

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

July 16, 2024

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, Sandra Otis-Anderson and Wes Norton are all present.
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Steve made a motion to accept the minutes for the July 2, 2024 select board meeting as written. Second by Sandra Vote : 5-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the following 11th hour items to the agenda: Discussion regarding a right of way situation on a piece of town owned property on a private road. There is also a liquor license renewal request. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional items added as 11th hour. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment: Janine Laveway inquired about the status of paving the following streets: Water, Howard, Mosman, Leach and Park. She stated that these roads were not paved as promised at the end of the Water District Project and have since incurred significant traffic and damage due to the route one detour including daily use heavy equipment by the route one project. James stated that there are ongoing discussions regarding these roads with Gordon Contracting. He should have an answer in the next few weeks. Jim Rose commented in support of Janine's request.
8. Old Business
 - a. Roadside Mowing Issue: This will need to be tabled again. Bob Seekins does not have any estimates of cost back yet for the purchase of equipment. Sandra made a motion to table this item, seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0
 - b. Authorization for purchase of Wastewater Camera: Wes made a motion to expend up to \$6,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a camera, half from the wastewater reserve account and half from a \$3,000.00 grant on hand for that purpose. Steve seconded. Vote: 5-0-0
- 9 New Business:
 - a. Arnaud Lessard, planning board member addressed the board and read a statement into the record regarding the continued need for planning board member training and the anticipated significant increase in work to be done. The request is for support to begin meeting more than once a month if necessary as they begin an in depth ordinance review process. Doug made a motion that the planning board can meet as needed seconded by Mark. Vote: 5-0-0. Wes requested that the additional meetings be posted and added to the monthly notice. The board asked to be kept informed of the work of the planning board and CEO.
 - b. Authorization for Part Time Registrar of Voters: The position would be 24 hours a week of additional clerical time with even more hours closer to the elections. James envisions this person also being able to take on additional certain projects by him such as small grant writing and reports. Mark made a motion to authorize the town manager to post the position of part time registrar of voters and interview. Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0
 - c. Authorization for Hamilton Marine to begin selling transfer station stickers. Mark made a motion to authorize Wayne Hamilton to sell transfer station stickers at Hamilton Marine. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

d. Abatement of Tax Account 1650. This is a property that was foreclosed on and subsequently sold.

Due to an error, the proceeds were placed in the general fund and were not credited to the tax years 2008 and 2009 as being paid. 2008 is for \$1,334.34 and 2009 is for \$1,286.62. Mark made a motion to abate tax years 2008 and 2009 on account number 1650, seconded by Sandra
Vote: 5-0-0

e. Grant Proposal for marketing and branding. James met with Steve and Wes and they are looking for a letter of support from the Select Board for an application and for Doug to be allowed to sign on behalf of the board. The request is seeking support for the efforts of the town in working with Penobscot Marine Museum, Head of The Bay Business Association and Makers Guild in Partnering for marketing and web site updates including rebranding for the community. Steve made a motion that the board support the grant application proposal for a \$200,000.00 grant and to authorize Doug to sign on the board's behalf and to authorize the spending of \$1,000.00 towards the grant writing process. Seconded by Wes
Vote: 5-0-0

10. 11th Hour

a. Right of Way Request: There is a request for the town to grant a right of way across town owned property off the Rob Johnson Road, a private road in the road inventory. It was never a town way. It went from Cains Pond Road all the way over to Partridge Road in the 1800's. The land is on McClure's pond and is property given to the town by Bert and Hope Whitten. There is a new buyer for land that abuts the town owned land. In order to access the new buyers land they are requesting a ROW that will involve 450 square feet of town owned property as an access point to the private road that already exists. Map 3 Lot 57a. Mark made a motion to grant a ROW through the town owned property known as Map 3 Lot 57a, approximately 450 square feet and to authorize the town manager to process the paper work. Seconded by Sandra
Vote: 5-0-0

b. Liquor License request from Rio's Spiked Café. Mark made a motion to approve the liquor license renewal for Rio's Spiked Café, seconded by Doug
Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence:

Election Results for Waldo County Budget Committee:

District 1: Robyn Tarantino

District 2: Wesley Norton for a one year term and Elizabeth Lenharr for a 3 year term

District 3: Jeff Trafton

40 day notice final lease decision:

Nichols Fisheries (PEN SIX) the application is for an experimental salt water aquaculture operation

CEO communication regarding his interactions with the DEP on code violations in town.

12. Treasurer's Warrant. Sandra made a motion to accept the Treasurer's warrant pending signatures by the Select Board. Seconded by Mark
Vote 5-0-0

13. Town Manager's Report: James read his report into the record. Wes made a motion to accept the manager's report. Seconded by Doug
Vote: 5-0-0

14. Select Board Report: Mark spoke about the new brick sidewalks and the detour ending on July 26th. Sandra talked about the new side walks and how nice they are. Senior drop in is tomorrow from 9-2 at the community building. There will be fresh vegetables from the county garden. They will be available on Norris Street, Steve thanked all the folks at Tozier's Market for all the years of being here and the support

they gave the town. Wes had nothing to report at this time. Doug gave his time to Jim Rose, MMPA president who spoke about the recently completed walking path.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: None

16. 16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (A) Confidential – (Personnel Matters) Mark made motion at 6:57 pm to leave regular session and enter into executive session under M.R.S.A 1 § 405 (6) (A) Confidential – (Personnel Matters). Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

Mark made a motion at 7:07 pm to exit executive session and return to regular session, seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session : Wes made a motion to authorize the town manager to engage the town attorney in the matter of addressing a citizen's complaint against a town employee. Seconded by Mark.

18. Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm. Second by Mark Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: August 6, 2024