

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024
Harpswell Town Office
Approved 2.29.24**

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

Selectmen Present: Selectman David I. Chipman, Selectman Jane Covey

Selectman Absent: Chairman Johnson

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Gaudet, Deputy Town Administrator/Treasurer

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written.
2. **Public Comment:** Jerry Leeman announced that he is running as a write-in candidate for Select Board. George Prince endorsed Jerry Leeman. Dan McMahon spoke of a need for change.
3. **Select Board's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman reported that MSAD 75 had invited the Board to attend its March meeting. The Board concurred they would attend. Selectman Chipman announced that he was running for re-election.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that the status of the Short Term Rental Task Force would be on the next meeting's agenda. She also reported that the next steps for the Clark Cove Partnership with the State would be on the next agenda. Administrator Eiane reported that the public should check with the Town Clerk's office regarding when absentee ballots will be available.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Committee Appointment; 3) Authorization of the Warrants;** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town had received two invoices totaling \$14,028.50 for the removal of the Town Dock which was destroyed in the January storms. She asked the Board to approve \$9,600 from the Marine Hazard Reserve. The balance would come from the Town Dock operating budget. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the consent agenda, including the use of the reserve. [1) Minutes February 1, 2024. 2) Appointment of Matthew Gilley to the Comprehensive Plan Task Force. 3) Warrant #6 in the amount of \$56,193.90, and payroll warrant #5 in the amount of \$25,207.02]. Motion passed 2-0.
6. **Consider supporting LD 646: An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program:** Administrator Eiane reported that the State had severely underestimated participation in the one-year program which froze senior citizens 2023 property taxes at the 2022 rate. LD 646 is a bill to cover the shortfall and fully reimburse municipalities for lost revenue. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to approve sending a message as testimony on LD 646 and to authorize Administration to prepare it and the Chairman to sign it. Motion passed 2-0.
7. **2024 Draft Town Meeting Warrant:** Administrator Eiane reported that the annual Town Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2024 at Harpswell Community School. The secret ballot election of one Select Board member and one School Board member would be from 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. The business meeting will begin at 10:00 am and residents would need to attend the meeting in-person in order to vote. Administrator Eiane reviewed the draft warrant with the Board. She reported that the State had

set the maximum interest rate for unpaid taxes at 8.5%. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to set Harpswell's interest rate at 6%. Motion passed 2-0. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to apply the same rate to tax abatements. Motion passed 2-0. Administrator Eiane reported that this warrant was concentrated on the budget for 2024, any land use ordinance or other ordinances would be included in the Special Town Meeting in May, along with the Comprehensive Plan and the FEMA floodplain maps. The Board approved the format of the warrant.

8. **Public Comment:** None
9. **Other Business:** None
10. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary