

Board of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2008
Harpswell Town Office
Approved on June 19, 2008

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Selectmen Present: James S. Henderson and Mark E. Wallace

Staff Present: Kristi Eiane, Town Administrator; Terri Sawyer, Deputy Town Administrator; Carol Tukey, Town Planner; Jim Hays, Harbormaster and Marguerite Kelly, Treasurer

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Selectman Henderson 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: Selectman Henderson amended the agenda by adding Town Lands Stewards Policy under Old Business. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to adopt the agenda as amended; motion passed 2-0.

2. Town Administrator's Report: Administrator Eiane reminded the public of the school budget vote meeting on June 8 at the Orion Performing Arts Center in Topsham. The budget figure is adopted at the June 8 meeting and then voted on at the polls on June 10. The polls are open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at three sites: Merriconege Grange, Old Orr's Island Schoolhouse and the Cundy's Harbor Community Building. Administrator Eiane announced that representatives from Midcoast Community Action will take applications in Harpswell for LHEAP beginning in August. Administrator Eiane encouraged those who anticipate needing heating assistance to make appointments, especially given the rapidly escalating price of oil. There is also Town program for fuel assistance, but the program requires that an applicant apply to obtain LHEAP first. Judith Redwine commented that the Harpswell Festival will be raising funds to donate to the Town program. Administrator Eiane reported that a representative from the Curtis Memorial Library will meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on June 18 at 3:00 p.m. to review financial matters. Administrator Eiane announced that the children's art show, part of the Town's 250th celebration, is now on display at the Town Office.

3. Selectmen's Announcements: Selectman Henderson stated the Maine State Housing Authority offers low income loans for energy audits and he encourages people to apply and suggested this be part of the Town's fuel assistance program. Selectman Henderson reported that the Communications Advisory Committee held a meeting with a representative from Comcast regarding the franchise. The Committee will be sending a survey to residents regarding basic cable needs and desires in the near future.

4. Old Business

- **Regional County Mutual Aid Agreement:** Administrator Eiane stated that the Board reviewed this item at the last meeting and wanted to know who is responsible for calling the emergency. Administrator Eiane reported that any community can call for assistance from another community as the agreement is among the towns and not with Cumberland County. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Agreement (dated June 5); motion passed 2-0.
- **Town Lands Steward Policy:** Selectman Henderson reviewed that the Board approved the Town Lands Stewards policy on May 8 and that it was circulated to the Town Lands Committee resulting in a proposed change. Selectman Henderson read the current approved policy and the proposed change which allows one person to be steward of more than one property. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to amend the policy as read; motion passed 2-0.

5. DOT Transportation Enhancement Grant for Mitchell Field: Carol Tukey, Town Planner, explained that the Mitchell Field Implementation Committee became aware of a transportation enhancement grant opportunity by the Dept. of Transportation and that the Master Plan was used in preparing for the grant. Ms. Tukey explained the grant request is to make improvements to the main road, trails, two parking lots and an assessment of the entrance and its relocation. The purpose of the grant from DOT is to create connections within a community, Ms. Tukey proposes that the village area south of Mitchell Field will connect to Mitchell Field in the first phase with a walking/bicycle path. The second phase is to continue on Route 123. Selectman Henderson questioned how the Town match figure of \$773,000 was derived. Ms. Tukey responded that the Town engineers (Woodard & Curran) were involved in calculating the estimates to accomplish the plan. Administrator Eiane read the last page that states “These signatures indicate the willingness/ability to provide the designated level of matching funds and a willingness to enter into a municipal/State agreement...” and noted that the matching funds have not been approved and questioned if they could be requested at a Town Meeting in the future. Ms. Tukey responded that she has been assured by DOT that the grant could be approved and then brought for a Town Meeting approval but that those applications without a match at the time of application will not take preference during the review. Judith Redwine spoke about the proposed relocation of the entrance to Mitchell Field. Ms. Tukey spoke about the engineer’s recommendation with the main road; to reclaim the existing road and lay new tar and that the grant includes an assessment of the existing road bed with line borings. Selectman Wallace stated he doesn’t agree with borings and that he would look at the site as well as the Road Commissioner at Ms. Tukey’s request. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to authorize Carol Tukey to sign and submit this DOT enhancement grant application to DOT for work at Mitchell Field; motion passed 2-0. Selectman Henderson noted that this grant doesn’t obligate the Town until Town Meeting approves the matching amount.

6. Authorization to Remove Abandoned Vessels: Jim Hays, Harbormaster, reported there are 3 abandoned boats on Garrison Cove beach that need to be removed. The owners of two of the boats are deceased and the families do not want to claim ownership. Mr. Hays has spoken with the owner of the third boat who has indicated he will take care of it. Selectman Wallace expressed concern about the public leaving unwanted boats on Town property and the Town having to dispose them. Mr. Hays requested the Board authorize him to have the two boats without owners removed at the Town’s expense and to send a letter to the third boat owner giving the owner 30 days to remove it. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace with respect to the two vessels for unknown ownership, the Board determines that the abandoned vessel constitutes a threat to public health, safety and welfare and authorizes the Harbor Master to remove the two vessels immediately at the expense of the Town; motion passed 2-0. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to notify the owner of the third vessel to remove it within 30 days and if not then the Harbor Master may remove it at the expense of the owner; motion passed 2-0.

7. Release Deed: Administrator Eiane explained the purpose of the deed is to release any right the Town has in the smaller parcels that were transferred out from the larger Map 3, Lot 73 parcel. The new owners paid the portion of the 2005 and 2006 taxes that applies to the portions they acquired. The transactions occurred prior to the Town foreclosing and being the owners of the Map 3, Lot 73 parcel. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to sign the release deed to Terrance and Julia Kenney regarding a portion of property from Tax Map 3, Lot 73; motion passed 2-0. Marguerite Kelly, Treasurer, reiterated the Kenney’s paid a pro-ration of the taxes due and the release in interest is only for that portion.

8. Appointments for June 10 Election: Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to appoint Susan V. Lowery, Megan Hubbard and Janet Coombs as wardens; Patricia E. Leary, Lou D. Brown and Kerry L. Matteson as deputy wardens; and Sheila G. Pulver, Helen C. Tupper, Christina A. Weeks and Melissa Swanson as election/ballot clerks; motion passed 2-0.

9. Liquor License Renewal Application for Middlebay Seafood, Inc.: Administrator Eiane stated that a hearing was not required for a renewal license and that there are no apparent land use violations or disorderly conduct complaints for the site. Selectman Henderson asked if anyone would like to comment on the application; no one did. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to approve the renewal liquor license for Middlebay Seafood; motion passed 2-0.

10. Gift for Mitchell Field: Selectman Henderson read portions of the letter from the Whites regarding their desire to donate two granite benches for Mitchell Field and read the warrant article that allows the Selectmen to accept gifts of money. Administrator Eiane recommended that \$398 be donated and that the Town order the benches directly. The benches are proposed for 1/3 and 2/3 down the center road and Judith Redwine, chair of Mitchell Field Implementation Committee will speak with the Whites regarding the exact location. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to accept the offer of Peter and Deborah White and request a check for \$398 to allow the Town to order the benches directly; motion passed 2-0.

11. Authorization of the Warrant: Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to approve warrant 34 in the amount of \$54,719.81; motion passed 2-0. Administrator Eiane stated that due to the Town's policy, one Selectman can sign the payroll warrant and therefore a vote is not needed for payroll warrant 23 in the amount of \$13,964.44.

12. Approval of the Minutes: The Board made some changes to the May 22 minutes. Selectman Henderson moved, seconded by Selectman Wallace to approve the May 16 and May 22 (as amended) minutes; motion passed 2-0.

13. Public Comment: Glen Gott voiced his opinions about the May 14 Special Town Meeting and his disagreement with the Selectmen bringing the Peace for Iran issue to a vote. Selectman Henderson responded that the Board was required by law to bring an issue to a vote that was submitted by a legal petition with the appropriate signatures. Kate Chipman stated there were a lot of misrepresentations regarding the petition that she wished had not occurred.

14. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri-Lynn Sawyer

Attachments: Town Lands Stewards Policy