

Stockton Springs Select Board Minutes

May 20, 2025 Meeting

Attendees:

| | |
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| Select Board Members Present | Elizabeth Lenharr (Liz Lenharr) Marsha Shute - Chair Betsy Bradley John Bellino – Interim Town Manager |
| Select Board Members Absent | |
| Recording Secretary | Sarah Hardy |
| Community members | Approximately 5-6 community members were in attendance for some or all of the meeting. Speaker names were captured in the notes as best as possible. No attendance list was captured. |

Yellow Highlight indicates NEW or not-yet-completed action items.

Green Highlight indicates COMPLETED action items.

Blue Highlight indicates incomplete notes, based on in-person note taking where something was missed. May need to go to tape backup.

| # | Agenda | Notes |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | Roll Call: Call to Order | Marsha Shute called meeting to order at 8:35am roll call – see attendance above |
| 2. | Adjustment to the agenda | Adding approval of minutes from 4/28 Agenda will be reorganized so that executive session is at the end of the select board meeting. |
| 3. | Approval of Minutes | At the previous select board meeting a question was raised about one statement that was incomplete in the notes. No one in attendance could remember what the statement was so the recording secretary was going to review a recording to complete the thought, unfortunately the meeting wasn't recorded so the recording secretary removed the portion of the sentence that was incomplete as follows: <i>original:</i> <i>Toupie – Herb from Searsport Water is working on a new GIS map of the zone that will make it more obvious when a plan falls within the wellhead protection area. She also talked to MMA about the ordinance, she indicated that MMA said the planning board has no authority</i> <i>new:</i> |

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| | | <p><i>Toupie – Herb from Searsport Water is working on a new GIS map of the zone that will make it more obvious when a plan falls within the wellhead protection area. She also talked to MMA about the ordinance.</i></p> <p>The select board was satisfied with this change.</p> <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to approve the April 28, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Liz Lenharr, the motion passed unanimously</p> |
| 4. | Resilience Contract | <p>Signatures were already done on the contract by the select board. The grant starts today so work may commence, but the money won't arrive for 4-6 weeks. No spending will occur till then because the town doesn't have any room in the budget at this point in the fiscal year to front any expenditures.</p> |
| 5. | Public Comment – Any Topic | <p>A. Public none</p> <p>B. Select Board none</p> <p>C. Town Manager/Including Routing Updates none</p> |
| 6. | Workshop Session: Annual Report Letter | <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to move into workshop at 8:38am</p> <p>The select board conversed on wording for the Annual Report Letter. Betsy Bradley suggested some items to include in the paragraph starting with "Some". These were successes they wanted to highlight including:</p> <p>Park trails maintenance, purchasing an ambulance, getting the new fire brush truck into operation, the trainings that have been happening that are sponsored by the EMS/Fire team, installation of a new roof, community resilience grant work and award, grants procured by Amy Drinkwater for EMS, advancement of broadband extension toward Stockton Springs, the work by the planning board and code enforcement officer to develop the solar moratorium until such time the town develops an ordinance about solar development, the purchase and installation of new docks for the harbor (funded by SHIP grant and matching non-tax payer money), thanks for Loren and John and staff as everyone worked through the selection of a new town manager.</p> |

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| | | <p>The select board continued to work on editing the wording on the document until they reached consensus that it was done.</p> <p>Betsy Bradley will email the finished version to the Clerks to include with other town meeting documents.</p> |
| 7. | Spirit of America Award | To be discussed in executive session so that name of the person receiving the award will remain a surprise. |
| 8. | Town Meeting Warrant Initial Review | This was tabled till the next select board meeting because select board members are not available today after 9:45. By reviewing/reading at the 5/27/25 meeting that's 2 weeks exactly before the town votes on June 10. This is sufficient time. |
| 9. | Executive Session: 1 M.R.S.A ss (405) (6) (A) Town Manager Contract | <p>Marsha Shute made a motion to move into executive session at 9:20am, seconded by Liz Lenharr, approved unanimously.</p> <p>The board came out of executive session at 11:01am</p> <p>Per John Bellino the Town Manager contract was reviewed, discussed, and signed.</p> |
| 10. | Adjourn | Marsha Shute made a motion to adjourn at 11:01am, seconded by Elizabeth Lenharr and passed by unanimous vote. |

Open Action item list:

| Date raised | Action | Assignment | Status |
|-------------|---|---|----------|
| 1/27/25 | <p>Create warrants and plan for June town meeting:</p> <p>1. Broadband, next phase (this will be June meeting)</p> <p>4/14- Angie mentioned that we may need to hold the meeting outside as long as weather permits since the crowd will be very large (for solar discussion).</p> <p>Can we also use the upstairs? How would we broadcast to all attendees?</p> <p>Also need to figure out where chairs are, or get more?</p> <p>Do we want to go with the assumption that it's outside unless it's bad weather. In covid we had people in cars and used flags for voting.</p> <p>As of 5/12 this is still in process, will be worked on this week with goal of getting it done 2 weeks prior to going to print (for next meeting review the</p> | <p>John Bellino and select board for the warrant.</p> <p>Towns report is Diane.</p> | Pending. |

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| | <p>warrant at select meeting, get to board members electronically before next meeting).</p> <p>Logistics: If the weather’s good we will do it outside, may not have enough chairs.</p> <p>We will have microphones for the moderator and question askers. Only 144 people sitting or 202 people standing capacity.</p> <p>Need more chairs – to be discussed this week.</p> | | |
| 2/10/25 | <p>Since the cancelation of Tally Ho purchase, the \$140,000 needs to be placed in the correct firehouse building account (separate from the fire station equipment account)</p> <p>4/14 – it was voted to be taken out of the unappropriated fund. So, it will have to be on the warrant for the town meeting to go from the unappropriated fund to the fire building capital reserve account.</p> | John Bellino | <p>Pending</p> <p>5/12 – this will be included in the warrant, Diane has suggestion for how this should be written.</p> |
| 2/10/2025 | <p>Bring the list of properties (tax forfeiture, gifted, town-owned) to be sold by the town for review at a future select board meeting.</p> <p>Will be presented to the board when it’s closer to the town meeting – in July.</p> | John Bellino | |
| 3/10/25 evening | <p>John will see if we have a place for policies to be stored online and if so will post the “keep the heat on” policy on the town website.</p> <p>4/14 – not yet defined. John will check with Amber to add one.</p> <p>5/12 – a review of policies needs to be done to see which are appropriate for sharing and which are internal use only.</p> | John Bellino | |
| 4/14/25 | <p>Susan Henkel – last year about this time she wondered if we could have one of our school board representatives attend this meeting. At the time they couldn’t because they worked during the day. Now that we have evening meetings, Chris Downing would like to come if the select</p> | John Bellino | |

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| | <p>board would invite him. John to work on getting him to join an evening meeting soon</p> <p>5/12 – john has been in touch with the superintendent, they are aware of our schedule. Betsy – have they been invited to a specific meeting? Sadie – can we ask the Stockton school board member. She and Diane suggest specially they are specifically asked for a specific meeting. John suggests we have a regular meeting with a member of the school board. Betsy suggests making sure there is an agenda item for their attendance so folks can attend. The school budget is increasing \$400,000. John will reach out to set that up.</p> | | |
| 4/28/25 | Reach out to Seaboard Bank to see if the interest on our money market account can be increased | John Bellino | In process |
| 4/28/25 | <p>Related to non-emergency use of generator: Action – take up the Noise ordinance before the June meeting and update it so that it meets state standards, also look at other towns. John assigned. Consider making an ordinance that limits long term use of generators for non-emergency use</p> <p>5/12 – this would need to be worked on during the year and take into effect in 2026. In the meantime, the specific issue has been resolved. This will remain on this action item list for at least a year till 2026 town meeting</p> | John Bellino | |
| 4/28/25 | Set up a speed board on Church St John took action to speak to Darren about setting that up | John Bellino | |
| 4/28/25 | Extending the 40 MPH area on Rt 1 from the 1A intersection back to the Searsport town line. Action John Bellino– put this on the next agenda. (May 12) On the agenda, still to do. | John Bellino | |
| 5/12/25 | Related to a check for \$1000 from Acadian Seaplants, why have they sent the check? The town has never gotten one before (at least as far as can be remembered). | John Bellino | |

