

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2007
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on January 10, 2008

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Selectmen Present: Amy N. Haible, James S. Henderson and Chairman Samuel W. Alexander

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alexander at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was videotaped and broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television.

1. Adoption of the Agenda: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to adopt the agenda as printed; motion passed 3-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane reported she received a letter from Superintendent Wilhelm stating the generator at the Harpswell Island School was no longer working. Administrator Eiane stated the Harpswell Island School is Harpswell's only Red Cross shelter and she asked the Emergency Management Agent, William Labbe, to investigate whether the Kellogg Church could be the shelter. Administrator Eiane will keep the Board informed of the status of the situation. Administrator Eiane informed the Board that she has heard from Mary Knipe at UMASS regarding the Town's request for funding of a wind study for the Long Reach site. Based on data reviewed by UMASS, the site does not meet the basic threshold to receive funding. Other sites such as Mitchell Field could be reviewed. Selectman Haible agreed with getting data on the Mitchell Field site. Administrator Eiane reported that she, Chairman Alexander and Len Freeman met with Jennifer Duddy, of Senator Collins' Office, yesterday regarding the pipeline removal and that they asked for reassurance that the funding will be secured and available for the project. Ms. Duddy will check into the status of the funding and other requests made at the meeting (federal funding for a pier evaluation and/or a wind study).

3. Selectmen's Announcements: Selectman Haible encouraged the public to apply for oil assistance through the Citizens for Oil Program at 1-877-Joe-4OIL by the deadline of February 29. Chairman Alexander stated he wished school board members would attend a meeting and update residents on school consolidation issues. Administrator Eiane reported there is proposed legislation to allow new RSU's to derive their own cost sharing formulas.

4. Treasurer's Report: Marguerite Kelly, Town Treasurer, reviewed her monthly report for November (attached as further review). Ms. Kelly stated that she understands the Selectmen discussed her resignation (tendered November 28) at the past administrative meeting. Ms. Kelly explained she submitted her resignation due to the Board decreasing her position's (and other elected official) benefits in February 2007. Ms. Kelly decided to continue running for the position in March of 2007 as there is a lot to do and she decided to withdraw her resignation effective today as she understands the Board is re-considering the health insurance issue. The Board thanked Ms. Kelly for her work and stated they want to review the issue again to retain employees.

5. Committees

- **Resignation:** Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to accept the resignation of George Every from the Town Lands Committee and send him a letter of thanks; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to accept Roland Weeman's resignation from the Board of Appeals and Pipeline Advisory Committee; motion passed 3-0.

- **Appointment(s):** Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to appoint William Hitchcock to the Town Lands Committee. There was a discussion regarding the attendance of Harbor & Waterfront Committees and Town Lands Committee. Selectman Haible stated the Harbor & Waterfront Committee is full with the possibility of looking for one new member and Mr. Hitchcock's first choice is this committee. Selectman Henderson withdrew his motion and moved to appoint Chris Coffin to the Town Lands Committee as it is his first preference, seconded by Chairman Alexander; motion passed 3-0.

6. Town Commitment for Path Improvements with the Maine Conservation Corps. at Giant's Stairs: Tony Barrett, of the Recreation Committee, stated the Recreation and Town Lands Committee have worked on a proposal to improve the Giant's Stairs path and now look to the Selectmen to make a commitment to the Maine Conservation Corps for 9 weeks in the fall of 2008 to do the work. Mr. Barrett explained this contingent is dependent upon the approval of the Town's grant application. Chairman Alexander stated this proposal is not without concern as he has heard from some people. Mr. Barrett stated community volunteers will be involved with this project. Mr. Barrett explained this grant requires a 20% match that will come from volunteers and some future and past Town funding. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to authorize the Town Administrator or her designee to apply to the Maine Conservation Corps for a 6-person team in 2008 to make improvements to the Giant's Stairs path; motion passed 3-0.

7. Water and Septic Request for Proposals: Administrator Eiane explained that in 2001, the Town had a phase 1 of the Water and Septic Study performed that began to outline some problems in the Town and concerns we should have about septic system and aquifer capacities. We now find we need to update that data and the CPIC needs the data to assist them with identifying the rural and village areas. We also are looking for data pertaining to road salt usage. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve this RFP/RFQ; motion passed 3-0. Ken Cichon, Chair of CPIC, explained this study will assist the CPIC in their work but that this study's main focus is to update water and septic data Town-wide. The Board thanked Ken Cichon for all his volunteer work to the Town.

8. CPIC Request for Secret Ballot: Ken Cichon, Chair of CPIC, explained the two proposals that the Committee is proposing for vote at this March Town Meeting; vegetative buffer on State roads and subdivision amendments. Chairman Alexander questioned whether the CPIC will be looking into the issue of land being removed from tree growth and being placed into open space under the cluster option in the Subdivision Ordinance. Mr. Cichon responded tree growth has not been addressed at the CPIC or Planning Board level. The Board discussed the proposals with Mr. Cichon. Mr. Cichon requested, on behalf of the CPIC, these two proposals be voted on at Town Meeting by secret ballot. Selectman Henderson stated some concerns about having items voted on by secret ballot and suggested that if these items are voted on by secret ballot that the proposals should be explained during the Town Meeting. Mr. Cichon explained the Committee would like the items voted on by secret ballot as the Town Meeting is difficult to present the proposals and the Committee desires the greatest number of voters to determine these issues as they affect everyone in Town. The Board will further consider the request.

9. Petition Calling for Board of Selectmen to Act Re: Iran: Victor Skorapa explained that some of the people who pulled this resolution together want it on a Town Meeting warrant and others believe Selectmen signatures and sending letters to our legislators is sufficient. Mr. Skorapa stated that although the issues in Iran are federal issues, he encouraged local action. Mr. Skorapa read a newspaper article regarding war. The Board discussed the different options of signing a resolution at the Selectmen level or placing this item on the Town Meeting warrant. The Board agreed to consider placing this item on the warrant voluntarily without a formal petition with the appropriate number of signatures. The date to place an item on the warrant by petition is January 25, 2008. David Chipman spoke in favor of this petition.

10. Discussion Regarding Recycling Center/Transfer Station Hours on December 24 & 31: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve closing the Recycling Center and Transfer Station at noon on December 24 and December 31 (provided there is no unfair labor practice with the Union); motion passed 3-0. David Chipman spoke in favor of this.

11. Authorization of the Warrant: Administrator Eiane recommended approval of warrants 63 and payroll warrant 55. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve warrant 63 in the amount of \$702,054.78; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve payroll warrant 55 in the amount of \$15,040.39; motion passed 3-0.

12. Approval of the Minutes: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve the minutes of November 29; motion passed 3-0.

13. Public Comment: Mark Wallace made a plea to the Townspeople to drive slowly during storm days to help reduce the usage of salt treatment. Mr. Wallace stated he plans to run for Selectman this year. Howard Nannen spoke in favor of the CPIC proposals being voted on by secret ballot. Norman Burns expressed concerns about the 2 bucket limit of sand at the Recycling Center and asked if he could be allowed to get more to assist the older people that cannot get sand themselves. The Board discussed different options and decided to further consider the issue.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Treasurer's Report