

**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**  
**October 30, 2014**  
**Harpswell Town Office**  
**Approved on November 13, 2014**

At 5:00 pm; Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Johnson to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405 (6)(D) to discuss labor negotiations; motion passed 2-0. Selectman Multer joined the meeting about 5:15pm.

The Board returned to open session at 5:35 pm and recessed.

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 Bill Wells, Code Enforcement Officer

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 amended by replacing item 7 with Accept Donation by Bowdoin College and add a discussion under item 12 regarding the Planning Board workshop; motion passed 3-0.

**2. Public Comment:** Rosalind Knight, Town Clerk, announced the deadline to vote by absentee ballot is tonight at 7:00pm, except for special exceptions. Over 800 absentee ballots have been processed and Ms. Knight encouraged those who have not returned ballots to place them in the mail tomorrow. Ms. Knight reviewed what the special exceptions are and the process to absentee vote by special exception. Polls are open on Tuesday from 8:00am to 8:00pm at three sites: Merriconeage Grange, Cundy's Harbor Community Hall and the Old Orr's Island Schoolhouse.

**3. Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane encouraged people to vote on Tuesday. Administrator Eiane announced that yesterday, the President of the National Garden Club stopped by to see the front garden maintained by the Harpswell Garden Club. The Harpswell Garden Club is working on a sign to be placed on the back of the Town Office sign acknowledging the garden is maintained by it. On Tuesday some staff planted bulbs in the garden and everyone enjoys the garden. Administrator Eiane stated the Spectrum Generations is applying for a grant to look at how the elderly can age in place, specifically in the towns of Harpswell, Brunswick and Topsham. Spectrum asked for a letter of support and due to the grant deadline of yesterday, Administrator Eiane signed the letter after informing the Selectmen. Administrator Eiane stated public transportation is on the Board's goals and recently Chairman Daniel, Planner Eyerma and she met with a representative from Coastal Trans. Coastal is interested in creating a link to Harpswell, which will entail a lot of planning and likely a cash match. The idea will be further explored during a future workshop with the Board.

**4. Selectmen's Announcements:** None

**5. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to approve the consent agenda; motion passed 3-0 [10/16 minutes; appointment of Scott Sheffer to the Budget Advisory Committee; tax abatement to Dain Allen for map 8, lot 30 in value of \$345.95; acceptance of an anonymous \$40 donation in memory of Kert Brown; and warrant #48 in the amount of \$205,013.62 and payroll warrant #44 in the amount of \$18,479.02]. Administrator Eiane noted the warrant includes payments to all but one Harpswell cemetery for maintenance of veteran's graves at \$10 per veteran.

**6. Old Business: Consider Agreement with Maine Power Options:** Chairman Daniel stated he met with a energy & electricity broker this afternoon, who was surprised by the numbers being offered to the Town as the

broker cannot achieve those low fixed rates at this time. The broker highly recommends the Town lock in. The broker explained that energy in the future, particularly gas, is expected to rise for several reasons. One being that the tsunami in Japan demolished one or more nuclear power plants which moved over to using gas fired generators, which are now competing for the gas going into Boston and Canada, creating a larger demand for gas. The broker recommends the Town lock in at the 35 month level. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to enter a contract with Constellation New Energy at a fixed kilowatt supply rate at .08390 for 35 months; motion passed 3-0. The contract covers two Town accounts – the Town Office and Recycling Center. **Recommendation for Winter Sand Contractor:** Ronald Ponziani, Road Commissioner, stated he spoke with the lowest bidder, who has declined to proceed with supplying the Town with sand this year and decided to work on improving the company's setup for the future. Therefore, Mr. Ponziani recommends proceeding with Goodall Landscaping to supply winter sand. Selectman Johnson moved, seconded by Chairman Daniel to accept Goodall's bid for winter sand at a rate of 11.56 per yard; motion passed 3-0.

**7. Acceptance of Donation from Bowdoin College:** Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to accept a \$9,000 unrestricted gift from Bowdoin College; motion passed 3-0.

**8. Oakledge LLC Wharf Application, 215 High Head Road, Map 7, Lot 169:** Bill Wells, Code Enforcement Officer, reviewed the proposal to construct a 4'x16' set of access stairs; 6'x28' fixed pier; 3'x36' seasonal ramp; 12'x20' seasonal float and a 6'x20' float haul-out. No one attended the on-site visit and Mr. Wells recommended approval. Mr. Wells stated the public can pass under the pier. Ben Wallace, owner representative, stated the property is being sold and the permit is being sought for resale value. The proposal has been revised to be a minimal structure. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to approve the application as the Harbormaster indicates there is no hazard to navigation, there is no injury to the rights of the public in relation to fishing, fowling and navigation and the appropriate paperwork has been filed with the Code Office; motion passed 3-0.

