

Town of Searsport, Maine  
Select Board Meeting

October 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 and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Steve Tanguay and Wes Norton are excused.
4. Announcements: Early Voting is now open. The 2023 Audit is complete and should arrive shortly.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Mark made a motion to accept the minutes for the September 19, 2025 select board meeting as written. Second by Sandra. Vote : 3-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the following 11<sup>th</sup> hour items to the agenda: clerk stipend, appointment of code enforcement officer and a new policy on direct deposit. There will be no item 18 or 19. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional items added as 11<sup>th</sup> hour and the deletion of items 18 and 19. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 3-0-0
7. Public Hearing on General Assistance Ordinance Maximums: This is the annual meeting where comments can be made if anyone has any regarding updating the ordinance which includes the general assistance maximums which went into effect on October 1, 2025 and have already been implemented. Mark made a motion to exit regular session and enter the public hearing at 6:05 pm, seconded by Doug. Vote: 3-0-0. No public comment. Mark made a motion at 6:06 pm to exit the public hearing and return to regular session. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
8. Any Decisions from Public Hearing: Mark made a motion to accept the State ordered maximum general assistance amounts and amend the local ordinance. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
9. Public Comment: Harlan McLaughlin addressed the continued situation with GAC and asked what MMA's position on the subject where enforcement is concerned might be. James stated the town has home rule authority but is rarely acted on in matters of environmental protection because the DEP does that. He gave an update since the last meeting. An email was received from Maxwell Johnstone. He works for MCOG (Midcoast Council of governments) letting the town know that there are brownfield grant monies available. Max reached out to both GAC and EPA and both parties are interested in moving forward to address the derelict acid plant and then the plastics issue. James will follow up in the next few weeks. The town will not be an active participant in this process. Harlan asked if the town can step in if things don't progress. James agreed that could happen. Ron Huber did a presentation regarding GAC and microplastics. Janine Laveway asked about board appointments and if she could reserve the right to speak later in the meeting when they are being considered and she asked that the two week waiting period for appointment not be waived.
10. Old Business:
  - a. Meeting with RSU 20 Superintendent. Dr. Laura Miller spoke to introduce the new director of finance, Chandra Hodgdon. She outlined the work the board has done to present a zero

increase budget to be voted on November 4<sup>th</sup>. There is a new position that combines athletic director and communications specialist. Doug asked about bringing the 5<sup>th</sup> graders to a meeting to teach them what the board does and how they operate. Dr. Miller shared that she had taken the idea back to the teachers and how excited everyone is for this to happen.

11. New Business:

- b. Board of Appeals and Planning Board Appointments: James presented Diane Reynolds for the open alternate position on the Planning Board and Victor Mazza for one of the open alternate positions on the Board of Appeals. Mark made a motion to appoint Diane Reynolds to the Planning Board and Victor Mazza to the Board of Appeals, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 3-0-0
- c. Memorandum of Understanding with PMM: Mark made a motion to table this item until the work is completed on the statue, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 3-0-0
- d. Purchase/Grant for US Flags: The Galen Cole Transportation Museum is promoting the distribution of flags to downtowns for 2026. If the town buys one set they will donate a matching set. They are \$33.95 each set. James recommends buying 10 sets. Mark made a motion to appropriate funds to purchase 10 American Flag Kits for the town of Searsport, seconded by Sandra. Vote; 3-0-0
- e.

12. 11<sup>th</sup> Hour:

- a. Clerks Stipend: Sarah Hopkins, Finance Director was appointed interim town clerk. James requested a \$300.00 a week stipend for her. Doug made a motion to give the interim town clerk a stipend of \$300.00 a week until a permanent clerk is found, seconded by Sandra. James has 6 applications. Vote: 3-0-0.

13. Correspondence:

- a. Updated TAN report
- b. 3 new 911E address assignments
- c. Stanley Elevator – contract notification
- d. RSU 20 Election Return
- e. Efficiency Maine Application Notification
- f. PERC update
- g. Charter Communications Notification Letter
- h. FEMA approval update letter regarding Hamilton Wharf

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

15. Town Manager and Department Head Reports: Mark made a motion to table, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 3-0-0

16. Select Board Report:

Mark thanked James for arranging the recent tour of the new waste water treatment facility. He mentioned the base for the new Sea Captain's Statue has been placed at the PMM.


Sandra mentioned all the activities that happen around town and how good that is to see.

Doug recognized Wayne Hamilton's resignation effective September 30, 2025. Doug congratulated him on 40 years of service to the town. Motion: Mark made a motion to accept with regret the resignation of Wayne Hamilton as the Harbor Master, seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0

17. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: Rolf Olson talked about the lack of a posted agenda for tonight's meeting and highlighted what he is seeing posted on social media regarding the live stream not working and emailed questions not being asked or answered. James said he was unaware until this meeting that a link to ask questions existed on the website. He will look into these issues. Doug said the meeting will be available online.

18. Adjournment: Mark made a motion to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Second by Sandra Vote: 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted

  
Janine F. Laveway  
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 10.21.2025