

Town of Searsport, Maine

Select Board Meeting

January 20, 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, Mark Bradstreet, Steve Tanguay and Wes Norton are all present.
4. Announcements: Town Manager James Gillway is not present for this meeting.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the January 6, 2026 select board meeting as written. Second by Mark. Vote : 5-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: Chair Doug Norman added one eleventh hour agenda item. He moved item d under new business to a. There will be no executive session. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment: ; None
8. Old Business:
 - a. Seawall Rebuild Application for DEP Hamilton Parking Lot: James has authorization for Mosman Park but not the Hamilton Wharf parking lot project. The money for this project is coming from FEMA funds. Steve made a motion to authorize the town manager to apply for a DEP permit for the repairs at Hamilton Wharf parking lot, seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0
 - b. Review Model Mobile Home Ordinance: This is being presented by Joe Hupperich. James has reviewed the document and it appears to be legal. The Select Board is only reviewing it to be put on the warrant. Steve pointed out that the only responsibility the town has it to update and build the Searsport Affordable Housing Community membership. Joe Hupperich presented two updates that are not included in the document given to the board and considered legal by James. He provided the revisions to the board. They are as follows: The rent increase formula was changed to CPI 2% (it was 1%) and Vacancy Base Rent was changed to 10% (it was 8%) and he eliminated “ or a new lot is added”. He also removed “rent stabilization board” and changed it to “ Affordable Housing Committee” Joe was referred to the Town Clerk for the correct way to create the petition. He was also advised to follow the regulations regarding the gathering of valid signatures on the petition. Wes made a motion that the select board has reviewed the draft of the Searsport Mobile Home Rent Stabilization Ordinance and endorses the mobile home owners and community organizers with proceeding with collecting signatures to present this at the the annual town meeting and encourages the organizers to continue to collaborate with the town manager. Motion seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0
 - c. Budget Discussion and Vote: There is an overall increase in this year’s budget of 1.64%. Wes made a motion to table the discussion regarding the reserve accounts until the next meeting, seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0. Regarding the 2026 Budget Votes - The first 7 line item amounts were motioned by Wes and seconded by Doug as approved as presented with a vote of 5-0-0. After the correction to the Wireless Hotspots dollar amount from \$5,300.00 to \$5,380.00 – Wes made a motion to further move to appropriate the contingency line through the road book line with the \$676,418.00 figure for the ambulance. The motion was seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

d. Out of House AccoGunts: Wes made a motion to table the discussion and approval of the out of house accounts until the requested further details on the financials from the Pet Food Pantry and HOBBA have been received. Motion was seconded by Mark Vote: 5-0-0

9. New Business:

a. Land Sponsorship Request: Gloria Pearse from Searsport and Crystal Vaccaro from Swanville provided a map to board members and gave a presentation on their plans for purchasing lots 70 and 71. Both lots are currently owned by Wyman's. Their plan for the property is to establish a woman run conservation effort providing enrichment for the community through art, inclusion, education and recreation. They approached James and had a discussion regarding town support for grant applications. Waterfall Arts has agreed to be a fiscal sponsor and Searsport Shores has also agreed to pursue projects together. There are grants that are only available through a municipality. Lot 57A is owned by the town. Lot 70 abuts 57A. They are looking for access to both Cain's and McClure's pond through Lot 57A. They hope to have trails and access for the community to pick and harvest the blueberries. The property is at risk for development. The plan is to run a non profit organization which means the land will no longer be on the tax rolls for the Town of Searsport. Steve explained that if they do achieve non profit status they will make donations in lieu of taxes to the town in other ways. It will also give the town access via Lot 70 to the town owned property and the ponds. Doug explained their presentation will be taken under advisement. Wes explained that the board does not typically give any kind of contingent approvals. He asked for something more definitive that the board could act upon to move it forward and encouraged them to continue to talk with James.

b. Liquor License for Hey Sailor: Steve made a motion in favor of renewing the liquor license for Hey Sailor, seconded by Mark Vote: 5-0-0

c. Appointments to Committees and Boards: Diane Reynolds has applied to be on the Budget Advisory Committee, Economic Development, Shellfish Management, Comprehensive Planning and Affordable Housing committees. Wes made a motion given that the application is not available nor is Diane present to speak to her candidacy that the board tables the appointments for now but encourages her to continue attending any committee meetings she pleases as a community member. Motion was seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

d. Interim Wastewater Superintendent Pay: Wes made a motion to authorized the town manager to temporarily set the wages for Dan Smith acting in his capacity as interim superintendent of the wastewater district with wages comparable to the permanent position of the superintendent of wastewater. Steve seconded the motion Vote: 5-0-0

10. 11th Hour: The Police Chief has asked for his stipend to be raised to \$1,000.00. Mark made a motion to vote to accept the police chiefs monthly stipend raised to \$1,000.00 retroactive to the first of 2026 pending approval at the town meeting of the budget that would approve this. Seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence: None

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 and Department Head Reports: Library and Fire are available. Doug made a motion to accept department head reports from the Fire Chief and Library, seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark talked about the extremely cold weather and commended the road crews and asked that folks be cautious.

Sandra asked for people to check on their neighbors during this cold weather.

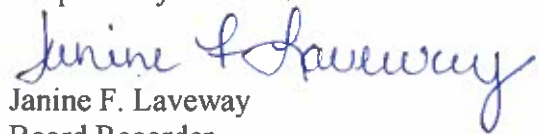
Steve encouraged people to stop by the town office and interact with the staff who is doing a great job.

Wes and Doug do not have a report.

15.Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: None

18Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 6:43 pm. Second by Mark Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janine F. Laveway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder