

Town of Searsport, Maine

Select Board Meeting

February 3, 2026

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 and Mark Bradstreet are all present. Wes Norton is excused.
4. Announcements: Update on Brownfield Grants. The question is if GAC is in the process of applying for a grant. They are not moving forward in this latest round. They are looking at a future application for the cleanup of the site.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the January 6, 2026 select board meeting as written, seconded by Mark. Vote : 4-0-0
5. Acceptance of the agenda: James added one item as eleventh hour to discuss a potential law suit that is being brought forward by PERC and the town of Searsport is being named as a co-litigator. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional item added as 11th hour Seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0
6. Public Comment: None
7. Old Business:
 - a. Out of House Accounts: Doug made a motion to fund the out of house accounts, with the exception of HOBBA and Waldo Cap at 100% , Hobba at \$1,000.00 and Waldo Cap for the remainder. Motion was seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0
 - b. Appointments to Committees and Boards: Steve made a motion to appoint Diane Reynolds to the Budget Advisory Committee and the Affordable Housing Committee, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0
 - c. Town Report- Dedication/Spirit of America/Taxes/Road:

The board named Pete Clark to be honored in the town report, without objection
The board named Judy Staples to be honored with the Spirit of America award, without objection.
The recommendation for the tax due date is September 3, 2026 with interest to start on October 9, 2026 at 7%. Doug moved the recommended dates and interest, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 4-0-0.
Some members of Spruce Knoll Lane have asked that their warrant article that failed last year and the year before be placed on this year's warrant. This would be the final year. They will use the same petition as the two previous attempts. Doug requested that a formal policy be written regarding three uses of the same petition. Mark made a motion to accept the petition to accept Spruce Knoll Lane as a town road for the third and final time at this year's town meeting. Motion seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0
8. New Business:
 - a. Junk Yard Permits: Bragdon, Hersom and McAvoy are all up for their annual renewals. Sandra made a motion to renew the permits for the three junk yards. Mark seconded. Vote: 4-0-0
 - b. Fire Chief Compensation. Doug requested that the stipend increase for the chief that was approved at the last meeting be reconsidered and do an hourly rate increase instead. Steve made a motion to rescind the Fire Chief's stipend increase approved at the last meeting and to increase the hourly wage instead to \$25.50 and schedule one day a week for the person to be in the office. The office

time will come with the expectation that Fire Department tasks will be completed. Those details will be worked out between the Fire Chief and the town manager. Motion was seconded by Mark. Vote: 4-0-0
10. 11th Hour:

a. There is a lawsuit being started between PERC and Eagle Point Energy Center. The town was an interested party but has since been elevated to Co-Litigant. Rudman and Winchell is asking if the town wants to be represented by them for concurrent representation. Mark made a motion to table, seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-0.

11. Correspondence:

a. Letter from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry notifying the town it will be receiving a check for \$4,118.62 as the shared percentage of the acres of property owned by the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the municipality.

b. LD 1934 – “An act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting” Our Land Use Ordinance meets the requirements.

c. Letter of Commitment with William Brewster, accountant for the 2024 audit. James expects to begin next week.

d. Searsport Water District notifying of rate increases.

e. DM&J Waste notifying of a rate increase for construction debris.

f. Letter from the Maine Office of Community Affairs: notification that the resiliency grant is moving forward

g. Perc notification of contined bypass

h. Sprague Energy notification of their intention to file for a permit (NRPA PBR).

h. Reserve Account Banking Activity

12. Treasurer’s Warrant. Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Doug Vote: 4-0-0

13. Town Manager’s Report: Steve made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Sandra Vote: 4-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark commends the public works crew for the great job they do especially with the bitterly cold weather. Sandra announced a Chocolate Fest at the Congregational Church with a Lasagna Lunch starting at 11:00 am. The money raised goes for the fuel fund.

Steve announced a Sailor’s Valentine workshop at PMM on Saturday. The Carver Memorial Library Stash sale is on the 14th.

Doug also commended the road crew for the great job they do.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment:

Linda Payson spoke about her campaign to be elected again to the select board.

16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and poverty abatement requests) Mark made a motion at 6:33 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 6:45 pm to exit executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Doug. Vote: 4-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session;

The following cases were motioned for approval by Mark and Seconded by Sandra. All to be paid from the Jenny Lawrence Funds: Vote: 4-0-0

WP:26-01 \$1,000.00 for Housing

WP:26-02 \$ 250.00 for Food

WP:26-03 100 Gallons of Heating Fuel
WP: 26-04 100 Gallons of Heating Fuel
WP:26-05 \$150.00 for Food and \$150.00 for Miscellaneous Expenses
WP:26-06 \$1,100.00 in Rent
WP:26-07 Up to \$516.00 in Lot Rent

18. Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 6:47 pm. Seconded by Mark Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 2.17.2026