

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

August 20, 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, Steve Tanguay, Sandra Otis-Anderson and Wes Norton are all present. Mark Bradstreet was held up by the automobile accident which closed Route 1. He arrived at 6:12 pm
4. Announcements: None
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion: Sandra made a motion to accept the minutes for the August 6, 2024 select board meeting as written. Seconded by Wes Vote : 4-0-0
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the following 11th hour items to the agenda: A pole permit request of the Loop Road and fireworks. Wes made a motion to accept the agenda as presented with the additional items added as 11th hour. Seconded by Steve. Vote: 4-0-0
7. Public Comment:
 - a. Harlan McLaughlin spoke about two items. The first was on the material James Gillway has provided regarding a request to get a briefing from DEP on the status of the GAC pollution issues. He believes that there are continuing problems and would like the DEP to come and talk about it. Chair Doug Norman directed James Gillway to set up the meeting. James has Spoken to Dave Coulter and received a report on the progress but it did not include numbers or statistics. GAC has to report out to the DEP and they do site visits every couple of years. The filtration is working but very slowly.
Harlan's second item was the meeting held on August 13th with Matt Burns regarding the proposed Off Shore Wind Facility. He would like to see a different format for the next meeting.
 - b. Win Hood and Bill Baxter, representing the Swan Lake Association, presented a copy of a Mooring Regulations Ordinance. The same ordinance was presented to the Select Boards in the towns of Swanville and Frankfort. The association is asking for the three towns, who are shareholders in Swan Lake, to consider adopting the ordinance. The effort is to keep Swan Lake as clean as it is presently. In an effort to do that they find it necessary to establish better control of the types of watercrafts allowed, specifically houseboats, and their locations. The ordinance is a copy from the Town of Belgrade. It has passed the States review for legality and was found to comply with all State Statues. Swanville has agreed to add the ordinance to their annual town meeting for voter approval. Frankfort agrees with the ordinance and is considering doing the same thing. They are requesting that Searsport consider adopting the ordinance as well. Their concern is that if all three towns don't adopt a mooring ordinance someone could launch a houseboat in Swanville, move it to Searsport or Frankfort waters and drop anchor. The town of Swanville is prepared to incur the cost of a harbor master to enforce the ordinance. Maine law states that if 2 or more towns border a body of water, one harbormaster can serve all the towns with the agreement of all the selectboards. There will be no cost to the Town of Searsport or Frankfort. They are asking the Town of Searsport to join the Towns of Swanville and Frankfort as custodians of Swan Lake to help keep it as clean as it is now. They offered to come back and answer any questions at any time. Chair Doug Norman directed James Gillway, town manager to meet with the Code Enforcement Officer and bring language for an ordinance back to the

September 3rd meeting. Mr. Hood and Mr. Baxter requested that they be notified if any changes to their proposed ordinance are being considered.

8. Old Business:

- a. Update on Information Center Move: Motion: Sandra made a motion to table this item to the September 3rd meeting to give Lynn Calista and the Historical Preservation Committee a chance to attend with the information they have. Seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
- b. 2025 Employee Insurance Offerings: Motion: Mark made a motion to offer in 2025 the same level of health insurance that was offered in 2024 to the town employees. Seconded by Wes. Vote: 5-0-0

9 New Business:

- a. Resignation from Planning Board: Motion: Wes made a motion to accept, with regret, Celine Kelley's resignation and to appoint alternate member Arnaud Lessard to full voting status. Also to authorize the town manager to accept applications for consideration for a nomination to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board. Seconded by Doug Norman Vote: 5-0-0
- b. Request for Sewer Abatement: James recommended this item be tabled for further information. There is a sale that took place and the town is unable to collect because of a mistake by the title Company. Motion: Mark made a motion to table this item to the September 3, 2024 meeting. Seconded by Steve Vote: 5-0-0
- c. Spruce Knoll Lane Warrant Article: James reported that the residents of Spruce Knoll are interested in having their road placed as a warrant article for the next town meeting and are inquiring if they need to gather new signatures or if they can use the petition they circulated at the end of 2023 for the same purpose. James informed the board that there is a history of allowing the same petition to be used because the proof of support has been established Motion: Wes made a motion that we accept the existing petition and invite the Spruce Knoll Lane group to present a draft warrant article item to the board for consideration of placement on a future town meeting warrant. Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

