

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2008
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on March 27, 2008

Page 1 of 3

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

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator and Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alexander at 6:35 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 added the following items to the agenda: 2a. Old Business; 3a. Consider Heating Assistance Program; 4a. Authorize Town Attorney on land use matter (map 53, lot 83), noting the Board met at 5:30 in Executive Session regarding this matter. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to adopt the agenda as amended; motion passed 3-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane announced that the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging has invited the Town to attend the Mayors for Meals event on Wednesday, March 19. This program hopes to bring attention to the Meals on Wheels Program and people will gather at the People Plus Center in Brunswick to put meals together. Administrator Eiane stated she and the Town Clerk will attend and there is one person in Harpswell on that day that needs a meal delivered. Administrator Eiane stated that three responses, Sebago Technics, MRLD and Spatial Alternatives, have been received in response to the CPIC Request for Proposals for consulting services. Administrator Eiane stated that an interview group comprised of her, chair and vice chair of the CPIC, chair of Planning Board, Town Planner and Selectman Henderson will perform interviews and return with a recommendation to the Board. Administrator Eiane announced the annual Town Report has arrived and will be mailed in the next couple of days and she encouraged residents to review it in preparation for Town Meeting. A postcard encouraging the non-resident taxpayers to retrieve their copy on-line or pick one up the next time in Harpswell has been mailed. Administrator Eiane extended her appreciation to Chairman Alexander for his service, his institutional knowledge and stated it has been a pleasure to work with him. Chairman Alexander responded that he was honored that the first Town Meeting was held in his ancestor's home and now he has served as Chairman in the Town's 250th year of incorporation.

2a. Old Business: Administrator Eiane explained a citizen's letter had been received requesting the Town place a sign encouraging the reduction of engine brake noise on the Mountain Road. Two local companies had been consulted and while one was concerned about the safety repercussions of such an action, another was agreeable as long as the brakes could be used when needed. Administrator recommended installing a sign and provided two possible options for language and stated the Town could not enforce without an ordinance. Selectman Henderson stated he walked up Holly Hill Road and found the residences are located a distance from the Mountain Road. Selectman Haible stated the location in question is a large hill. Chairman Alexander stated he believed it to be a safety issue and that heavy loaded trucks need use of their engine brakes at certain locations. The Board agreed to install a sign that reads "Use Engine Brake Only when Necessary" as that informs the driver the brakes may still be used if needed.

3. Selectmen's Announcements: Chairman Alexander stated there was a public hearing held on February 26 regarding the secret ballot and ordinance items. Chairman Alexander announced the Town's audited financial statements are now available for public review. Selectman Henderson stated that there was a Regional Planning Committee meeting held last night which resulted in certain recommendations regarding the EPS formula and reviewed his summary sheet (attached as further reference). Selectman Henderson stated there are many factors involved with possible consolidation with Lisbon such as the special needs funding (ex: free school lunches) may be in jeopardy since the unit's population would be greater than 20,000 which affects the federal funding

formula. Selectman Henderson stated there is another meeting next week and public hearings regarding consolidation with Lisbon on March 15 (a.m. at Lisbon and p.m. in Topsham). Selectman Haible stated she dreaded the day of Chairman Alexander leaving. She believed Sam treated her well and although they haven't always agreed, he always treated her with respect and she was honored to serve on the Board with him. Selectman Haible presented Chairman Alexander with a bottle of red wine in his honor. Selectman Henderson concurred with Selectman Haible's statements and expressed his appreciation for Chairman Alexander's knowledge and respect to accomplish Town business.

3a. Heating Assistance Program: Chairman Alexander explained there is a new proposed article for the warrant; proposing to raise \$10,000 for heating assistance to help families with the high cost of fuel. Administrator Eiane explained that many other towns are following this trend to assist property owners with high heating costs and this program is designed to help where LIPHEAP and General Assistance does not. Administrator Eiane explained the program is modeled off the federal poverty levels of 200% where LIPHEAP is 150% or 170% for certain emergency situations. For example, based on the 200% level, a family of 4 income level would be \$42,408 and a family of one would be \$20,808. Chairman Alexander stated the price of oil for the Town is less than market and households are limited to 200 gallons and Selectman Henderson stated that income requirements would be necessary for this program. Chairman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to place this article on the warrant; motion passed 3-0. The Board recommended the article.

4. Sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant 2008: Administrator Eiane reviewed that the new heating assistance article is number 39 and the flood plain proposed amendments has been added at the end (number 42) so that the rest of the article numbers match the Town Report. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve the warrant including the articles approved tonight; motion passed 3-0.

4a. Authorize Town Attorney on Land Use Matter, Map 53, Lot 83: Chairman Alexander explained the Board held an executive session earlier to speak with the Town Attorney regarding the land use violations on Map 53, Lot 83. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to authorize the Town Attorney to finalize the resolution of the land use violation and 17 Wallace Shore Extension (Map 53, Lot 83) pursuant to the terms outlined in a letter from the property owner's lawyer dated 2/27/08; and to authorize the Code Enforcement Officer to execute the consent agreement on the Town's behalf; motion passed 3-0.

5. Discussion Regarding Bike/Pedestrian Path: Selectman Haible explained that a Planner with Midcoast Business Development and Planning asked if Harpswell would be interested in developing a bike path. The Board asked the Recreation Committee to look into the idea and the Committee has responded with a recommendation to not pursue the issue at this time. The Committee does recommend asking MDOT to pave road shoulders on the portions of the roads they work on. Liz Bouve, Recreation Director, agreed with Selectman Haible that an off road path would be best but a very difficult undertaking to work with potential property owners. Selectman Haible and Selectman Henderson asked that the issue come back for review in the next few months.

6. Consider Extension on Open Space Contract: Mary Ann Nahf, chair of Conservation Commission, explained the Commission has worked with FB Environmental for a year and the process has taken longer than expected. The Commission would like to extend FB's contract until July at which time FB will make the final presentation to the Board. This extension would allow time for a proper re-write and vetting through other committees. Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to extend FB Environmental's contract through July, 2008; motion passed 3-0.

- 7. Authorization of the Warrant:** Chairman Alexander moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve warrant 10 in the amount of \$34,530.38; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Selectman Henderson to approve payroll warrant 9 in the amount of \$14,322.75; motion passed 3-0.
- 8. Approval of the Minutes:** Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Haible to approve the February 14 minutes as printed; motion passed 3-0. Selectman Haible moved, seconded by Chairman Alexander to approve the minutes of February 21 as printed; motion passed 3-0.
- 9. Public Comment:** Mark Wallace thanked Chairman Alexander for his service. Mr. Wallace expressed concern about the proposed 40-foot buffer and encouraged the public to vote at Harpswell Islands School or by absentee at the Town Office. Donna Frisoli stated the Regional Planning Committee meeting will be televised on Tuesday night and the February 26 public hearing will play tonight after the Selectmen's meeting. Ms. Frisoli stated there is dirty campaign literature about David Chipman being circulated and the information is not true. Deb Levensailor stated she does not agree with personal attacks and also thanked Chairman Alexander for his service. Mark Wallace also spoke in favor of a clean campaign. The Board did not approve of personal attacks and Selectman Haible asked whoever is circulating the information to withdraw it.
- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Selectman Henderson's RPC Summary