

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2008
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on February 21, 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 Haible to adopt the agenda as printed; motion passed 3-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane recommended the hire of Melissa Swanson, of Bailey Island, for Planning Assistant. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to hire Melissa Swanson; motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane explained that the Town of Brunswick invited Harpswell, and other communities, to a meeting regarding issues with Comcast. Administrator Eiane stated she heard a lot of concerns about Comcast and asked the public to report any concerns they may have about Comcast service to the Harpswell Community Broadcast Corporation. Administrator Eiane reported that Freeport and Topsham have had difficulty renewing their franchise agreements with Comcast. Administrator Eiane reminded the public of the planned celebration at the Old Town Meeting House for the Town's 250th incorporation at 7:00 p.m. on Friday. Administrator Eiane reported the Town sought a legal opinion regarding an employee running for Selectman. The Town originally sought a verbal opinion from MMA and now has a written opinion from the Town Attorney that differs from MMA. The 7-page opinion ultimately recommends that if the employee is successful in becoming Selectman, that the Town should seek a declaratory judgment as to the situation. Administrator Eiane announced the generator at Harpswell Islands School is no longer functioning and SAD's position is to not replace it as it has not been needed. If the Town believes a generator is needed at that site then perhaps the School would make the site generator ready (being discussed at the School Board meeting tonight). Administrator Eiane reviewed that the Town had sent out a RFP/RFQ for a phase II drinking water & septic study and three responses were received; Sebago Technics \$20,093; Ransom Environmental \$21,210; and AE Hodson \$38,040. Administrator Eiane recommended a workgroup review the proposals and report back to the Selectmen with a recommendation; the Selectmen agreed.

3. Selectmen's Announcements: Selectman Henderson encouraged the public to also file concerns about the lack of Comcast service where it is not available in certain locations. Selectman Henderson reported on a meeting he attended last evening at the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust where the Casco Bay Keeper presented the importance of clean waters, limitations on wharves and pump out stations. Selectman Henderson recommended that Jim Hays, Harbormaster, meet with the Casco Bay Keeper. Selectman Haible announced that the Forecaster ran an article stating she and Jim Henderson were working behind the scenes with Harpswell Coastal Coalition and she assured the public that she is very transparent and is not working behind any scenes. Selectman Haible stated she and Administrator Eiane attended a meeting with the Department of Economic Development regarding the Navy Air Station and it was quite informative.

4. Report from Road Commissioner: Bob Venard, Road Commissioner, reported the road surface analysis report is completed which provides information on which roads to improve and to what extent. Mr. Venard stated this subject is being reviewed by the Budget Advisory Committee. Mr. Venard explained that due to multiple storms in December, the Town's budget is over expended and that the Road Maintenance category absorbed the costs since that category was not completely used. Mr. Venard stated the salt usage is lower than

the last five year history use but that salt is becoming a precious commodity. Mr. Venard explained less salt is the goal and that the public needs to slow down during inclement weather.

5. Committee Reports

- **Mitchell Field:** Judith Redwine, chair of the Mitchell Field Committee, explained the Committee has developed short term goals including: removing the fence at the beach which could be done with volunteers; install a new security fence at the pier; dismantle the generators and possibly the buildings; remove the water tower and initiate a 6 months process to open Mitchell Field at Rt. 123 (which may include installing boulders or a split rail fence. Selectman Haible explained the Committee would like to schedule a brainstorming session with Jeff Sneddon and Katrina Van Dusen to discuss various funding sources.
- **Town Lands:** Melinda Richter, Chair of the Town Lands Committee, recommended Chris Coffin as the Project Coordinator for the Giant's Stairs project; the Board agreed. Ms. Richter announced the Committee would like to hold open houses at Town landings in celebration of the Town's 250 celebration. Ms. Richter stated the Committee would like the Board to consider leasing the Town wharf at Pott's Point since it appears to be used by a limited few. There appears to be a problem with multiple dingys tying up long-term at the floats which doesn't allow for other boats to come in and is near impossible for the Harbormaster to enforce. The Committee believes since the wharf is used by a limited few that leases it will allow their use to continue at no cost to the Town. The Board asked for further information such as the people that take full advantage of the site and why the Harbor & Waterfront Ordinance doesn't appear to be enforceable.

