

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

August 5, 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 is excused.
4. Announcements: Denise Dakin, Chair RSU 20 School Board introduced Dr. Laura Miller the new Superintendent of Schools.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Mark made a motion to accept the minutes as presented for the July 15, 2025 select board meeting as written. Seconded by Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote : 4-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added one 11th hour item to the agenda: A request from the Fire Department to purchase dash cams for the 4 primary Fire Department Vehicles. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional item added as 11th hour. Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0
7. Public Comment: Rolf Olson read his letter of resignation from the Mass Communications Committee into the record.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Special Town Meeting Warrant: Mark made a motion to approve the warrant for the special town meeting to be held at 5:30 pm on August 19, 2025. Motion seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-0
 - b. Fiscal Year Change: James explained that the reason behind this request is to improve the cash flow and align with the timing of the school budget process. Mark made a motion to table this agenda item to a future meeting seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0
 - c. Code Enforcement: Steve Tanguay made a motion to raise the hourly wage of the Code Enforcement Officer to \$24.50. Motion seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0. James notified the board that he has recruited a new CEO who will begin November 1, 2025. James requested a \$300.00 a week stipend because of the additional work he has undertaken as interim CEO. Mark made a motion to vote to accept a \$300.00 a week stipend for the interim CEO, seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0. He also requested the board do a formal appointment of him as interim CEO. Steve made a motion to appoint James Gillway interim CEO, seconded by Mark. Vote: 4-0-0.
9. New Business:
 - a. Maine Municipal Election: Sandra made a motion to authorize the town manager to vote on behalf of the Select Board in the upcoming Maine Municipal Election, seconded by Mark Vote: 4-0-0.
 - b. Use of Surplus for 2025 Budget: James announced the auditors have sent a letter estimating the surplus to be just shy of \$600,000.00 for this year. Sandra made a motion to expend \$100,000.00 from surplus to offset tax increases, seconded by Mark. Vote: 4-0-0
9. 11th Hour
 - a. The Fire Department is requesting the purchase of 4 dash cameras, basically in the first response vehicles. The installation price is \$1,637.46. A.J. Koch, Jr Interim Fire Chief explained that this price does not include the rear facing capability. That adds an additional \$150.00 per unit. Steve made a motion to authorize the town manager to appropriate up to \$1,637.46 to purchase four dash cameras and have them installed on four firetrucks owned

by the town of Searsport, Motion was seconded by Mark. Vote: 4-0-0 If there are funds available at the end of the year and the rear facing capabilities are an option on the already installed cameras, it will be reconsidered.

10. Correspondence:

- a. A letter from Governor Mills in support of Emergency Management Awareness month.
- b. A copy of the agreement letter from MCOG regarding a \$50,000.00 grant the town has received for housing opportunities in town. Net Zero Energy Homes are being looked at.
- c. A letter of invitation to attend the Tabletop Exercise entitled "Storm of Record 25" being conducted by Waldo County Emergency Management Agency on Tuesday September 23rd from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
- d. Ambulance Billing Statement
- e. A letter from The Department of Marine Resources notifying the town that they are denying an application for a proposed aquaculture lease site in the town of Searsport.
- f. A copy of the proposed school appropriations. These will be considered at the election on Tuesday August 12, 2025
- g. A letter from Gartley and Dorsky notifying the town of the filing of a NRPA permit by Marie and Alfred McMonagle at 17 Blackberry Lane. Tax Map 14, Lot 12B for shoreland stabilization.

12. 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

13. Town Manager's Report: Steve made a motion to accept the Town Manager's report as presented, seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark has nothing to report

Sandra announced fresh vegetables from the Waldo County Gardens in Swanville. They will be available at the Public Safety Building on Fridays at 11:30 am.

Steve thanked everyone in town who is working hard to make the town look better. He talked about what he believes to be the over fishing of bait fish without any coordination in Penobscot Bay in front of Searsport. He and Doug requested the town manager write letters of inquiry. James will contact the commissioner of marine patrol and ask for an explanation. Steve and Mark were at the recent Hobba meeting and would like to request a part time economic development officer to be paid for out of TIFP funds for help with what they predict are upcoming tough economic times. It was suggested that this be discussed in a workshop to determine a clear pathway of deliverables. He thanked James for all the extra work he has been doing as interim CEO and interim Animal Control officer.

Doug encouraged everyone to get out and vote on August 12th on the school budget. He inquired about the status of the recording of meetings and the new website. He does not want to wait until the next meeting to get this started. He thanked James for his work as the interim CEO.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: Chris Koch presented the board with the updated bylaws for The Barney Hose Company. He thanked the town for their support of Barney Hose and for the Events Committee work. They are undertaking the cleaning and care of the antique fire equipment at the Searsport Historical Society. Steve inquired about the Events Committee having their own website and asked the town manager to investigate and if they are found to have one to shut it down.

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 7:03 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). Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0.

Mark made a motion at 7:15 pm to exit executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session

Mark made the following motions: In the case of PA 25-05 to approve abating \$517.00 in unpaid real estate taxes and in the case of PA 25-08 to deny the request. The motion was seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0.

Mark made the motion in the case of Code Violations on the Dwelley and Campground roads to authorize the interim CEO to proceed with enforcement actions. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0

18. Adjournment: Mark made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 pm. Seconded by: Sandra Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted


Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 8.19.2025