

Special Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2020, 3pm
Approved April 23, 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 July 14 Election

Public Hearing: Chairman Johnson called the Public Hearing to order at approximately 3:05pm. Members of the Board and staff were participating by Zoom as well as members of the public. The hearing was also being broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television. 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.

Town Clerk Rosalind Knight explained her reasons for asking the Board to consider consolidation of the polls on July 14. Given all the uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency, poll workers have expressed concerns about working at the polls, so the Clerk was unsure if she could find enough poll workers to staff three locations. Also, the space at the Harpswell Community School will allow for more social distancing and more voting booths to be appropriately spaced to accommodate voters. It would be much easier for the Clerk and the poll workers to manage voting at one location. The Clerk also expressed her interest in getting the word out about absentee voting so that more voters will choose that method of voting.

Members of the public were able to participate remotely. There were several questions, submitted in advance by Gary Vincent, which the Clerk responded to.

A member of the public, Mose Price, asked how someone obtains an absentee ballot. The Clerk explained that one could contact her Office or go online to the Secretary of State's Office to make the request.

At approximately 3:15pm, the Public Hearing was closed. Members of the Board indicated that they were supportive of the Clerk's request for consolidation.

Selectman Chipman moved to consolidate voting at one location, the Harpswell Community School, for the July 14 election. It was seconded by Selectwoman Covey and passed by roll call vote by all three members of the Board. The Board then adjourned by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi K. Eiane
Town Administrator