

## Town of Searsport, Maine

### Select Board Meeting

October 21, 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, Sandra Otis-Anderson, Mark Bradstreet and Wes Norton are all present.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the October 7, 2025 select board meeting as written. Second by Mark . Vote : 3-0-2 Steve and Wes abstained
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the proposed softball field at Mosman Park as an eleventh hour item. Wes made a motion to accept the agenda with the addition of the Mosman Park Softball field item added as 11<sup>th</sup> hour Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment : Jordan Ray, Liberty spoke regarding the shooting range at the town dump. She related the experience she and her family had on Saturday September 6th while recreating in her grandfather's gravel pit on Sandy Ridge Lane. They experienced bullets hitting the ground around them that she stated were shot from a semi automatic weapon from the town owned range at the dump. The police were called but she was told there was nothing that could be done. She reports that there are empty alcohol containers and garbage at the range. James explained it is the town's gravel pit and therefore, public property. The police department started to build a shooting range but the idea was abandoned. The town does not give permission for anyone to shoot there. A gate was placed years ago but was quickly vandalized. Doug asked if signs could be placed. Steve stated he has received complaints from folks all the way to the Searsport Belfast town line about the shooting. Doug asked James to get it cleaned up. Mark asked for signs.
8. Old Business:
  - a. Board of Appeals and Planning Board Appointments: Steve made a motion to appoint Victor Mazza as an alternate to the Board of Appeals and Diane Reynolds as an alternate to the Planning Board. Motion was seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0
  - b. Sea Captain Statue: Karen Kelley will sell the statue to the town for one dollar which will allow the town to accept the gift. Mark made a motion to purchase the statue for one dollar from Karen Kelley. The town will maintain the statue Motion was seconded by Steve Vote: 5-0-0 The dedication will be on November 1, 2025 at 11:00 am in Curtis Hall at the First Congregational Church followed by an unveiling and a luncheon.
  - c. Memorandum of Understanding with PMM: Wes made a motion to enter into the memorandum of understanding as presented with the Penobscot Marine Museum regarding the Sea Captains Statue. The motion was seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
9. New Business:
  - a. Appointment of Harbormaster: Steve made a motion to appoint Travis Otis, assistant Harbor master to the position of Harbormaster. Motion was seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0
  - b. 2025 Kindness Program Donation: Steve made a motion to table this request, seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0
  - c. Police Cruiser Proposal: Chief Lunt is requesting the purchase of a new police cruiser for \$50,827.72 equipped with everything but a radio. This would not be purchased out of the vehicle

reserve account but out of the police department budget. That budget is currently 52% expended leaving \$278,007.00. The chief believes that if this purchase is made at this time there would most likely not be a need to purchase another one for 4-5 years which will allow the reserve account to build up. This concept makes perfect sense to town manager Gillway because there are two police officer positions that have not been filled for 10 months. Glen Lang has recently been hired as detective. This new cruiser will be assigned to him so he can come out at all hours to do investigations. Wes made a motion to authorize the town manager and police chief to purchase a new unit for up to \$51,000.00 from the current year's operating budget of the police department. Motion was seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

10. Eleventh Hour:

a. Rec Director Steve Shea approached the Mosman Memorial Park Association about upgrading the existing ball field to accommodate girls softball and the t-ball program. The recreation department will fund raise the \$10,000.00 price to accomplish this. The contractor can start now. James is requesting that the town fund this out of the recreation/Mosman Park fund to be replenished with the funds raised by the rec department. James reported that there is just shy of \$40,000.00 in that account currently. Steve Tanguay made a motion to approve up to \$5,500.00 to front the construction of a new softball field at Mosman Memorial Park. This will be repaid over time as the funds are raised by the recreation department. Motion was seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence:

- a. RJD notification of a rate increase to \$765.00 a day beginning January 1, 2026.
- b. Contract with Central Maine Pyrotechnics for fireworks on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2026 for \$10,000.00
- c. Letter from Dr. Miller, Superintendent of Schools, RSU 20 letting the board know that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teaching team prefers to wait until spring before coming to observe a select board meeting.
- d. Letter from Consolidated Communications letting the town know that all of their network services are now branded under the Fidium name.
- e. Letter from Irving notifying the town of their intent to file a Maine Waste Discharge License/MEPDES permit renewal.
- f. Ambulance Billing Account/Reconciliation Report. There is a very large negative number for the month of September. Sarah Hopkins, Finance Director has reached out to Comstar. There was a billing issue. There was also a short gap in Medicare that will also probably be refunded to the town. The town has been assured that the month of October will be double what it normally would be.

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. Town Manager's Report: Steve made a motion to accept the manager's report from October 7, 2025, seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

14. Public Comment: None

14. Select Board Report:

- a. Mark commented on how nice the town looks. He is looking forward to the addition of the rest of the copper fixtures.
- b. Sandra mentioned Sr. Drop in will be tomorrow, rescheduled from last week.
- c. Steve mentioned the HOBBA meeting scheduled for Thursday at 9:00.
- d. Wes reminded everyone about the free leaf and limb days on October 26<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is also an election on November 4<sup>th</sup>. He thanked all the poll workers.
- e. Doug thanked Karen Kelley for all her work on the Sea Captain's statue. He would like to give Fling into Fall back to the business owners. He asked Steve to take it to HOBBA.

16. 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 for Town Manager’s Contract)

Mark made a motion at 6:41 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 for Town Managers Contract) Seconded by Sandra  
Vote: 5-0-0.

Mark made a motion at 6:51 pm to exit executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Sandra  
Vote: 5-0-0

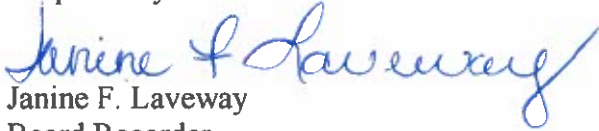
17. Decisions from Executive Session;

- a. WP 25-26 Mark made a motion to appropriate from the Jenny Lawrence Fund up to \$1,000.00 for fuel and electricity.
- b. WP 25-27 Mark made a motion to fund up to \$750.00 from the Jenny Lawrence Fund for burial expenses.

Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

18. Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm. Second by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway  
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 11.4.2025