6. Discussion Regarding Animal Control Ordinance Re: Mitchell Field: Administrator Eiane explained she receives several complaints about the dogs that run off lease at Mitchell Field and instead are supposed to be under the voice control of their owners. Some people are fearful and perhaps the Town wants to consider requiring leashes or a time period where dogs are allowed to run loose. Lee Johnson, Animal Control Officer, recommended a leash rule at all times or a restricted area that allows the dogs to run free. Selectman Haible suggested looking at the Bowdoin College program where the dogs are allowed to roam loose during this program. The Town Administrator will get back to the Board with her research.

7. Consultant Mike Wing to Summarize Salary Survey Report: Mike Wing explained he reviewed seven positions; Town Administrator; Deputy Town Administrator; Recycling/Transfer Station Manager; Recreation Director; Planner; Code Enforcement Officer; and Harbormaster. The job descriptions for the positions were revised and Mr. Wing reviewed his salary survey report.

8. Harpswell Coastal Coalition Proposal: Chairman Alexander requested a signed proposal from the Coalition before they began their presentation. Mr. Duvall signed a copy of the proposal. Mr. Duvall stated there has been no behind the scenes activity with Selectman Haible or Selectman Henderson. Selectman Henderson acknowledged he spoke with Attorney Bannen regarding the HCC proposal. Chairman Alexander requested a list of the HCC directors. Chris Duvall explained the HCC proposal; the proposal is to make the Mitchell Field Plan permanent and limit uses such as heavy industry (a definition to be worked on) with an easement and the Town continues to own the property. Chris Duvall stated the Coalition is not rushing this decision to be on the March warrant. CV Noyes asked if this could still be on the March Town Warrant; Administrator Eiane responded there needs to be time to validate signatures and the legalities of the article. Mr. Duvall stated they are not locked to March Town Meeting. Bob Venard spoke against secret ballot items.

9. Consider Appointment to the Governor's Advisory Council: Administrator Eiane explained Jay Chace was the Town's previous appointee and she recommended Carol Tukey, the new Town Planner to be part

of this council and to keep the Town informed of what's happening with the Brunswick Naval Station. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to appoint Carol Tukey to this Board; motion passed 3-0.

10. Consider Carry-Over Amounts from 2007 Fiscal Year to 2008: Administrator Eiane recommended the Board carry over \$765,720 in designated funds. The Board asked a few questions and Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve \$765,720 in carryover; motion passed 3-0. (List of approved carryovers attached as further reference).

11. Consider 2008 Budget Items: The Board asked about certain budget increases. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve \$1,271,600 in General Government; motion passed 3-0. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve \$812,880 in the public works area; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve \$822,984 in protection & safety category; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to approve \$27,230 in health & welfare; motion passed 3-0. Administrator Eiane expressed a desire to establish a heating program for income restricted persons and will report back to the Selectmen in the future once available figures are known.

12. Authorization of the Warrant: Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve warrant 4 in the amount of \$79,337.67; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible, seconded by Chairman Alexander to approve payroll warrant PR4 in the amount of \$16,225.09; motion passed 3-0.

13. Approval of the Minutes: Selectman Haible noted that on the wharf application that she seconded the motion with the condition that all information outlined in the applicant's DEP application are conditions. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to approve the minutes of January 10 as amended; motion passed 3-0.

14. Public Comment: Jim Knight spoke in favor of a taxpayer knowing what the effects the budget will have on the mill rate. Mr. Knight spoke against the Town Lands proposal to lease the Town dock as it is used by many, many people. Mr. Knight expressed his concern that the Town's Economic Disclosure Policy be followed when it comes to the HCC proposal and the Town Lands proposal. Bill Allen spoke about the need for the Town to get together regarding the use of Mitchell Field and to bring jobs to the Town and to the State. Mark Wallace stated that despite the legal opinion that makes it seem difficult for him to run for Selectman, he wants the public to know he doesn't scare easily and to vote for him.

15. Adjournment: The Board unanimously adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Carryover list