

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

April 1, 2025

1. Call to Order: 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Doug Norman, Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Doug Norman, Chair, Mark Bradstreet Vice Chair, Steve Tanguay, Sandra Otis-Anderson and Wes Norton are all present.
4. Announcements: None
5. **Acceptance of Minutes:** **Motion:** Mark made a motion to accept the minutes for the March 18, 2025 select board meeting as written. Seconded by Steve Vote : 3-0-2 Sandra and Wes abstained from voting. **Motion:** Mark made a motion to accept the printed proceedings from the 2025 Annual meeting, seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
6. **Acceptance of the agenda:** James added the following 11th hour item to the agenda: Fire Truck Repairs Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional item added as 11th hour. Seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
7. **Public Comment:** Harlan McLaughlin inquired about the situation in regards to the letter that was requested be sent to DEP about the testing at GAC Chemicals. James verified that the letter has been sent. He will follow up this week. Harlan thanked the board for the support regarding this issue. Rolf Olsen inquired about the status of the recording and broadcasting of meetings. Wes stated James has been working with staff to establish the status of the hardware. Rolf suggested Ryan Robbins might be able to help out. He has experience with light and sound equipment and would be happy to see if he could help figure out the sound piece with the microphones. Abram Guay gave an update on the status of the Town of Stockton Springs and the proposed development of a solar project. He asked if the customers of The Searsport Water District have been notified as potential aggrieved parties to the process. It was recommended that he contact Herb Kronholm at the Water District.
8. **Oid Business:**
 - a. **Election of Officers:** Chair opened the floor for nominations for Select Board Chair. Mark nominated Douglas Norman for Select Board Chair, seconded by Sandra. Hearing no other nominations, the chair entertained a motion to close nominations. Mark made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-1. Wes made a motion to elect Douglas Norman chair of the Searsport Select Board, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-1.
Chair opened the floor for nominations for Select Board Vice Chair. Steve Nominated Mark Bradstreet for Vice Chair, seconded by Doug. Doug made a motion to close nominations seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-1. Doug made a motion to elect Mark Bradstreet Vice Chair of the Select Board, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-1. Chair opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Mark nominated Janine Laveway for Select Board Secretary, seconded by Doug. Doug made a motion to close nominations for secretary. Vote: 5-0-0
Vote to appoint Janine Laveway Select Board Secretary 5-0-0.
 - b. **Fire and EMS Pay:** The recommendations from the workshop held prior to this meeting are for a \$2.00 an hour increase for EMT's at all levels and for the Fire Department to go to \$20.00 an hour. James recommended that it be made retroactive. He recommends that the officers be paid at the recommended pay scale with no stipend. Doug made a motion to accept the pay scales as presented, seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0

- c. Plastic's Resolution: Doug made a motion to table the item based on getting the recycling committee back together and sending this to them. Motion was seconded by Mark Vote: 5-0-0.
- d. Information Center Committee Appointments: James recommended appointing Lynn Calista, Sandy Cirillo, Janine Carpenter and Mary Brann from the Historic Preservation Commission, Norris Staples from the community and Doug Norman and Steve Tanguay from the Select Board. Mark made a motion to accept the names as presented by James for appointment to the Information Center Sub Committee, seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-1 Doug Abstained.
- e. Advertise for Fire Chief: Wes made a motion to authorize the town manager to advertise for the Fire Chief's position in The Mid Coast Villager, both print and on line versions, and to explore all other free or very low cost outlets, seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

9 New Business:

- a. Policy Book Updates 2025: Steve made a motion to table the Policy Book Update for 2025 until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0

10. 11th Hour: Fire Truck Repairs: A.J. Koch, interim Fire Chief, explained the repairs that will be required on the Tanker Truck at Station Two. It is currently the only tanker truck in service. The inspection station found that some of the spring bushings were worn and not inspectable. Two tires are also needed. The quote to replace all of the spring bushings is \$3,499.70 with the understanding that only the ones that need to be replaced will be. Two tires will cost \$600.00. Wes made a motion to authorize the fire chef and town manager to repair the tanker from station two up to \$4,000.00. Motion seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence:

- a. New address at 33 Grand View Circle
- b. Letter from PERC advising the Town of Searsport continues to be on bypass
- c. A copy of an email from Sarah Hopkins regarding the status of the 2023 Audit which is not ready.
- d. Letter from Charter Communications regarding program changes
- e. Letter from Galen Cole Family Foundation regarding a program they have to replace the flags around town with a 50/50 split.
- f. New address at 171 Brock Road

12. Treasurer's Warrant. Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Sandra Vote 5-0-0

13. Town Manager and Department Head Reports: No reports

14. Select Board Report:

Mark commended Jennie Guyla, town clerk, for her detailed reporting on the results on the warrant article votes at the annual town meeting. He stated that it is the most detailed report he has ever seen and thanked her. He invited the board to attend a ribbon cutting on Saturday April 12th at 9:15 am for the opening of Phyllis Sommer's 50th year in business at Pumpkin Patch Antiques on West Main Street.

Sandra reminded folks that Sr Drop in will resume on the 16th in the Community Building from 9:00 to 2:00,

Steve reminded folks that Spring Clean up is Saturday the 26th of April from 9:00 to Noon. There will be refreshments at 9:00 and lunch of hamburgers and hotdogs at the end.

Wes has no report

Doug is excited about the Information Center project finally getting started. He also wants everyone to know that he will do everything he can to get the recycling committee back on track.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: None

16. 16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests) Mark made a motion at 6:34 pm to leave regular session and enter into executive session under M.R.S.A 1C 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty Abatement requests). And M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (A) (Personnel Matter on behalf of Code Enforcement) Seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

Mark made a motion to exit executive session and return to regular session at 9:18 pm, seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session : Mark made a motion in the case of WP 25-14 to appropriate up to \$300.00 for repairs to be paid from the Jenny Lawrence funds. Motion seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

18. Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 pm. Second by: Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted

Janine F. Laveway
Board Secretary