

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2021
Harpswell Town Office
Approved June 24, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator/Treasurer; and Mark Eyerman, Planner

1. Letter of Support for Running Tide's Kelp For Carbon Sequestration Project: Administrator Eiane stated Running Tide reached out last week for a letter of support for federal funding it was seeking for a carbon sequestration project it's doing in the Gulf of Maine. Mary Ann Nahf, Conservation Commission Chair and Climate Resilience Task Force, stated this project could become an adjunct to carbon sequestration on land, which becomes harder and harder as more trees and open space are eliminated. Selectman Chipman stated the proposal expresses concerns about snaring whales but didn't mention anything about fishermen. He asked if this will be located in the deep ocean away from lobster gear. Chairman Johnson stated the Maine Lobstermen's Association can review the proposal and noted the owner of Running Tide is from a fishing family and likely looked at the issue. Selectmen Chipman stated since the project is a demonstration project, he is willing to support this project with the effects on others being watched. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Chairman Johnson to support the Running Tide kelp for carbon sequestration project and authorize Ms. Nahf to sign the letter as well. Selectman Covey joined the meeting after discussion on item 2 and Chairman Johnson summarized the discussion. The motion passed 3-0.

2. Approval of June 1, 2021 Special Town Meeting Warrant: Administrator Eiane stated two items requiring a Town vote have come to the Town's attention after the June 8 ballot deadline. The Recycling Center/Transfer Station employees have dissolved their union as of December 31, 2020. As such, the IAM National Pension Fund reviewed the Town's unfunded liability and determined it to be \$143,142. Staff is recommending unassigned fund balance be used to pay IAM. The other matter relates to the Mitchell Field communications tower previously approved by voters. Blue Sky is constructing the tower and the original plan was for the power to run down Mitchell Field Drive to a transformer box and over to the tower site. Blue Sky would now like a more direct route from Rt. 123 along the Town's former house lot (outside Mitchell Field) to the tower site. This proposal requires an easement with Central Maine Power and approval from the legislative body. Ms. Sawyer spoke as a resident, stating that the Blue Sky proposal includes running lines from the CMP pole on her property over Rt. 123 to a proposed new pole and then running underground to the tower. Ms. Sawyer noted she has been assured by Blue Sky that the new pole will only be supported by a guy wire (and not another pole). Ms. Sawyer requested that Blue Sky also make every effort to assure that the pole being replaced is removed after replacement. Mr. Eyerman noted Blue Sky held a pre-construction conference and things are moving along.

Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the special Town Meeting warrant; motion passed 3-0.

The other potential matter, an easement for a utility line under Lookout Point Road, no longer needs voter approval as the Town can enter an easement with Central Maine Power within the right-of-way. The applicant still needs a street opening permit and the details will be worked out with the applicant.

At 1:21 p.m. Chairman Johnson moved to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 MRS § 405 (6) (C) for discussion of use of real property at Mitchell Field for economic development; motion passed 3-0.

The Board returned to open session at approximately 2:15pm. No announcements were made and the meeting was adjourned without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer
Deputy Town Administrator/Treasurer