

Town of Searsport, Maine  
Select Board Meeting

January 7, 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, and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Wes Norton was absent.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the December 17, 2024 select board meeting as written, seconded by Steve. Vote : 4-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added three 11<sup>th</sup> hour items to the agenda: Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional items added as 11<sup>th</sup> hour, seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment: Harlan McLaughlin inquired about the status of the Kidder Point restoration and testing. James answered that the DEP has committed to calling and notifying the town before they begin. Harlan also spoke of his interest in the status of Sears Island and mentioned recent interest in it becoming part of the Land for Maine Futures movement. He has done some research and discovered that it would have to be a willing seller. He is wondering if an interested local group came up with a petition to have Sears Island included in the Lands for Maine's Future if the Select Board would support the idea. Doug answered that it would be investigated. Steve asked about the possibility of the Land's for Maine's Future group giving a presentation and expressing what their level of commitment would be as a way of gauging their level of interest. Harlan is very motivated in getting the citizens of Searsport interested in the preservation of Sears Island. Doug asked Harlan to find out what is involved in the process. Steve expressed his continued interest in the Town of Searsport owning the island again.
8. Old Business:
  - a. Purchase of Police Equipment: James presented the cost of purchasing and outfitting the new police cruiser. The cost came in at \$59,357.00. There is a possibility of using a light bar the town already owns, bringing the cost down to \$56,357.00. The base cost of the vehicle is \$46,200.00. The balance is the cost of outfitting the cruiser with a light bar, radio, and cage etc. Motion: Sandra made a motion to authorize the town manager to pursue and spend up to \$60,000.00 for the purchase and outfitting of a new police vehicle, seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0
9. 11<sup>th</sup> Hour
  - a. CMP Pole Permit: CMP is asking for a permit to place a new pole at the intersection of Black Road North and Dickey Hill Road which is in the Town's right of way. Motion: Mark made a motion to grant the CMP permit for the poll as indicated, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0
  - b. Town Website: Steve made a presentation of the idea of looking at a website overhaul so the technical part, or day to day functional part, would be managed by a web designer who would support the site and allow the town staff, as determined by the town manager, to do the input on it. This would mean that any future changes in volunteers and/or staff would

not effect the website and it would stay consistently updated, all plug ins and hosting, so that the town manager and town clerk's time will not be taken up by managing a web page and could be utilized instead to have input to the data. Steve has a way to explore this option and have it in place by Springtime. The Board's consensus is to pursue without objection.

- c. Video Recording of Board Meetings: Motion: Steve made a motion to move forward with getting the Select Board and Planning Board meetings back online, both on cable tv and the website pending the recommendations of the Mass Communications Committee. The motion was seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0

10. Correspondence:

- a. A letter of thanks from the Window Dressers. They completed 144 rewraps this year.
- b. A letter from Eagle Point Energy Center updating their cleanup and major projects underway.
- c. A letter from Charter Communications outlining recent and upcoming changes
- d. A letter from Penobscot Energy Recovery Company notifying the town of the continued bypass of solid waste because Eagle Point is not up and running yet.
- e. A letter from Maine Municipal Association Risk Management notifying the Town that it continues to be in a positive situation with the worker's compensation program. The town received a check for \$303.00 in the form of a refund.
- f. A letter from Sweetser thanking the town for a \$1,500.00 donation for services, approved at the 2024 town meeting as part of the Out of House Accounts distributions.

11. Treasurer's Warrant. Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the .Select Board, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0

12. Town Manager's Report: James read his report into the record.

13. Select Board Report: Mark expressed his wish that everyone had a good holiday season and hopes everyone is doing well. Sandra shared her hope that everyone is staying warm. She thanked everyone who helps her with the projects that she is involved with, giving a brief description of the many ways and how much she appreciates it. Doug and Mark in turn thanked her for her dedication and hard work. Steve thanked the Cruise Ship Committee for putting together the comprehensive survey. Doug asked James to make hard copies of the survey available to the public and also to post the pdf slide show presentation on the town website. James noted that the pressure is off to craft an ordinance in time for this year's town meeting because the wharf is going to be under construction. The Cruise Port Committee has committed to doing an education series throughout the year and noted that they might want to do another survey at the end of that process due to the number of responses that showed that people do not understand the town.

14. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: Rolf Olsen is curious about the Cruise Ship Survey and talked about doing a similar survey through the Mass Communications committee. He also inquired again about the light at the entry way. James reported that new bulbs had been purchased and he is hoping to get it fixed on Friday. Doug inquired about the recent Fidium Fiber failure in town. James has contacted Ian Silverman about the issues.

15. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests) and M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (D) Confidential – (Labor Negotiations – Union Contract) Mark made a motion at 6:33 pm to leave regular session and enter into executive session under M.R.S.A 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – ( General Assistance Matters and Poverty Abatement requests) and M.R.S.A. 1 § 405(6) (D )Confidential – (Labor Negotiations – Union Contract), seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0. Motion: Steve made a motion at 6:40 to exit executive session and reenter regular session, seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0

16. Decisions from Executive Session: Motion: Mark made a motion in the case of WP 24-35 to appropriate up to \$1,196.00 for rental assistance, seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0

Motion: Mark made a motion to authorize the town manager to go ahead with the union contract as presented which includes the cost of living increase plus 2 seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0

17. Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 pm. Second by: Doug Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Janine F. Laveway  
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 1/21/2025