

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2015
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on June 11, 2015

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Selectmen Present: Richard A. Daniel, Elinor Multer and Kevin E. Johnson

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator; and Ronald Ponziani, Road Commissioner

The meeting was recorded and broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television and streamed.

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to adopt the agenda as printed; motion passed 3-0.
- 2. Public Comment:** Donna Frisoli noted she heard jack hammering all morning from the lot previously owned by the Etniers. She asked the Selectmen to help save Harpswell and its heritage as it is being taken away house by house.
- 3. Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported four applications were received for the Animal Control Officer (ACO) position. After interviewing the candidates, the recommendation to the Board is to hire Gail Federico for this unique position of being on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at a daily stipend of \$30/day. Ms. Federico is a Harpswell resident and given she worked for the United States Postal Service for 29 years, she has excellent customer service skills. Additionally she is trained in first aid for cats and dogs. If appointed, Ms. Federico will be required to obtain State certification as an ACO within six months. Administrator Eiane noted that Lee Johnson, current ACO, will be hard to replace as he did an excellent job and that he will make himself available to assist the new ACO. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to hire Gail Federico; motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane reported there are cracks appearing on Long Point Road which was part of a recent capital road project. She will be meeting with the contractors and engineers next week to discuss how to remedy the issue and asked if a Selectman wanted to be involved. Selectman Johnson stated he would attend the site visit.
- 4. Selectmen's Announcements:** Chairman Daniel announced the public transportation routes started on Wednesday. He rode the bus from Mitchell Field to Cook's Corner and then from Cook's Corner to Cundy's Harbor. One person who was going to spend the day in Harpswell, was picked up in Cook's Corner. Chairman Daniel stated the bus ride was comfortable and he encouraged the public to use this one- day- a- week service.
- 5. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to approve the consent agenda [May 14 minutes; contract with Bowdoin College for summer swim; signed the MSAD 75 district budget validation warrant; appointment for June 9 vote of Janet Coombs, Megan Hubbard, Susan Daignault as Wardens and Hope Hilton, Patricia Leary, Thomas Rothwell, Monique Coombs, Linda Kreamer ad Deputy Wardens; appointed Bill Muldoon to the Bandstand Committee; authorization of warrant #23 in the amount of \$219,571.30, warrant 23a in an amount not to exceed \$1,900 and payroll warrant #22 in the amount of \$19,611.59]; motion passed 3-0.
- 6. Old Business: Consider Next Step Re: Repurchase Agreement with Harpswell Coastal Academy (HCA):** Chairman Daniel stated this topic was on the last agenda and Scott Scheffer stated he was planning a meeting with John D'Anier and Gordon Weil regarding this topic. He asked the Board to delay its discussion until after that meeting. Selectman Multer stated she spoke with both Mr. Scheffer and Mr. Weil, who stated he was willing to attend a meeting to explain his views and was clear he is not representing the Town. Selectman Multer suggested Chairman Daniel speak with Joe Grady and ask him his thoughts on such a meeting. Chairman

Daniel agreed to speak with Mr. Grady. Selectman Johnson stated he is reluctant to open this topic but if the Town does, the Town should be meeting with HCA.

7. Consider Placing Speed Bump(s) on Basin Point Road: Ronald Ponziani, Road Commissioner, stated prior to understanding this meeting would occur, he spoke with a representative of the Office of the Sheriff's who has agreed to run radar on Basin Point Road. He stated Peabody Road is quite dangerous as well due to certain drivers trying to beat traffic on Rt. 123. Mr. Ponziani stated speed bumps have collateral side effects such as drivers going around them and they are noisy. Mr. Ponziani noted the Dolphin Marina is in favor of any plan that makes travel safer. Selectman Johnson asked if there are different profiles for speed bumps and perhaps that would address the noise issue. Selectman Multer recommended placing the bumps back where they were in 2013. Mr. Ponziani reiterated the noise of trucks traveling across the bumps and that they do not slow some drivers down. Chairman Daniel stated he understood the traffic was safer with the bumps and he asked if the associated noise could be dampened down. Selectman Multer asked if the bumps could be made permanent and at a more gradual incline. Mr. Ponziani responded noise could be decreased with a different profile and an example of permanent bumps is on Maine Street, Brunswick. Mr. Ponziani noted the Department of Transportation was asked over a year ago to study the speed limits on Basin Point Road and make recommendations for changes, if necessary, and has yet to issue its findings. There was a discussion of possible options. Robert McIntyre stated the speed bumps in 2013 improved safety and he suggested moving the road narrows sign 100-feet north and placing bumps at the narrows. Ian Duggan stated speed on Peabody Road is a major issue and there have been accidents associated with speed. Mr. Duggan is in favor of speed bumps and also having the Deputies monitor speed. Tim Halpin is in favor of speed bumps on Peabody Road and offered to have them located in front of his house. Dorothy Rosenberg stated there are three choke points on Basin Point, one from Ash Point Road, one at the foot of the hill towards the end of Basin Point Road and one where the road narrows on the last hill that also has a blind spot. Ms. Rosenberg stated something needs to be done. Selectman Multer stated she spoke with Hope Hilton who also requested a bump on the straight away after the curve at the head of the cove. Nancy Woolley asked if the bumps could be long enough to extend across the road and to deter people from going around them onto private property. Mr. Ponziani noted signs will be required. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to have the Road Commissioner place temporary bumps on Basin Point Road and Peabody Road and to have the Town engineers look into longer term solutions; motion passed 3-0.

