

Town of Searsport, Maine  
Select Board Meeting

March 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 are present. Sandra Otis-Anderson and Wes Norton are absent.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Mark made a motion to accept the minutes for the March 4, 2025 select board meeting as written. Second by Doug Vote : 2-0-1 Steve abstained from voting.
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added no 11<sup>th</sup> hour items to the agenda at this time. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with no additional items added as 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Seconded by Steve Vote: 3-0-0
7. Public Comment: David Italiander questioned James about his recent testimony on LD226 – concerning the preservation of Sears Island. He is concerned that it was perceived as representing the Town of Searsport as it's manager and not as a private citizen. He also inquired about the plan for economic development. Janet Flint questioned James about his recent testimony on LD226. She requested that the town make a plan for economic development. Harlan McLaughlin spoke in regards to the environmental damage that has been done at Mack Point and requested that the Manager write a letter to the DEP requesting that they return and conduct further testing on the Level 3 V wrap program. Doug directed the manager to write a letter to DEP requesting that they return and conduct further testing at the GAC Chemical plant site. Abraham Guay from Stockton Springs talked about the proposed solar farm on Blueberry Lane in Stockton. The proposed site sits in zone 3 of the Prospect Well Head Protection Zone. He spoke about his concerns for the contamination of the aquafer by the pesticides used to maintain a solar field and asked if the town of Searsport was aware of the risks involved in building a one megawatt solar field on the aquafer that provides water to the towns of Searsport and Stockton Springs.
8. Old Business:
  - a. Wastewater Budget: Mark made a motion to accept the 2025 waste water budget proposal as presented, seconded by Doug. Vote: 3-0-0
  - b. Annual Appointments: Mark made a motion to accept yearly appointments for calendar year 2025 and the 2025 Select Board and committee appointments as presented, seconded by Steve. Vote: 3-0-0
  - c. Fire and EMS Pay: Steve made a motion to table, seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
  - d. Penobscot Marine Museum Request for Street Painting: Mark made a motion to approve the request to paint fish on Church Street as part of a program they will be running this Summer. Motion was seconded by Steve. Vote: 3-0-0
  - e. Plastics Resolution: Steve made a motion to table, seconded by Mark Vote: 3-0-0
9. New Business:
  - a. Liquor License for "The Tap Room" : Steve made a motion to approve the renewal request for a liquor license for Martel Brewing Company Tap Room at 34 East Main Street in downtown Searsport, Maine. Seconded by Doug Vote: 3-0-0
  - b. Community Center Rental Fees 2025: Steve made a motion to accept the community center
  - c. Rental fee schedule as presented, seconded by Mark. Vote: 3-0-0
10. 11<sup>th</sup> Hour: None

11. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from Charter Communications regarding program changes
- b. Letter from Waldo County Commissioners advising the town of the revised tax assessment for the current fiscal year.
- c. Letter from FEMA regarding the PAGP award for the storm damage at the Hamilton wharf parking lot and Mosman Park retaining wall.
- e. Three letters from CEO regarding new addresses established in town.
- f. Brochure created by Penobscot Fisheries regarding the proposed study of the Mill Brook Dam for the restoration of fish passages. The dam is owned by Steve and Astrig Tanguay and is leased to the town for water control rights.

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

13. Department Head Reports; Mark made a motion to accept the department head reports from Fire, Library, Police, Ambulance and Public Safety. Seconded by Steve Vote: 3-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark welcomed Spring and mentioned all the positive comments he has received regarding the new downtown project.

Steve announced the upcoming workshop entitled Marine Mammal Stranding Response with Allied Whales on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 10-1 at the community center. The shellfish committee will meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

Doug talked about the recent success of the Annual Town Meeting.

James added two items he wanted the board to know about that he felt did not qualify as 11<sup>th</sup> hour. The town received a service contract. He applied through MCCOG for a housing grant from economic and community development for \$50,000.00 to conduct some preliminary work to apply for a larger grant. He and a couple of other committees from around Waldo County have been meeting over the winter to address housing issues. This is step one of finding money to help with either replacing old trailers or perhaps new buildings. There are no matching funds involved at this point. The goal is to have a repair program to help people with needed repairs to their homes. The second item is the Historic Preservation Commission will be hosting a fundraiser for the information booth. They will hold a Bingo game with prizes and refreshments at the community center on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: Rolf Olson likes the new fee schedule for the Community Center and inquired if the hourly rate includes full use of the kitchen. He inquired about the plastics resolution asking if it will be discussed at the April 1<sup>st</sup> workshop. He asked if it would be ok to invite the press. Doug said it was ok. David Italiander asked if the board has considered using Zoom for committee meetings. Doug said zoom is being considered for future use for committee meetings and a lot of other things. Janine Laveway asked for an update on the repairs that have been promised on the Community Building – specifically the floor and the bathrooms. James hopes to bring a proposal to the board this Summer. She inquired about the money that was appropriated in 2019 at the time of purchase and all funds that have been appropriated in the past for the repairs at the Community Center including the fees charged that were promised to be returned to the building maintenance. James responded that one of the issues is that money from the ARPA funds were put toward this along with other funds. He is waiting for the 2023 audit to be completed before the balance of funds available can be determined. She also inquired about the use of the building as both a warming and cooling center for residents. Jan Flint asked who owns the old Irving Station. James responded that Gordon Construction is the current owner but plans to sell. The

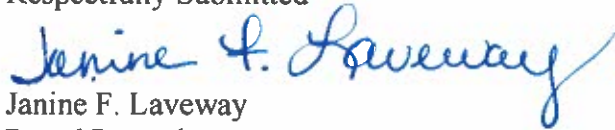
adjacent lot is owned by Chris Colby. She asked about the old ambulance. James responded that there are several old vehicles that also need to be sold. The board authorized the sale. Abraham Guay answered Steve's question regarding the lot size on the parcel of land being proposed as a solar farm in Stockton. The size is 18 acres. Tax Map R2 139. The solar site is for 8 of those acres, mostly blueberry fields. Doug questioned adding another solar site to the grid and if there is capacity for that. The developer stated the application is pending CMP approval. The decision has not been made.

16. 16. Executive Session: Mark made a motion at 6:56 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) (A) Confidential (Personnel Matter on behalf of Code Enforcement) Seconded by Steve. Vote: 3-0-0

Mark made a motion in the case of WP 25-13 to appropriate up to \$450.00 for oil purchases out of the Jenny Lawrence Fund. Seconded by Steve Vote: 3-0-0

18. Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Second by: Mark Vote: 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway  
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 4/1/2025