

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

April 16, 2024

1. Call to Order: 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Mark Bradstreet, Vice Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Mark Bradstreet Vice Chair, Steve Tanguay, Wes Norton and Sandra Otis-Anderson are all present. Chair Doug Norman was absent
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes for the April 2, 2024 select board meeting, Seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote 4-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: Motion Steve Tanguay made a motion to accept the agenda with the following amendments: Set up a workshop and move the Off Shore Wind discussion and action from Old Business article c to New Business article a. Seconded by Sandra Otis Anderson Vote 4-0-0
7. Public Comment: None
8. Old Business:
 - a. Off Shore Wind The following people shared their thoughts regarding the Off Shore Wind Project: Janet Flint, Martin Hornung, Joe Hupperich, Harlan McLaughlin, Rolf Olson, Suzanne Farley, Janet Williams, Matt Pender, Howard Clark, Kathryn Clark and Chris Buchanan. Steve Tanguay spoke about the select boards concern that currently there is nothing on paper going to Searsport. Community Benefits Agreements are being looked at which would look out for the Town of Searsport, which has not historically been the MO. Property and Taxes have been taken away from the town by the State but nothing has been added on. Wes Norton thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and suggested that the board should consider tabling any action regarding correspondence on wind port siting to either the Commissioner or Governor's Office and spend time either in a workshop or future meeting to have some further discussion refining what the board's messaging is. His suggestion is more engagement on the State's part at this stage not only with the board but with members of the community. Mark Bradstreet thanked everybody who attended the meeting. He acknowledged that there is a lot of interest and let everyone know that the select board over the last 2 years has been vitally interested in getting the best deal for the residents of Searsport. Wherever the wind port is located the board wants to make sure that Searsport is compensated for the additional expenses of things like new fire trucks, maintenance, extra police protection, extra code enforcement and increased sewer and water lines. Any additional funds spent need to be reimbursed. If the port is located on Sears Island the board would like to see improvements made to the island to make it more accessible. He would like the State to conduct an informational meeting where they can present more information and folks can voice their concerns and ask questions. Sandra Otis-Anderson voiced her concern regarding many unanswered questions and her wish to continue looking further for answers. James Gillway shared his draft of a letter regarding holding an informational meeting with the State. Wes Norton made a motion to table the approval of any correspondence from the board until a workshop or future meeting can be held to have further discussion and refinement of the draft letter. Seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote 4-0-0

- b. 2024 Wastewater Budget: There was a detailed review line by line of the proposed budget. Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to approve the Wastewater budget as presented at \$433,497.00. Seconded by Sandra Otis-Anderson. Vote 4-0-0
- c. Library Expenditures from Town Meeting: Two initiatives require board approval. One is to create a 10 hour part time staff position. The children's librarian is cutting back by 5 hours a week. The request is to take these 5 hours and approve 5 more. The second initiative is to hire a groundskeeper who can mow and clear the snow. Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to approve a new 10 hour position by adding 5 additional staff hours to 5 hours that are currently available and to contracting with a grounds keeper who will also do the snow removal. Seconded by Wes Norton Vote 4-0-0

9. New Business:

- a. Annual Board and Committee Appointments: James presented the list of appointments. Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to approve the list as presented by the Town Manager. Seconded by Steve Tanguay. Vote 4-0-0
- b. Wharf Repairs and Dredge Project: There are FEMA funds available. Some work can not wait for those funds to arrive. There are safety issues. The Army Corps of Engineers has issued a permit to dredge the boat ramp area. The materials can only be dredged from one side of the dock and placed on the other side. This will remove the silt that has accumulated on the boat launch ramp. The floats are grounded out. Motion: Wes Norton made a motion to approve the expenditure for wharf repairs and the dredging project with expected funds to eventually come from FEMA reimbursement and the internal funds to come from the wharf reserve account. Seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote 4-0-0

10. 11th Hour:

- a. Two workshops were scheduled to continue work on the Waste water rate changes. May 7th at 5:00 proceeding the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting and May 21st at 5:00 proceeding the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting.
- b. Leaf and Limb Day: Motion: Mark Bradstreet made a motion to set April 28th and May 5th. Seconded by Steve Tanguay. Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence: A letter from Angus King's office congratulating the town on the approval of Congressional Directed Spending funds. This is the 2 million dollars for the wharf. A thank you letter from Nancy Barnes thanking the town for help with CMP in taking down a dangerous tree on her property. A letter from the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the dredging at Hamilton Wharf including the permit to dredge.

12. Treasurer's Warrant. Motion: Sandra Otis-Anderson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Steve Tanguay Vote 4-0-0

13. Town Manager's Report: James restated from his manager's report at the April 2nd Select Board meeting that "we did have a fire truck run off the road in response to a call late last month. There were no injuries and very little damage. The biggest expense will probably be coming from the heavy wrecker that was required to tow it out. Fire Chief Rivera and Public Safety Director Lunt are investigating the incident and taking action to ensure that it does not happen again. This includes disciplinary action which has been doled out.

14. Select Board Reports: Steve Tanguay: The community clean up day is scheduled for April 27th starting at 9:00 am at Mermaid Plaza. There will be coffee and donuts. Burgers and Dogs will be provided for lunch. Students will be working with the shellfish committee to reseed the clam flats at Kidder Point on April 30th at 10:00 am. 60,000 clams will be seeded. Sandra Otis-Anderson: Senior drop in is at the

community center on April 17th. Doors open at 9:00. There will be an auction conducted by Mark Bradstreet. Everyone will have \$50.00 of play money to spend. Mark Bradstreet: Hoping to see lots of folks at the Senior Drop in.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comments: Chris Bucanan suggested that the meeting with the State regarding the Wind Port be an informational meeting and not a public hearing. Her concern is that if it is a hearing the State will hear from the community members but it will be hard to get any information back from them. She does not want the State to check the public hearing box at this point in the process. She also questioned if the Select Board had passed a resolution in favor of a Wind Port in Searsport. James explained that a resolution was done in February of last year promoting the process. In December of last year there was a second a resolution memorializing that the town will be seeking community benefits to offset impacts. Both are on the town website under the Select Board Tab.

18. Adjournment: Motion: Steve Tanguay made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 pm. Second by: Sandra Otis-Anderson Vote: 4-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: May 7, 2024