

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 29, 2024
Harpwell Town Office**

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

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

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:** Sherry Blackstone asked the Board to clarify its intentions in regard to the Short Term Rental Task Force. She also asked where the public could view call logs related to short term rentals. Administrator Eiane reported that all information would be logged in the Code Enforcement Office. Amanda Hawkes spoke regarding short term rentals, and economic opportunities for young people. Mary Ann Nahf, Chair of the Resiliency and Sustainability Committee, reported that the Town had received a \$50,000 grant from the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) for an engineering study relating to sea level rise on Lowell's Cove Road and Dingley Island Road. She thanked the public for approving the reserve fund, which has allowed the Town to apply for and receive grants.
3. **Select Board's Announcements:** Selectman Chipman reported that he was running for re-election. Chairman Johnson reported that the Maine Coast Fisherman's Association has placed a dumpster at Mackerel Cove and will later be in Cundy's Harbor for storm clean up.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town Clerk wanted to remind the public that today is the last day to request absentee ballots or early vote for the State Presidential Primary on March, 5, 2024. The Town meeting election absentee ballots are available until March 6, 2024. She reported that MDOT had notified the Town that repairs to the storm damage on the Cribstone Bridge will begin in March. She reported that the bridge may be closed to one lane of traffic. She also reported that FEMA had issued new flood plain maps for the Town, which must be adopted before June 20, 2024. There will be a Special Town meeting in May 2024. She reported that the public could get information about the maps in the Code Enforcement Office. Administrator Eiane reported that the Town Report had been mailed today, which includes the warrant to be voted on at Town Meeting. Administrator Eiane reported that the public meeting regarding the Mitchell Field Administration Building had been rescheduled for March 19, 2024 at 6:00 in the Select Board Meeting room. The meeting will be hybrid, the public may attend in person or via Zoom.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Set Commercial Shellfish Lottery Dates; 3) Election Worker Appointments; 4) Authorization of the Warrants:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the Consent Agenda. [1) Minutes February 8, 2024 and February 15, 2024 (as amended). 2) Commercial Shellfish Lottery March 29, 2024 at 5:00 pm for residents followed by non-residents. 3) Appointment of Amy Saxton, Warden, Janet Coombs and Jennifer Watson, Deputy Warden's, Timothy McCreight, Joyce McCreight, Christen Donovan-Hall, Susan Pettit, Kathleen O'Donnell, and Douglas Nielsen, Election Clerks, for the State Presidential Primary. Appointment of Patricia Tillotson, Marge Warren, Christine Donovan-Hall, Gordon Warren, Megan Hubbard, Patti Carrier, and Janet Coombs, Ballot Clerks, and Lydia Mears, Registrar for the Annual Town meeting. 4) Warrant #9 in the amount of \$283,009.54, and payroll warrant #8 in the amount of \$25,324.65]. Motion passed 3-0.

6. **Letter of Recommendation for Harpswell Aging at Home Award:** Debbie Atwood, of Habitat for Humanity 7 Rivers Maine, reported that she was recommending the Harpswell Aging at Home, Home Repair team be nominated for the Governor’s Awards for Service and Volunteerism, Outstanding Volunteer Team award. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey that the Board sign a letter of recommendation to accompany the nomination. Motion passed 3-0.
7. **6:15 Public Hearing Re: First-Time Liquor License for the Harpswell School House, 506 Harpswell Neck Road:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that when a name or ownership changes, the State requires a facility to proceed through the first-time liquor license process. Helen Norton reported that the repairs being done due to the fire in the building should be complete and the restaurant should be opening at the end of March 2024. Mark Jenkins inquired about the hours of operation, Helen Norton reported that the hours would not change, Tue. – Sat. from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Sunday Brunch. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the license. Motion passed 3-0.
8. **Request to Determine Vessel Abandoned:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Harbormaster was requesting that the FV Jacob Pike, which sunk in the New Meadows River, be declared abandoned. This would begin the process of notifying the owner, Cyrus Cleary, that he had 15 days to remove the vessel. She reported that the Coast Guard had done some work to mitigate an oil sheen. Selectman Chipman moved seconded by Selectman Covey to declare the FV Jacob Pike abandoned. Motion passed 3-0.
9. **Sign March 9, 2024 Town Meeting Warrant with Proposed 2024 Budget:** Administrator Eiane reviewed the proposed budget and warrant articles to be brought to the March 9, 2024 Town Meeting. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the Warrant for Town Meeting with the amendments made this evening (name of Midcoast Council of Governments and two recommendations). Motion passed 3-0.
10. **Public Comment:** Chris Tara spoke to the Board regarding opportunities for young people in the community. The Board suggested looking into Town Committees which can be found on the Town website. Mary Ann Nahf suggested contacting the committees in the event there may be a project the committee needs assistance with. Administrator Eiane suggested posting information about committees on social media. Amanda Hawkes spoke regarding Selectman Chipman campaigning from his chair. He agreed he would use the podium in the future. Sherry Blackstone spoke regarding concerns that the Short Term Rental Task Force was listed in the Town Report. Administrator Eiane stated that the committee was part of the Town’s history.
11. **Other Business:** None
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary