



AGENDA

HARRISON SELECT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 13, 2024 – 6:00 PM

All regular select board meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Meetings are recorded and posted on the Town Website and on Lake Region Television usually in 2 days.

Please practice social distancing. Reminder to the attending public: Select Board meetings are open to the public, but the public may not speak unless recognized by the Chair or Vice Chair only during Public Participation. Comment time is limited to 2 minutes per speaker. Matters related to personnel will not be heard or discussed.

Present: Chairman Matthew Frank, Select Person Nathan Sessions, Select Person Colleen Densmore, Town Manager Cass Newell Secretary Denise Dumont, Maureen McAllister Finance Officer, John Wentworth Code Enforcement Officer/Assessing Agent, Dennis Michaud Public Services Director, various Fire Department personnel

Absent: Vice Chair Philip Devlin, Select Person Frederick Ross

Public: LRTV, attendance sheet attached

- I. Call the Meeting to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Chairman Matthew Frank to announce Election results
 - A. Quick Review of the Process:
If there are new members taking seats, the swearing-in/Oath of Office takes place at the Harrison Town Office by the Town Clerk, on or after July 1, 2024. The first meeting for sworn-in new Select Board Members will be on July 11, 2024, unless a special meeting is needed and called before that date.

VI. Public Participation (Non-Agenda Items)

Kathy Laplante – Last night's Town Meeting was a disappointment to our citizens. We saw hatred and discontent. It was totally embarrassing.

Ray Laplante – He was appalled that the Select Board did not support the staff.

Deb Kane: A lot of attempt was made to educate the people of the Town. Maybe consider a finance committee.

Mike Dibiase – The Town Meeting was a disappointment. A Fire Study was paid for and not supported by the Board. The Fire Chief is being shot down again.

Chairman Frank agreed that the Fire Study was done, they paid \$17,000 and it was a very professional study with public hearings and people who think they know best, above professionals.

Paula Holt: As a former Recreational Manager for the Town, I would be proud to work for this Administration. The harassment and bullying of the Town Manager and the Board has to stop...it is embarrassing for the entire Town.

John Wentworth: speaking as a Resident and not the Assessing Agent. There was a lot that went on, we had a strong moderator, and we needed a strong Board. You, as a Board, deferred

to other people and did not speak about anything. You need to be a Strong, United Board and you were not.

S. Densmore appreciated the feedback.

Wendy Gallant: The moderator was great, but it was a disappointment that you did not support the staff. She then asked if the Board received her email? She only received one acknowledgment from Nate Session, no one else. She was told that a heads-up email would be the best way to bring up issues according to S. Ross.

- 1) Chains on the swing sets are too high. Any way we can lower them?
- 2) Mill Pond Park has a lot of poison ivy. Can it be flagged or treated?
- 3) Wi-Fi at the park is it going to be turned on?
- 4) Our Grant Writer can we see accomplishments? Is he doing anything?
- 5) When will there be an Open House for the new Public Works Garage?

Town Manager, Cass Newell answered that she has been working with someone to get a donation to upgrade the playground. As she had stated at previous meetings it is in the works. She will look into Mill Pond Park. Wi-Fi is on at the Park. Cass got a copy of what the Grant Writer has been working on in the past month that the Select Board sees and she has given snip-its of in past meetings. The Public Works Garage is still a work in progress. The paving need to be repaired along with miscellaneous other small items to be completed as well as the old garage being demolished. Once these things are completed we will have an official Grand Opening and Open House to show off the new building.

Scott Ramsdell: Citizens have questions about how they can get answers? Only during Public Participation?

Mike Dibiase: As a Fire Captain I invite the Select Board to come to the Fire Department and see the equipment and how it is used etc.

A question was asked about an Open House and when the next one will be? He answered they are working on one now...so soon.

VII. Adjustments to the Agenda - NONE

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Unsigned Warrants #66- #72 - Approved by signature **Informational**
- B. Approval of Select Board Minutes – May 09, 2024

Motion to Approve the SB Minutes of May 09, 2024 made by S. Denmore, 2nd S. Sessions Approved 3-0

B. Liquor License: Deertrees Theatre Liquor License Renewal

Motion to approve the renewal of the Deertrees Theatre Liquor License made by S. Sessions, 2nd S. Densmore approved 3-0

IX. New Business

- A. Ambulance Service Agreements/Discussion **Informational**

Cass Newell, Town Manager stated that she and the Chair met with Paul Fillebrown of United Ambulance Service, and they want to start charging us \$282 per call as they do with Bridgton, Sweden, and Denmark. To this point, we have not been charged or paid anything for their services or the services of Pace Ambulance out of Norway. United said we had 143 at \$282 per call is \$40,362 per year. Since this was after our Budget Season and within a couple of weeks of

Town Meeting there was not enough time to have meetings and get approval from the Town Citizens.

She is making everyone aware of what is happening, we will be scheduling Public Hearings and there will have to be a special Town Meeting scheduled as soon as we arrange them.

I also have a meeting with Bob Hand of Pace Ambulance Service, and they will not charge us this year but will have to in the coming year, so we have some time to put it in the next budget.

X. Old Business

A. MSAD17 School Board Discussion

Informational

The MSAD17 School Budget was voted down and through this we have asked them to look closely and resubmit a new budget. We have pointed out some of the errors and not putting numbers on the ballots and using different numbers for different towns. Hopefully, they will be able to correct the errors and come back with corrections and better numbers for us to vote on.

XI. Other Business - Informational

XII. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager's Report – June 13, 2024

1) ADMINISTRATION-

- a) Interaction with Harrison Citizens and Employees - visits/calls/emails
- b) Worked on Day-to-Day Administration
- c) New Public Works Facility.

2) TOWN CLERK – Held State Primary, Municipal, and School Elections. (Chairman read results)

- Town Report completed.
- Daily business at the counter as usual.
- Planning Board/Board of Appeals Agendas/Minutes etc.
- Working on renewing Business Licenses

3) PUBLIC SERVICES (PUBLIC WORKS/PARKS) – The crew has been busy cleaning storm debris, yes storm debris, and a lot of it! We have removed all the plow gear off from the trucks, we have completed sweeping in town. We have moved on to repairing shoulders and ditching certain roads in town. I have set a busy schedule for our crew to complete various tasks around town to improve infrastructure for the Town. Just a reminder, Please slow down when you are going through the work zone so the crew and I may go home safely every night!!! THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION

As always, we appreciate the support of our citizens.

4) CODE ENFORCEMENT – May was busy in the code office with 18 new building permits being issued. YTD 50 permits have been Issued. 3 permits were issued for new housing for a YTD total of 14.

A total of 12 plumbing permits were issued during the month. YTD 41 plumbing permits were issued.

54 inspections were conducted for May for a YTD total of 149.

98 Walk-in customers visited the Code Office for various reasons ranging from permit applications, deed research, copies of files, assistance with ordinances etc. YTD total of 328.

Several new items have been placed on the planning board agenda as the summer construction season heats up and work continues on violations.

I am pleased to note that at least one illegal junkyard is in the process of being cleaned up while another has removed enough junk cars to be removed from the violations board.

5) RECREATION – This month I have been learning how to line the fields in case there is ever a day that Al or Rich are not able to do it. Boy there is some science to that.

I cleaned out the RADR snack shack to prep for a few lacrosse games. I opened it this past weekend so people will be expecting it to be open this weekend! This weekend is supposed to be a BIG game weekend, lots of people will be there.

Summer Rec is fully staffed. Registrations will close on June 10th, but if there are still available spots, we won't turn anyone away! We used all our scholarship money and were able to help out 11 families! All the planning for summer rec is done, now it is time to clean out the snack shack and start getting supplies together.

After receiving some feedback last summer I decided to host an in-person sign-up night for Summer Rec. The online fee is pretty high (which goes to the website and not us), which was a good reason for me to try the in-person night. Only 4 people came.

In April I attended a Lions Club meeting as the guest speaker. It went very well! I gave a brief description of what I do, the events that I host, and how it all comes together. I am very much looking forward to working with them on the home run derby that we are planning.

We had our last senior lunch. It was the biggest one all season! We had 30+ people there! Everyone loved the food and was eager to play bingo.

We had a few more meetings about the Community Fair. The schedule is starting to come together and we have just about all our entertainment lined up! I am waiting to hear back from one more band.

6) FIRE DEPARTMENT – 30 Total Incidents (see attached) Total calls YTD: 165

Monthly Events/Details/Meetings: May 07 – Apparatus Checks/Equipment Checks
May 18 – Training – Wildland Fire Operations
May 19 – Training – Driver/Operator
May 28 – Department Meeting

7) PUBLIC SAFETY-

Cumberland County Sheriff's Office – Cumberland County Sheriff's Office – Report for 04/01/24 to 04/30/24. 131 total incidents. 11 **Traffic Citations**, 28 **Traffic Warnings**, **Cases Assigned to Detective Division:** 1 Assault Investigation, 1 Burglary Motor Vehicle Investigation (1* cleared), 1 Domestic Violence Related investigation (1* cleared), 2 Sexual Assault Investigations, Violations of Conditions of Release Investigation (1* cleared)

*some clearances involve an incident reported in a previous month.

ACO – April

Dogs at large
Animal Bites/Attacks w/injury
Welfare/Abuse/Neglect
Dead/Injured/ill/trapped
Barking dog

Town Manager Cass Newell reluctantly spoke about an ongoing issue in this Town. She thanked the people who stood up at the beginning in support of her and the employees. That was not planned. She wants the Town to know that this job means a lot to her, she loves this job and she wants to be here. She is not in it for the money. She wants to be here. She wants the very best for the Town. She also lives and is invested in this Town.

This is hard for her...She has been dealing with an extreme amount of harassment and bullying both on social media and in person. Her safety has been compromised. People have shown up at her house, which is against the law. She has been followed and watched. One of our Deputies has witnessed it. People from a certain segment have pulled into my driveway. "I have cameras, so I see them." The safety of my home has been compromised. When she leaves the building at night people are sitting out there in the parking lot waiting. If she approaches the vehicle to see if they need anything, they drive off. She is not afraid, but she would like to know why. This has been going on for a long time. Enough is enough.

She has dealt with this with very few people knowing until now, She is not looking for sympathy or anything. She wants the best for this Town and does the best she can. She may not always get it right, in fact she sometimes gets it wrong, but she does things for the right reasons. She has been told blame goes to the top but sometimes she gets blamed for breathing. Social media plays a big part in this also, people say to not look or listen to it but if they are talking about something else that relates to my home etc., she needs to be aware. She tries to ignore it. It has gotten to the point where she has filed a protection against harassment report with the Sheriff's Department. It is a small group of people, not everyone but they carry it to the extreme. It has gotten to the point where she feels she has to say something. If they are willing to do this to me they could be doing it to others and they have started carrying it over to the staff. They stated they know the employee schedules and are watching. She will not stand for that. It is not fair and if I didn't say something and someone got hurt it would be tragic and so she is saying something.

The level of Harassment is relentless, and I wasn't going to say this, but I have been very transparent with this Town personally and I have almost tendered my resignation this evening because of this. The staff are the best thing ever, they are the best people, they are the best thing that could happen to each other, as a team, and to me and they are the reason I did not tender my resignation today. I think the world of all of you and I thank you. I don't want to go anywhere, I own my home here, I pay taxes here and I have a vested interest in being in this Town.

She has done a lot of things in the Navy, I was deployed, I am not going anywhere. You are not going to frighten me out of this Town with the harassment. Sometimes I wonder, something was said to me last night about knowing staff schedules and bullying is sometimes just said to see what will be done. This needs to stop. I have asked in small groups before without sharing this much information...this Town needs to stop the harassment and bullying. She is asking for everyone's help to please help stop it and not engage in it. All of you out there in the audience are community leaders and I am asking you to help me, to help the Town heal. Let's work together to stop the bullying and harassment online not just for me but for all of us before someone gets hurt. Please. Please. Use whatever you can, share, and talk to people...Let people know Harrison does not stand for Bullying.

The Town Manager of Naples did leave because of the bullying and harassment.

Deb Kane asked if she could sit down and talk to these people. Cass said when a prominent older Town Leader said he would smack me in the face if I shared something. I don't think I am interested in sitting down and talking with them. It is beyond that point. So that is why I am asking for your help.

On a different note: I need to offer something as a consequence of what happened last night with the Admin section, I have lost a staff member already. That is what they conveyed when they left. We are also losing a Public Works person as well as not because of the budget proceedings but because the job was not for them.

Comments from the audience were: We are here for you. We have got your back. Thank you for sharing and for your integrity. Thank you for staying. We appreciate you.

XIII. Select Board Items- NONE

XIV. Regular Select Board Meeting: **07/11/24**

XV. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:06 pm made by S. Densmore, 2nd S. Sessions Approve 3-0

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Frank, Chairman

Denise Dumont, Secretary



TOWN OF HARRISON

20 Front Street, PO Box 300, Harrison ME 04040

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS – JUNE 11, 2024 ELECTION

Congress - District 1, Democratic

187

Chellie Pingree

148

David Costello

Congress - District 1, Republican

108

Andrew Piantidosi

233

Demi Kouzounas

136

Ronald Russell

423

Stephen Bingham

Register of Probate, Democratic

160

Susan Schwartz

363

James Dayton

Register of Probate, Republican

234

Jerry DeWitt

390

Jennifer Vane

State Representative - District 83, Democratic

169

Carrye Castleman-Ross

28

Write-in
Fred Ross

State Representative - District 83, Republican

243

Marygrace Cimino

189

Alfred Fitzmorris

333

Debora Kane

State Senate - District 18, Democratic

168

Linda Miller

157

Frederick Ross

236

Philip Devlin

State Senate - District 18, Republican

255

Richard Bennett

Question 1: SAD 17 budget validation

481

No

US Senate, Democratic

77

Yes