599 per gallon. Continued issues with the new HVAC system at the Town Office have led to unanticipated usage of propane. The Select Board recently addressed the issue by approving an increase to the budget for propane, but Selectman Gilley initiated negotiations with Superior to try to mitigate the impact. Selectman Gilley made a motion to approve the contract. Selectman Chipman seconded. The Select Board voted unanimously (3-0) to approve and sign.
- 10. Congressionally Directed Spending Application:** Administrator Eiane asked the Select Board for authorization to submit an application for federal grant funding through the office of Senator Collins'. The purpose of the grant would be to provide support for the Town's Emergency Services Building project. The Town sought funds a year ago for this purpose but was turned down. The Senator's office indicated that the Town should consider re-applying during the next fiscal year. The deadline for submitting applications during this new cycle is March 18. Selectman Chipman made a motion to authorize Town staff to prepare and submit an application for \$1.5M in grant funding for the EMS building. Selectman Gilley seconded. The Select Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

11. Public Comment: Selectman Chipman spoke from the podium as a private citizen; addressing the secret ballot Article related to Clark Cove. He encouraged voters to visit the Clark Cove area to better understand the negative impact that further development of the site would have on area residents.

Selectman Gilley questioned the manner in which Selectman Chipman has approached the issue of Clark Cove, given his personal interests in the area. He was concerned that Selectman Chipman had recused himself from a vote on the issue of Clark Cove at one point, but then taken to the podium on at least two occasions to lobby against the Article and made a recommendation on the warrant, which undermines the integrity of the Board.

Chairman Johnson also expressed reservations with Selectman Chipman, indicating that he heard from members of a Committee where Selectman Chipman encouraged those present to vote no.

Mary Ann Nahf, Chair of the Town's Conservation Commission, encouraged voters to learn more about the plans for Clark Cove by going to the website and reading the available information before voting.

12. Other Business: None.

13. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Hubbard
Recording Secretary

Attachments: None

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