

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

June 17, 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, Steve Tanguay and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Vice Chair Mark Bradstreet and Wes Norton are excused.
4. Announcements: The Town Office will be closed on Thursday June 19 and 20 for the Federal Holiday and mandatory OSHA training. The transfer station will also be closed on the 19th.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the June 3, 2025 select board meeting as written. Seconded by Steve Vote : 3-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added one 11th hour item to the agenda: Sandra made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional item added as 11th hour. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
7. Public Comment: Rolf Olson requested that his informal request for a review of the traffic pattern at Hamilton Wharf be considered. He is concerned it has become a safety issue with the Food Truck there now. James explained that the town is hoping for a Permit By Rule from the DEP within the next couple of weeks which will allow the repairs to the parking lot to begin hopefully no later than mid July. He will speak to the police chief and harbormaster to see if something can be done in the meantime. Doug also acknowledged Rolf's concerns. Rolf asked if Jersey Barriers and Freshly painted arrows on the pavement could be considered.
8. New Business:
 - a. Weathervane Project: The enhancement committee has a subcommittee for art. They are proposing copper weathervanes to go on the new light posts. They have begun a fundraising campaign for this purchase. James recommends financing this project through the highway fund that was set aside for the highway construction. They will continue to fundraise and reimburse the town. Doug made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$9,000.00 from the highway funds to be reimbursed by the enhancement committee's fundraising for the purchase of weathervanes. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 3-0-0
 - b. Authorization to sell Old Police Equipment: Old outdated tasers and cartridges. Sandra made a motion to authorize the police chief to sell outdated tasers and cartridges, seconded by Steve Vote: 3-0-0
 - c. Police Hiring: The town recently was reimbursed by the Town of Rockport \$30,000.00 for the training costs for the two police officers who recently left Searsport to be hired by them. James is recommending that the reimbursed funds be used as a hiring bonus for two officers at \$5,000.00 for 3 years each. Steve made a motion to table this discussion to the July 1, 2025 meeting. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
9. 11th Hour:
 - a. Rescue Boat: James is recommending the purchase of a used 18 ft Avon type Inflatable boat with a trailer and a new motor. The purchase price is \$6,500.00. Sandra made a motion to approve the expenditure of \$6,500.00 from EMA funds for the purchase of an inflatable rescue boat and trailer Seconded by Doug. Vote: 3-0-0
10. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from FEMA notifying the town the Cottage Street repair request (Project # 746460) has final approval and the funds have been awarded. The town will receive a check in the next few weeks.
- b. A letter from The University of Maine notifying the town that a team of researchers will be visiting the Searsport area between June 23rd and June 30th to conduct a public study regarding the public perceptions of potential offshore wind development off the coast of Maine.
- c. An invitation from the Waldo County Commissioners office to their caucus for the purpose of nominating the town of Searsport's representative for the 2026 budget committee.
- d. An invitation to the Waldo County EMA Open House on June 28th from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m.
- e. A letter from Maine CDC informing the town of a confirmed rabies case in a skunk located in the town of Searsport.

11. Treasurer's Warrant. Sandra made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Doug Vote 3-0-0

13. Department Head Reports: Steve made a motion to accept the department head reports as presented. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Sandra continues to receive positive comments on the downtown. Senior drop in is on Wednesday at the community building beginning at 9:00 am

Steve reminded everyone that business after hours will be held at the PMM on the 18th. The State of Maine will present their "Toast to Tourism". Searsport Shores will again be hosting the community Jam Band events on Wednesday evenings. On Saturday the 21st the Searsport Historical Society will be holding a fund raising Bingo event at Mermaid Plaza. The new welcome sign on the South end of town has been installed.

Doug thanked James for his help in getting the benches back out on main street. He noticed the old leaning telephone poles have been removed and commented on how nice that makes downtown look. He inquired about the placement of flags on Main street. There are currently no flag holders in place. The side street flags will be put out.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment:

James announced that the fireworks this year will be on July 5th in Mosman Park.

Rolf Olson announced the Friends of Sears Island Solstice Celebration will be held on Friday June 20th. He asked for a copy of the letter from The University Of Maine regarding the public survey regarding offshore wind.

A.J. Koch, Jr asked where the future funds for the maintenance of the new rescue boat are coming from as far as maintenance and upkeep are concerned. James stated that a new line item will be added to the budget most likely under EMA.

16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests) Steve made a motion at 6:30 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: 3-0-0

Steve made a motion to exit executive session and return to public session at 6:40 pm. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0

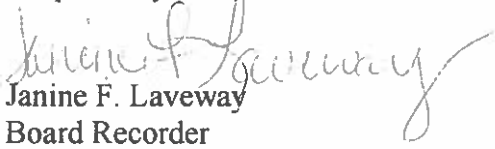
17. Decisions from Executive Session:

Steve made a motion in the case of WP 25-18 to approve up to \$580.00 from the Jenny Lawrence Funds for Electricity, Water and Sewer. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 3-0-0

Steve made a motion in the case of WP 25-19 to approve up to \$300.00 from the Jenny Lawrence Funds for Electricity. Seconded by Sandra. Vote: 3-0-0

18. Adjournment: Sandara made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 pm. Second by Doug. Vote: 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janine F. Laveway". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 7.1.2025