

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023
Harpswell Town Office
Approved 3.16.23

5:00 PM The Selectmen attended a workshop regarding the draft Broadband Study. Consultant Brian Lipold of Casco Bay Advisors participated remotely.

5:30 PM The Selectmen attended a workshop regarding 911 Addressing with Code/Addressing Officer Tim Clark.

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

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written.
2. **Public Comment:** Barry Catlin of Harpswell, suggested that new roads could be named with a direction, (N, S, E or W) from the existing road to simplify the 911 addressing issue.
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** Chairman Johnson announced that Cook's Lobster and Ale House is hosting a fundraiser for the Family of Mark Wilson on March 6, 2023 at 4:30.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Administrator Eiane reported that the 2022 Town Reports would be delivered to the Post Offices on March 4, 2023, and that residents could be receiving them as soon as Saturday. She pointed out the cover photo which features the next generation of commercial fishermen in Harpswell. She also reported that there has been positive feedback on the Town's updated website. She thanked Terri Gaudet, Gina Caldwell and Peter Lieberwirth for their work on the project. She reminded the public that the final day to request absentee ballots would be March 8, 2023 and that the in person Town Meeting would be held at Harpswell Community School on March 11, 2023. Voting by secret ballot for one Select Board position and two School Board positions would begin following the election of the moderator at 9:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. She also announced that on March 8, 2023 the Selectboard and Town Administrators from the four MSAD 75 Towns had been invited by the School Board to hear information regarding the upcoming budget. **Assessing/Technology Assistant Position;** Administrator Eiane asked for the Board's support to add a position covering the Assessing Office and technology needs in the Town Offices such as managing the new website and operation of equipment in the meeting room. The Board concurred that advertising could begin. Interviews will not begin until after Town Meeting.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes; 2) Election Worker Appointments; 3) Authorization of the Warrants;** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the consent agenda. [1) Minutes 2.16.23. 2) Megan Hubbard, Lydia Mears, Sharon Oehmig, Gordon Warren, and Marge Warren 3) Warrant #9 in the amount of \$143,924.74, #9a in the amount of \$770.52 and payroll warrant #8 in the amount of \$22,467.41]. Motion passed 3-0.

6. **Harpswell Community Garden Project Manager:** Susan Stemper reported that the Harpswell Community Garden was seeking to hire a project manager. This will be a part-time position covering this year's season. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to grant the Community Garden's request to recruit a project manager. Motion passed 3-0.
7. **Extension of Franchise Agreement with Comcast:** Administrator Eiane reported that the current extension of the Franchise Agreement with Comcast expired on February 28, 2023. She stated that negotiations with Comcast were on-going. She suggested that the new extension go through May 30, 2023. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to extend the agreement through May 30, 2023. Motion passed 3-0.
8. **Request for Proposals for \$300,000 Borrowing for Emergency Communication:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the project is progressing to replace the Orr's Island Station Tower, the equipment for that tower, and the equipment for the Crown Castle tower on Mountain Road. The project is at the point where the Town needs to begin the process of securing the borrowing which was approved on the July 14, 2020 ballot. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to send out the RFP for borrowing in the amount of \$300,000. Motion passed 3-0.
9. **Sign the March 11, 2023 Town Meeting Warrant:** Administrator Eiane explained that the final warrant contained 67 articles. She reported that the budget and the updates are on the Town website. She explained that the Budget Advisory Committee had recommended an LD1 compliant budget, however a couple of late articles have the updated budget exceeding LD1 by approximately \$170,000. She explained that voters could, if all articles passed, either vote to exceed LD1 or go back and cut any item or items from the Budget. The current proposed budget is \$7,117,559. An LD1 compliant budget would not exceed \$6,947,408. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to authorize the Warrant for the March 11, 2023 Town Meeting. Motion passed, 3-0.
10. **Public Comment:** Maryann Nahf, Chair of the Resiliency and Sustainability Committee, reported that there is information on the Town website pertaining to Article 37. This article would establish a reserve to be used to meet the Committee's goals. Deputy Administrator Gaudet explained that there was a page on the new Town website which contained information for Town Meeting.
11. **Other Business:** Administrator Eiane reported that the Town of Brunswick is reapplying for funding for the Regional Athletic Complex at Brunswick Landing. The Town was asking for the Harpswell Select Board to write a letter of support. The deadline for submitting is March 9, 2023. Selectman Covey moved, seconded by Selectman Chipman to issue a new letter of support and authorize the Chairman to sign it. Motion passed 3-0.
12. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek
Recording Secretary