

**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 11, 2024**  
**Harpswell Town Office**  
**Approved 7.25.24**

**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:** Terri Gaudet, Deputy Town Administrator/ Treasurer.

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as written.
2. **Public Comment: None**
3. **Select Board's Announcements:** Chairman Johnson reported that the Cundy's Harbor Fire Department received a donated fire boat to aid in island fires.
4. **Town Administrator's Report:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the Town's interview team of Administrator Eiane, Selectman Covey and Mark Eyerman, are recommending Matthew James for the position of Town Planner. Selectman Covey reported that Mark Eyerman would work with Matthew during a transition period to familiarize him with Harpswell. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to hire Matthew James at a salary of \$60,000. Motion passed 3-0. Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that every three years the Town is asked if it would like to remain in the Cumberland County Block Grant (CCBG) Program. To date, the Town has received just over \$500,000 in grants for various projects. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to remain in the CCBG program. Motion passed 3-0. Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that due to the efforts of the Harbormaster, Paul Plummer, the US Coast Guard has approved the removal of the sunken vessel Jacob Pike. The Coast Guard will be removing the vessel, which sunk off Dingley Island, in the next few weeks. Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the proposal for the new HVAC at the Town office has been received from Thayer, and it is being reviewed by the Energy and Technology Committee, and will be on the next agenda for consideration. Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the painting of the Old Town House had been completed by Harpswell Paint Co. and looks amazing. The carriage house has also been painted with donated funds.
5. **Consent Agenda: 1) Approval of the Minutes. 2) Accept Carriage House Donation. 3) Committee Appointments. 4) Authorization of the Warrants:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the consent agenda. [1) Minutes of 6-20-24. 2) Painting of the Carriage House valued at \$5,400, from Helen Norton. 3) Appointment of Wendy Batson to the Conservation Commission, Phil Connor to the Recycling Committee, Mitchell Field Committee, and Harbor and Waterfront Committee, and Jeremy Jones to the Energy and Technology Committee. 3) Warrant #28 in the amount of \$1,236,615.02, Warrant 25a in the amount of \$5,097.50, and payroll warrant #27 in the amount of \$29,580.01]. Motion passed 3-0.
6. **6:15 Public Hearing RE: Amusement permit for Fishnet Café, 2118 Harpswell Island Rd.:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the Fishnet Café was seeking to offer a Karaoke night one to two nights per month and live music one to two nights per month. She reported she had also sent notices to

abutters. No members of the public spoke. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to issue the permit. Motion passed 3-0.

7. **Planner's Report:**

- **Solar Expression of Interest:** Mark Eyerman, Town Planner, reported that the Energy and Technology Committee and the Mitchell Field Committee had formed a 6-member sub-committee with three members from each committee. The sub-committee will be charged with developing the expressions of interest for a solar array at Mitchell Field. Meetings of the sub-committee will be noticed on the Town calendar and open to the public.
- **Right to Fish Draft Policy:** Mark Eyerman reported that the Town had been approached to develop a Right to Fish Ordinance. He reported that the Town's attorney had recommended a policy, at this time. It is felt that the definition of Commercial Fishing is too broad. Matt Gilley spoke in favor of a future ordinance. Monique Coombs spoke regarding education and outreach for commercial fishing. George Prince spoke in favor of a future ordinance. The Town will continue to work with the Attorney to incorporate the policies into the ordinances. Chris Coffin spoke in favor of the policy. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to enact the Policy. Motion passed 3-0.
- **Home Sharing Outreach:** Mark Eyerman reported that the Anchor would have a report in the August edition regarding Nesterly, the home sharing organization being supported by the Town. He reported that mailings would also be going out and that outreach would be going out through Harpswell Aging at Home. Courtenay Snellings from the Affordable Housing Working Group reported that she would be going around to businesses with the Town's intern to distribute fliers.

8. **Plan ME Contract Extension:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that staff was recommending extending the contract with Mark Eyerman of Plan ME until October 31, 2024. Mark Eyerman reported that he would be handing over the different projects to the new Town Planner. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to approve the contract addendum. Motion passed 3-0.

9. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gaudet reported on the Town's finances as of June 30, 2024. [See attached].

10. **Accept Cash Donations:** Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to accept the following Donations. For the Bandstand, Harpswell Realty Group \$1,500, William and Nancy Hurst \$100, Rebecca Gallery \$250, Well Tree, Inc. \$250, William Merriman McLin \$250, William and Nancy Hurst \$100, Donation Box \$548.55, Dorthy David \$50, and Gregory Bestick \$250. Total for Bandstand \$3,298.55. For Heating Assistance, Harpswell Garden Club/Marty Grassie \$50, Diane Loughlin/Marty Grassie \$200, and Nancy Bennett \$100. Total for heating \$350. Motion passed 3-0.

11. **Maine Municipal Association's Legislative Policy Committee:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet reported that the Town had received the ballot for the Maine Municipal Association Legislative Policy Committee, for a vote by the Selectboard if they so choose. Selectman Chipman moved, seconded by Selectman Covey to vote for Carrie Weeman, Deputy Town Clerk of Freeport. Motion passed 3-0.

12. **Public Comment:** Chris Coffin inquired regarding the Town Planner selection, and shared his concerns about moorings.

13. **Other Business:** Deputy Administrator Gaudet asked that the Select Board keep August 1, 2024 open for a potential special Select Board meeting in anticipation that the Assessor's Agent may be ready to set the mil rate.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm without objection.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ronda Peek  
Recording Secretary