8. 2016 Shellfish License Fees and Conservation License Fee Reduction: Administrator Eiane reviewed the existing license fees and stated Town Meeting passed ordinance amendments to provide for license fee reduction if a commercial harvester completes both conservation times. The Marine Resources Committee recommends a \$400 credit for conservation and for the fees to be: commercial resident \$600, commercial senior resident \$500, commercial non-resident \$800, commercial senior non-resident \$600, commercial student resident \$500, commercial student non-resident \$500. If the harvester completes both conservation times, a \$400 credit would be applied and the fee would revert to what it was in 2015. Selectman Johnson stated the fees and ordinance changes were worked on by the Committee all winter and the harvesters know they have to complete two conservation times to qualify for the credit. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to adopt the 2016 commercial shellfish license fees per the Marine Resource Committee recommendation; motion passed 3-0.

9. Acceptance of Dry Hydrant Easement from Donn Gagnon, Mountain Road: Deputy Administrator Sawyer stated the existing easement for use of this dry hydrant on Mountain Road will expire and Town Meeting voted to authorize the Board to accept a new easement. Mr. Gagnon has signed this easement authorizing use of his pond for another 20 years and the Town has hired RA Webber to perform some maintenance on the pond and hydrant. Selectman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to accept the easement; motion passed 3-0. Chairman Daniel thanked Mr. Gagnon for continuing the easement.

10. Public Hearing Re: Estes Lobster House Spirituous Liquor Application: Deputy Administrator Sawyer reported the Board approved a renewal liquor license for Estes a few weeks ago for malt and vinous. Mr. Crooker, owner, has decided to add spirituous liquor to his license. Deputy Administrator Sawyer stated she spoke with the State and was advised the Town should consider this addition a new license and follow procedures for new license. Therefore the abutters were notified and an ad was run in the Times Record. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to approve the spirituous license for Estes; motion passed 3-0.

8. Shellfish License Fees (continued): Administrator Eiane stated there is another category of commercial shellfish license holders – senior, age 70 or over, who has held a license for two years, is not required to complete conservation times. As a result, the Committee recommends keeping the fee for resident seniors in this category at \$100 and for non-resident seniors in this category at \$200. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to keep the fees as outlined for these two categories; motion passed 3-0.

11. Consider Requesting a Review of Mitchell Field Deed Restrictions: Administrator Eiane stated that in October 2001, the Town received a deed for the Mitchell Field property (excluding the houses) from the federal government and page 2 and 3 of the deed includes restrictive covenants. The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) wanted the restrictions including that the property cannot be used for residential purposes without approval, ground water use was limited and any disturbance of the soil required approval from the DEP. After years of the federal government monitoring the wells and reviewing the reports, the restrictions may possibly be removed or reduced. Any removal or reduction does not change the federal government’s responsibility relating to any future problems resulting from contamination caused by its use. The Town received a draft proposal from the federal government to work on the deed restrictions at a cost of about \$10,000. Administrator Eiane spoke with the Town’s DEP contact who insisted the Town should not incur any costs for this service. DEP will work with the federal government to have the work done at no cost. Administrator Eiane stated she wants the Board to be aware of this and that no action was necessary at this time. Chairman Daniel asked if the well tests show contamination is trending down; Administrator Eiane responded that DEP indicates a substantial improvement.

12. Open Bids for the Car and Generator: Two bids for the car were opened: Daryl Pennel \$1,000.01 and Shelly Pennel \$1,000. Selectman Multer moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to accept the bid from Daryl Pennel; motion passed 3-0. The Board asked staff to continue trying to sell the generator.

13. Other Business: None.

14. Public Comment: None.

15. Administrative Matters: None.

16. Adjournment: At 7:15 p.m. the Chair adjourned the meeting without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer
Deputy Town Administrator

Attachments:

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