

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2007
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on October 4, 2007

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Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator

Executive Session

At 5:32 p.m. Chairman Alexander called the Meeting to order. He moved to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA, Section 405(6)(c) to talk with Washburn and Doughty; seconded by Selectman Henderson and passed 3-0. At 6:25 Selectmen returned to open session.

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 broadcast live on Harpswell Community Television [No recording of the meeting is available due to technical difficulties, therefore, the minutes are reconstructed from the Administrator's notes of the meeting].

1. **Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted as printed.
2. **Town Administrator's Report:** Town Administrator Kristi Eiane reminded the public that the first half of the 2007 tax bill is due September 15.
3. **Selectmen's Announcements:** [There are no notes of the Selectmen's announcements].
4. **Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
5. **Mitchell Field Update:** Judith Redwine, Chair of the Mitchell Field Committee, reported that the final presentation of the Mitchell Field Master Plan will occur next Thursday, September 13, 5:30 p.m. at the Selectmen's Meeting.
6. **Consider Wharf Application Tabled from August 23 for James Kachadorian, 26 Hopkins Island Road, Map 62, Lot 132:** The Board was provided a document stating that the use of the proposed wharf will be residential only. Codes Officer William Wells was present. The Board voted unanimously to approve the application as it does not interfere with navigation or cause an injury to the rights of others.
7. **Discussion Regarding Town Sign Ordinance:** Melinda Richter, owner of a small business on Orr's Island since 2000, asked for an open dialogue with the Town about its recent enforcement of the Sign Ordinance. She would have preferred an informational session with the Codes Enforcement Office before receiving a notice of violation for a sign that has been in place for a number of years. She questioned whether the enforcement was occurring consistently across the Town, and if changes could be proposed that would reduce the 33-foot setback requirement. She also asked the Board to consider its current fee schedule for the Board of Appeals. Selectman Haible suggested a forum be held with businesses and Codes concerning the Sign Ordinance language, and indicated that the Codes Office should have done more public outreach and communication prior to its recent enforcement efforts. Selectman Haible indicated she would contact DOT to talk about state regulations and the resulting effect on towns with narrow roads. She also requested a comprehensive list of businesses so that Codes would have a tool to notify and inform all businesses at the same time. Selectman Haible moved to have the Town staff compile a comprehensive and updated list of businesses, seconded by Selectman Alexander and passed 3-0.

8. Select Municipal Representative to Serve on Regional Planning Committee Regarding School

Consolidation: Chairman Alexander moved to appoint Selectman Haible as the municipal representative, seconded by Selectman Henderson for purposes of discussion. The Selectmen discussed the purpose of the Regional Planning Committee and other issues associated with school consolidation. They wanted more time to consider this appointment. Chairman Alexander withdrew his motion; Selectman Haible withdrew her motion. It was moved by Chairman Alexander to discuss on September 18 [Administrative Meeting] and vote on September 20, seconded by Selectman Haible and passed 3-0.

9. Call for At-Large Representative for Regional Planning Committee Regarding School Consolidation:

It was agreed to make this appointment on September 20.

10. Consider Abatements and Supplements: The Selectmen voted unanimously to approve abatements for Map 39, Lot 45 (valuation amount of \$177,500 abated), Map 57, Lot 13 (valuation amount of \$49,400 abated) and personal property (valuation amount \$11,800 abated). [See attachment for details]. Selectmen voted unanimously to approve supplements for Map 2, Lot 54Z (valuation amount of \$27,641 supplemented) and Map 57, Lot 15 (valuation amount of \$49,400 supplemented). [See attachment for details].

11. Appointments: Emergency Services Study Committee: It was unanimously voted to appoint David Mercier, Charlie Johnson, Robert Miller, Mary Ann Nahf, Robert Hawkes and David Fey as full members of the Emergency Services Study Committee, to appoint Joyce Thomas, William Beazley and Helen "Cricket" Tupper as alternates, and to appoint Kristi Eiane (Town Administrator), Marguerite Kelly (Town Treasurer) and William Labbe (Emergency Management Agent) as ex officio members.

12. Discussion Regarding Utilities for Cribstone Bridge Project: Town Administrator Kristi Eiane summarized a recent meeting held at the Cribstone Bridge with DOT and representatives from Verizon with regard to utility relocation. The State is planning to put the Cribstone Bridge Project (including the building of a temporary bridge) out to bid this fall. Since DOT cannot fund the utility relocation aspect (estimated to be about \$630,000), it must get a decision from the Town soon about its commitment to fund. Town Administrator Eiane suggested scheduling a meeting with Project Manager Jim Wentworth so that the Selectmen could get more specifics, especially with regard to the timeframe before considering what might be put before the voters in November.

13. Authorization of the Warrant: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator recommended approval of Warrant 48 in the amount of \$695,289.01 and Payroll Warrant 40 in the amount of \$14,327.89; both were unanimously approved.

14. Public Comment: Joanne Rogers, member of the M.S.A.D. # 75 School Board, commented on the Selectmen's remarks concerning school consolidation matters and objected to the use of her name in their earlier discussions.

15. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristi Eiane