

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

February 18, 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: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the February 4, 2025 select board meeting as written. Seconded by Mark Vote : 4-0-1 Wes Abstained from voting.
6. Acceptance of the agenda: Mark made a motion to accept the agenda as presented, Seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment:
 - a. Rolf Olson inquired about the status of the video taping of the meetings. Wes responded that the board has engaged Town Hall Streams. They have committed to installing a new system in Union Hall that will allow the board to live stream live online as well as archive. The board is having trouble tying the existing audio system into their hardware it is expected that that should be figured out soon and be online a couple of weeks later.
 - b. Raelene Dutton Rogers asked about the status of the public hearings for the upcoming new and changing ordinances that will be presented at Town Meeting. James provided a letter to the board and Raelene regarding this issue. There will not be a secret ballot on the proposed ordinance changes therefore, there is no public hearing required.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Resolution Supporting Community Resiliencce: A public workshop and informational meeting was held in person as well as via ZOOM. A resolution was created which is the next step in applying for the \$75,000.00 grant the selectboard is seeking. Wes made a motion that the board adopt the resolution supporting community resilience as presented, seconded by Steve. The bullet points outlined in the resolution address the 6 different groupings of action items that the State has prioritized for the Town of Searsport to undertake and that they are willing to fund. The resolution commits the partnership between the town and the program. The climate resiliency committee will continue to work over the next several months to decide what will actually be applied for in the first grant cycle. Wes mentioned specifically Cruise Ships and the shoreline repair at Mosman Park as items that will be looked at. He also explained that for the most part it will be public buildings that are included but there is the possibility of a cooperative purchasing program so the town could bulk buy LED lightbulbs and sell them out to individuals at cost.
Vote: 5-0-0
9. New Business:
 - a. Water District Board of Trustees: Mark made a motion to authorize the town manager to advertise for a vacancy that exists at the Searsport Water District for a Trustee in the online edition of the local newspaper, through MMA and on Radio Searsport. There is one candidate but the position has to be advertised. The motion was seconded by Sandra
Vote: 5-0-0
10. 11th Hour: None

11. Correspondence:

- a. A letter from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry awarding a grant in the amount of \$2,410.00 for the purchase of 1 Forestry Pump and 10 Forestry Hoses.
- b. A letter from the Waldo County Commissioners notifying the Town of Searsport of the proportion of the county budget that is due October 1, 2025. This year's figure is \$805,554.46 which is an increase over last year which is approximately \$60,000.00 higher than 2024.
- c. A letter from PaintCare advising of a rate increase. They are a private business the State of Maine has contracted with to collect paint. The Town of Searsport participates and collects paint at the transfer station.

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. Department Head Reports: Wes made a motion to accept the Department Head reports as presented from the Library, Police, Fire and Ambulance. The motion was seconded by Doug. Wes asked about the status of non medical transports by the ambulance. James responded that Brian Lunt is working on a proposal to bring to the next workshop. Vote: 5-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

- a. Mark mentioned clearing fire hydrants of all the recent ice and snow.
- b. Sandra expressed her concerns regarding the state of the sidewalks after the most recent storm.
- c. Steve Congratulated Carver Memorial Library on the success of their recent Stash Sale. They made \$2,821.00 and received a \$1,100.00 grant.
- d. Wes mentioned the Community Resilience Committee public workshop that was recently held.

The Cruise Port Committee did not meet.

e. Doug commended the highway department for the great job they did getting the recent storm cleared. Unfortunately the sidewalks are the last thing to be cleared. James will have a discussion with the DOT regarding their plow trucks filling the sidewalks in after they have been cleared.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: Janine Laveway, representing Mosman Memorial Park Association inquired about the status of the FEMA funds the repair of the seawall at the park. James stated the the project is approved and funds have been allocated to that project. The town will need to apply for a grant anticipation loan because the seawall repairs are not 100% funded by the allocation awarded by FEMA. There will likely be a special town meeting sometime in the Spring or early Summer to approve the town's portion. The damages to the seawall at Mosman Park and the seawall at Hamilton Wharf were considered together. The project will go out to bid. The responsibility of applying for any required DEP permits will be the Town's responsibility. James is waiting for the engineer who is currently wrapping up the waste water treatment facility to begin working on the seawall designs and specifications. He estimates a timeline of about a month. James clarified that the Town has to front load the entire cost of the project and then seek reimbursement from FEMA once the project is completed. Rolf Olsen asked a follow up question regarding the funds wondering if the money is actually in the bank. James explained that the approved amount is allocated. The approved amount in the Federal Budget is allocated. He has assurances from both FEMA and MEMA that the funds are the town's to use.

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 6:27 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 Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0. Mark made a motion at 6:34 pm to exit the executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session : Mark made a motion in the case of WP 25-11 that up to \$700.00 be appropriated from the Jenny Lawrence Fund for cremation services. The motion was seconded by Sandra.

Vote: 5-0-0

18Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 6:33 pm. Seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 3-4-2025