

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2023
Harpswell Town Office
Approved 2-16-23

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Gaudet, Deputy Town Administrator & Treasurer, and Paul Plummer, Harbormaster.

Members of the Board and staff were participating by Zoom. The meeting was also being broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television, live streamed on Vimeo and the Town's Facebook page. 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.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written
2. **Public Comment:** None
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** None
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that due to the extreme cold the Town office would be open 8:30 am to 4:30 pm as a warming center on Friday and Saturday, February 3 & 4, 2023. She reported a list of warming centers could be found on the Town's website. She also reported that postcards were sent to residents of Basin Point Road regarding the meeting on traffic calming measures scheduled by Zoom for February 28, 2023.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Committee Resignation; 3) Authorization of the Warrants:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the consent agenda. [1) Minutes 1-19-2023 & 1-24-2023. 2) Resignation of Lee Cheever from the Mitchell Field Committee. 3) Warrant #5 in the amount of \$137,553.45, and payroll warrant #4 in the amount of \$21,834.55]. Motion passed 3-0.
6. **Harbormaster Testimony regarding Tim Johnson's Aquaculture Pending Lease:** Harbormaster Plummer discussed some concerns of the Harbor and Waterfront Committee with the pending aquaculture lease and requested the Board's approval to represent the Town and provide this testimony to the Department of Marine Resources. The Board concurred.
7. **Proposed Ordinance Amendments: 1) Harbor and Waterfront 2) Shellfish:** 1) Harbormaster Plummer suggested a change to the ordinance regarding mooring inspections. He suggested removing the word affidavit and simply call it a statement. He also suggested adding "or proof of vessel insurance". The Board concurred with moving forward with a public hearing and an opinion from the Town's legal representation. 2) To change the ordinance regarding student shellfish licenses, to indicate that if the student is drawn in the Residential Commercial Shellfish Lottery that they be allowed to apply consecutive student license years to the provision for a Residential Commercial-Non

Resident license. The Board concurred that a public hearing would be held on February 9, 2023 at 6:30 on both items.

8. **2023 Budget Review:** Administrator Eiane reviewed the final proposed 2023 budget for the March 11, 2023 Town Meeting warrant. She discussed the goals of the budget. She reported the proposed budget was \$6,943,535, a 9.6% increase over the previous year and that it complies with LD1. She reported the budget would be offset by revenues which were estimated to increase by 7.3% over the previous year. She reported the Board was recommending using \$600,000 in unassigned fund balance to reduce the tax commitment. She reviewed the proposed \$124,000 use of American Rescue Plan Act funds. She stated that a possible tax rate would be calculated once the MSAD 75 assessment is available. Selectman Covey thanked the Budget Advisory Committee members and Treasurer Gaudet for their work on this budget. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve this proposed budget to be placed on the Town Meeting warrant. Motion passed 3-0.
9. **Public Comment:** None
10. **Other Business:** None
11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary