

Town of Searsport, Maine
Select Board Meeting

9/2/2025

1. Call to Order: 6:13pm
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: James reminded everyone of the Hazardous Waste Collection Day to be held on Saturday September 6th from 9:00 to Noon. This will be at the Community Center. There will be a retirement party this Sunday for Arthur Koch Sr. at the North Fire Station from Noon to 4:00 pm All are welcome to attend.
5. Acceptance of Minutes: Steve made a motion to accept the minutes for the August 19, 2025 select board meeting as presented. Seconded by Doug Vote : 4-0-1
6. Acceptance of the agenda: James added the following 11th hour items to the agenda: Set the date for leaf and limb day for the Fall season, The removal of a tree from a cemetery and a change to the SOG for the Fire Department. Mark made a motion to accept the agenda with the additional items added as 11th hour, seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0
7. Public Comment: Rolf Olson inquired about the status of getting the meetings shared live online for folks who wish to attend from home. James reported he is meeting with S.D. Rowlands next week. Rolf also expressed his concerns with the lack of an audit dating back to 2023 and inquired what the town is likely to lose by not having a current audit. James explained that USDA Rural Development funds and other state, federal and grant funds are in jeopardy. James stated he would try to get the accounting firm to attend the next selectboard meeting.
8. Old Business:
 - a. Fireworks: James reported that the cost for fireworks for 2026 will cost over \$15,000.00 to hold them on the 4th of July. There is currently \$6,000.00 sitting in an account for a portion of that cost,. To shoot them off on the 3rd of July will cost \$10,000.00. Motion: Mark made a motion to accept the pricing for the July 3rd fireworks and schedule them now. Seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0 Interim Fire Chief A. J. Koch Jr. recommends asking the company to arrive a lot earlier than they did this past 4th of July. The Fire Marshall was not happy they did not arrive until after 8:00 pm for a 9:00 pm show.
9. New Business:
 - a. Pole Permit Request: CMP is requesting a pole permit for a new pole at the corner of Mt. Ephraim Road and Old County Road, Wes made a motion to approve the pole permit request from CMP for placing a new pole at the intersection of Mt. Ephraim and Old County roads, Seconded by Mark Vote: 5-0-0
10. 11th Hour:
 - a. Leaf and Limb Day: Wes made a motion to set the dates for the Fall Leaf and Limb Days for October 26 and November 2nd. Motion was seconded by Steve Vote: 5-0-0
 - b. Removal of Tree/Cemetery: James explained there is a large unhealthy tree growing in the middle of a plot in Elm Wood Cemetery located on the 3rd range. He recommends removing it using cemetery trust funds. Mark made a motion to expend up to \$2,000.00 from cemetery trust funds to remove a tree from Elm Wood Cemetery . Motion was seconded by Steve. Vote: 5-0-0

c. SOG Fire Department Change: Turn Out Gear remaining at the Fire Stations. Interim Fire Chief A.J. Koch Jr. explained the concerns of his officers regarding firefighters keeping their turn out gear in their personal vehicles and/or homes. He explained that they would meet with each individual firefighter to determine which of the two stations they wish to be assigned to as their home station. Steve made a motion to table this item to the September 16th selectboard meeting, seconded by Sandra. Vote: 5-0-0

11. Correspondence:

- a. Letter from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services outlining new legislation that allows for retired county and municipal law enforcement officers and municipal firefighters to enroll in the FF-LEO health insurance program.
- b. Two checks from the State releasing some of the FEMA funds for the cottage street repairs from storms of 2022 and 2024. These will be deposited in the FEMA Grant Account.
- c. Letter from the Division of Water Quality Management, Bureau of Water Quality regarding their acceptance of our Climate Adaptation Plan.
- d. Ambulance Billing Report
- e. Letter from PERC advising the continuance of the bypassing of incojming wastes to the Juniper Ridge Land Fill
- f. Letter from Charter Communications regarding program changes
- g. Letter from the DEP regarding their review of a recent application from Eagle Point Energy Center, LLC.

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's Report: Mark made a motion to accept the Town Manager's report, seconded by Steve Vote: 5-0-0

Select Board Report:

Mark mentioned how beautiful the recent copper additions to the downtown area street lights are. He also talked about the work being done this week on the information center with a new roof. The building is now structurally sound with all the rotten wood gone.

Sandra announced that the free vegetables are being distributed every Friday beginning at 11:30 at the Public Safety Building

Steve congratulated James and the town office staff for completing the clean water statement.

Wes announced the Climate Resiliency Committee submitted their grant application this past week for the first round of State funding that will hopefully provide money to look at shoreland stabilization at Mosman Park and begin looking at early warning communications in the case of disasters. He mentioned the Carver Memorial Library's Fund Raising Tea this Sunday. He commended the crew at the transfer station for the great job they are doing getting the word out about the Hazardous Waste Collection being held this Saturday at the Community Center. The first 5 gallons of waste is free to residents of the town. He also talked about the new copper additions to the downtown area and how fun they are.

Doug talked about the situation with the auditors and the need for increased action and told James to take action. James stated that he will contact the owner of the auditing company and notify them that the selectboard is ordering them to attend the selectboard meeting on September 16, 2025 and explain directly to the board where the audit stands.

15. Public Comment and the Viewing Public Comment: A.J. Koch gave an update on the Knox Box program the fire department has started with increased participation. He has spoken to the area businesses and left information for their consideration. There is good interest that has been generated. The school

district has placed 4 boxes this year and has plans to add 4 more next year. The dash cameras have been installed on the four primary fire department vehicles. He reports that they are working well and requests that an SOG be written regarding what the chain of possession of the SD cards will be in the case of an event.

16. Executive Session M.R.S.A. 1 § 405 (6) (F) Confidential – (General Assistance Matters and Poverty abatement requests) Mark made a motion at 6:50 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). Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

Mark made a motion at 7:08 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 three cases from the Jenny Lawrence Worthy Poor Account seconded by Steve Vote: 5-0-0

In the cases of: SP 25-23 to approve up to \$200.00 for electricity
SP 25-24 to approve up to \$336.00 for electricity
SP 25-25 to approve up to \$2,000.00 for electricity.

18Adjournment: Sandra made a motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm Seconded by Doug Vote: 5-0-0

Respectfully Submitted



Janine F. Laveway
Board Recorder

APPROVED: 9/16/2025