**9. Marine Resources Coordinator Report:** Darcie Couture, Town marine resources coordinator, reviewed projects being discussed at the Marine Resources Committee level. One project is for the Town to proceed with leasing its intertidal zones to commercial shellfish harvesters for aquaculture. Maine statute allows leasing up to 25% for 10 years. The issue remains on how to prohibit worm harvesters from accessing the areas. This concept will be further discussed at the next Marine Resources meeting including how many acres and where the lease should cover. Minor ordinance language modification would be required. Brunswick indicated its interest in doing something similar. The focus is to propagate clams.

Ms. Couture stated another proposal is to modify the Shellfish Ordinance to significantly increase the commercial shellfish license fee and allow an option for a harvester to work off some of the fee through conservation time. This would eliminate the mandatory conservation time and alleviate potential liability for the Town. Ms. Couture stated the details on how to structure this needs to be worked out but may include a mid-season payment and if the full fee is not paid or the appropriate conservation time is not performed before the years end then the harvester would not obtain a license for the following year. Ms. Couture stated she hopes to complete a marine resources report that will detail any known issues affecting clam flats. That could allow the Town to plan which items to address. Ms. Couture reviewed her plans to apply for a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant in mid-December to promote aquaculture in Harpswell, Brunswick and Georgetown. If approved, the funds would cover her time and the gear necessary to maintain the harvestable areas, such as clam seed and nets. She will likely return for a letter of support prior to submission. Chairman Daniel asked about the green crabs; Ms. Couture responded the crab population is stable and a detailed project in Brunswick should help combat the crabs by determining how many traps are needed per acre to successfully reduce the quantities. Administrator Eiane asked Ms. Couture if she is comfortable with the Town budgeting less time for her services in 2015. Ms. Couture responded yes as it was always her plan to have Harpswell be self sufficient and she will be available to help when needed.

**10. Consider One-Year Winter Road Maintenance Contract:** Administrator Eiane spoke with Ben Goodall and he asked for more time to review the contract. Chairman Daniel moved, seconded by Selectman Multer to table the item to the next meeting; motion passed 3-0.

**12. Other Business:** Selectman Multer stated she feels the Selectmen sit in judgment of the Planning Board's recommendations for ordinance changes. She understands the Planning Board would like the Selectmen's input on proposals early in the process so that time is not wasted on items the Selectmen oppose. Selectman Multer suggested the Selectmen attend the workshop and indicate if there are any items a Selectman opposes but that the Board not negotiate the details. Chairman Daniel and Selectman Johnson agreed to see how the meeting goes.

**13. Public Comment:** Ronald Ponziani, Road Commissioner, stated the final paving on the roads included in the Town's capital road project was completed today. Harry Crooker & Sons, Inc. will be tying in driveways and cleaning up and will be done until spring when the final pavement coat is done.

**14. Administrative Matters:** The Board agreed to set aside the following dates for scheduling meetings: November 6 3pm – 5pm or 9am-11am for NIMS (National Incident Management System) training; November 17 at 4:00pm for a wage/salary workshop; and to hold a regular meeting on November 13 and then December 4. The Board asked to have the link to LED displays be sent to each Selectman for review and consideration for purchasing for use in the front Town Office entrance. The Board reviewed a pole request form from Central Maine Power for a new pole on Bethel Point.

**11. Public Hearing Re: General Assistance Ordinance Maximums:** The hearing was opened at 7:00pm. Administrator Eiane stated all municipalities have a general assistance program and the Board of Selectmen has the authority to make ordinance changes. The state annually issues appendices relating to maximum levels of assistance that can be provided. Appendix A is for the maximum level to any household; Appendix B of for the maximum of food assistance; and C relates to the maximums for housing. General Assistance is a confidential program intended for short-term purposes to assist with basic necessities. Staff recommends the Board adopt Appendices A and B and not C as C is not reflective of the housing market in Harpswell. There was no public comment. Selectman Multer moved, seconded by Chairman Daniel to adopt appendices A and B; motion passed 3-0.

**15. Adjournment:** At 7:05 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](mailto:harpswell@town.harpswell.me.us)]