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| | <p>John Bellino to talk to harbor committee. He will also call the company or neighboring towns who they also work with.</p> <p>There was a suggestion that perhaps the company should have been paying for the privilege of harvesting from our town's shores.</p> | | |
| 5/12/25 | <p>Regarding getting a grant from MCOG about funding for the comprehensive plan</p> <p>John to attend the next resilience committee meeting to talk about this more.</p> | John Bellino | |
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Completed Action items:

| Date raised | Action | Assignment | Status |
|-------------|---|--------------|--|
| 2/24/2025 | John will have a Stockton springs draft of the tax acquired property's sales policy ready for the next meeting (March 10, 2025) | John Bellino | Discussed in 2/24/25 select board notes Completed draft reviewed in 3/10 meeting. |
| 2/24/2025 | Create a clean copy of the Keep the Heat on policy and bring back to next meeting (March 10, 2025) | John Bellino | Discussed in 2/24/25 select board notes Complete at 3/10/25 meeting |
| 2/24/2025 | Email a copy of the draft town budget to the select board for their review | John Bellino | In Process Discussed in 2/24/25 select board notes Complete – the budget review process began on 3/10/25 |

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| 2/24/2025 | Add solar moratorium to the next Select Board agenda (March 10,2025) | John Bellino | Complete. Reviewed moratorium at 3/10 meeting |
| 2/24/2025 | Get the 2025 Planning Board meeting minutes posted to the town website | John Bellino | In process – need to see if other minutes after January have been posted. Complete, acknowledged at 4/14 meeting |
| 3/10/25 Evening | John Bellino will post the updated draft of the Solar Project Moratorium to it to the website. It has to be available 10 days before the public hearing, it will need to be ready by Wednesday of this week. | John Bellino | complete |
| 3/10/2025 morning | Budget action: John to ask George about how they came up with this number for portable potties. 4/14 Still need to confirm but John thought it was done | John Bellino | Close – this is correct in the budget. Confirmed at the 5/12/25 meeting. |
| 3/10/2025 morning | Budget action: Amber – need to add a line to the budget for earned paid leave. She will work with John on that 4/14 – just for the ambulance that needs that, john is checking with Amy to see if that’s already in her budget. | John Bellino and Amber Poulin | Complete, confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |
| 4/14/25 | Amber – is going to talk to the auditor for how to handle this money in/out like a general ledger account for the community garden. She will let the John know what the auditor says | Amber | Complete, confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |
| 4/14/25 | Action item for John to check insurance for the lot where the community garden will be built – could there be an increase in rates? | John Bellino | Complete confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |

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| 4/14/25 | In the context of the personnel policy review John said he would have to check with Amy to see if the EMT budget included funds to pay for both paid time off and replacement workers when someone must take time off. | John Bellino | Answer is Yes. Complete. confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |
| 4/28/25 | Assign funds from Waldo County ARPA Action item: for John to assign the funds at a future meeting. This has to do with the 20,000 – it will be put toward items in the next year budget for front door, phone system and Trio municipal software. | John Bellino | complete confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |
| 4/28/25 | Related to non-emergency use of a generator: Toupie Rooney to visit the renters. She will go next week, to see if they move out on May 1 st . She will take a police officer. | Toupie Rooney | Complete – the renters moved out so there is no longer an issue with the generator. confirmed at 5/12/25 meeting |