10. 11th Hour:

- a. Fireworks: The eagles will not be an issue for Fling Into Fall. Motion: Steve made a motion to approve spending up to \$6,000.00 for fireworks to be displayed on October 12, 2024 and launched from a barge in the bay if possible or from Mosman Park. The rain date will be October 19th and the band Annie and the Rainmakers will perform at 5:00 pm on either date. Seconded by Mark Bradstreet Vote: 5-0-0.
- b. Pole Permit Request. CMP called about a proposed pole on the Loop Road to be installed in the town's right of way by Chip's Powerline Construction. Motion: Wes made a motion to approve the pole permit request from Chip's Powerline Construction on the Loop Road. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence

- a. A letter from Casella informing the town of an increase in tipping fees. The fees will increase to \$92.92.
- b. A new address has been issued by the CEO at 119 Brock Road.
- c. A letter from CEO Victor Mazza informing the board of a change in his hours. Starting Monday August 19, 2024 the Code Enforcement Office will be open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- d. A copy of the letter of enforcement from the CEO to a resident of Campground Road informing them of an illegal junkyard.

e. An invitation extended by Waldo Community Center to attend their Grand Reopening on Wednesday August 28th from 5-6:30.

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

13. Department Head's Reports: Motion: Wes made a motion to accept the department head reports as presented. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

14. Select Board Report:

Mark Bradstreet apologized for being late. He was delayed by the detour due to route one being closed because of a car accident.

Sandra Otis-Anderson mentioned the Senior Drop in to be held tomorrow at the community center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. She also reminded everyone of the free vegetables that are available every Friday around 11:00 am on Norris street in Dick Demares' side driveway.

Steve Tanguay thanked everyone for doing the recent workshop and presentation last week. He talked about the bidding process the State will undertake for the Wind Port Project and how that will effect any community benefits agreement because the State is going to defer to the contractor regarding any decisions about the trucking of the cement. He urged that planning begin soon for the community benefits agreements. He asked if the board wants to request that the project's alternative analysis be shared with the board at the same time it is shared with other agencies. He asked if Sprague will be invited to do a presentation to the board on what they are proposing. He wants to know if the board would be interested in a similar format to the one used for the DOT's presentation. James will inquire to see if they have any additional information to share.

Wes Norton would like to reiterate Steve's comments on the Wind Port presentation and thank everyone in the room that made that happen. He thinks it could be helpful for the board to issue a letter to Commissioner Van Note and Matt Burns thanking them for coming and giving their presentation and expressing the request to receive the alternatives analysis and any other documents as they are being provided to other agencies. He thinks it is important that the town be seen as wanting to be well informed. He thinks it is important to invite Jim and any other representatives from Sprague not just about what they propose for the wind port but also as the lead tenant on the largest industrial site in town. He is interested in the future and an opportunity for discourse between the board and Sprague. They have been an important player in town for years and will hopefully continue to be.

Doug Norman wanted folks who did not get their questions answered during the workshop with the DOT to know that questions can be submitted or resubmitted to James with no time limit. The board is not trying to stop people from getting their questions answered. The board is doing everything they can to get questions answered. He invites everyone to keep asking questions by attending select board meetings, sending letters, or calling the town manager.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: None

16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests): Mark made a motion at 7:03 pm to exit 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 Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

Mark made a motion at 7:15 pm to exit executive session and return to regular session. Seconded by Doug. Vote: 5-0-0

17. Decisions from Executive Session;

Mark made a motion to approve the following:

WP 24-23 to spend up to \$1,500.00 from the Jenny Lawrence funds for the building of a handicap ramp.

WP 24/24 to spend \$719.92 from the Jenny Lawrence funds for utilities. Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

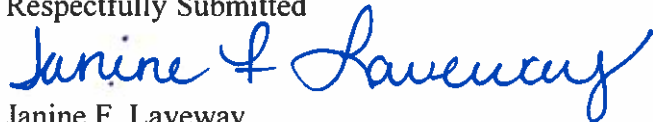
Mark made a motion to approve the following:

PA 24/07 to authorize a tax abatement for up to \$300.00. Seconded by Sandra Vote: 5-0-0

18. Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 7:16 pm. Second by Mark Bradstreet

Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway

Board Recorder

Approved 9.3.2024