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## AGENDA

# SPECIAL HARRISON SELECT BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 30, 2024 – 6:00 PM

All regular select board meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Meetings are recorded and posted on the Town Website and 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.

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Present: Chairman Matthew Frank, Vice Chair Philip Devlin, Select Person Frederick Ross, 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, Kristen MacDonald Town Clerk, Megan Friel Deputy Clerk, Dana Laplante Fire Chief, various other Fire Department personnel

Absent:

Public: LRTV, attendance sheet attached

I. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Participation (Non-Agenda Items)

Mike Dibiase – Fire Study – Attended both meetings. People seemed satisfied with it as there were not a lot of questions. I think we should get started with the Fire Study beginning with the Fire Chief and what he can get done. I don't believe we need a committee to reiterate what we just did with the Fire Study.

Chairman Matthew Frank – A recommendation was made for a full-time Fire Chief. If a Fire Chief is voted in, a nationwide search would be done and then recommendations will be made to the Town Manager because she does all the hiring of employees.

George Watson – Not sure what Warrant Articles #19 & #20 are so not sure what is going to be talked about. I believe we really need to have a full-time Chief because having someone from the Fire Department being with them until ambulances arrive means a lot and is comforting to people. The Chief can do administrative work as well as having them go to all calls.

Chairman Matthew Frank: Warrant Article #19 is broken down asking to Raise & Appropriate Additional Fire Department staffing as per the recommendations from the Fire Study.... Article #20 is to see what action the Town will take concerning the future purchase of a new fire truck and to raise and appropriate \$200,000 to be held in Capital Reserve. New proposal wording to make it clearer so now it will be Articles 19, 20 & 21. (these were read and would be brought up later in the meeting).

Pamela Wintjen – The money being put away for the Fire Truck, has it been decided what kind/type of fire Truck? Where does the money come from? It would be helpful for people to know what impact it will be on everyone's taxes. Full-time Fire Chief what would be the amount for salary?

Chairman Matthew Frank: No it just says to put away for a fire truck. We know we need one but nothing has been decided. It could be new or used which will be made at a later date. It will be raised and appropriated through taxes. The amount in question 19 will include benefits and his current stipend.

John Wentworth Assessing Agent for the Town gave a brief explanation of how taxes work. The Budget is made up of State and County Taxes, School Taxes, and the Municipal Budget. The Municipal Budget only makes up about 40% of the total budget.

Larry Farmer – People want to know how is this going to affect my taxes. You know the value of the Town so you can figure out what it will be. It would be nice to have by Town Meeting.

Chairman Frank, Town Manager Newell & John Wentworth all said that is not correct. The Appraisal Company has not come up with that number and we do not have all the numbers for School District etc. so there is no way to have an exact amount. Valuation letters are going out next week. We are working on them. We would like to give as much information as possible.

Brian Gerry – Stated that he would like to see us act on some of the things that came out of the Fire Study like the Fire Chief and Fire Engine at a minimum. He also spoke regarding information gathered in researching the possible new fire truck. He handed out binders with the research from several companies over the past 9 months. The binders also had information about Engine 4 and the history behind it and it's need for replacement. There is also several ways to pay for a truck from putting money away to be ready in several years after the truck is built. Ray Smith from Pierce Manufacturing came to speak about working with Brian and the rest of the truck committee. He spoke about what his company does.

Al Fitzmorris – It is possible to buy a refurbished not rebuilt but take one of our trucks and actually refurbish it?

Ray Smith answered from his company's history. It is difficult to find a truck that is rebuilt. To refurbish it would take at least a year if a company is available and also can get the parts if you are without a truck for that amount of time and the cost is still significant but not as high as new.

#### IV. Fire Study Warrant Recommendations

Two Select Board Members – S. Ross & S. Sessions recused themselves from voting  
**Motion to use the alternative wording for the articles was made by S. Devlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Densmore Approved 3-0**

Reworked article questions to make clearer for Town Warrant at Town Meeting

- A. ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$63,000 to hire a full-time Fire Chief.

*\*The amount considers what is budgeted for a Stipend Fire Chief in Article 18. This amount includes estimated benefits for the position.*

*Note: if Article 19 fails to pass, there will not be a vote on Article 20.*

- B. ARTICLE 20: To see what amount if any, the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$81,000 (A) or \$162,000 (B) for per diem coverage for the Fire Department.

A) *To hire per diem coverage - 5 days a week, 12 hrs. per day, two individuals per shift total – **\$81,000***

*B) To hire per diem coverage – 5 days a week, 12 hrs. per day, two individuals per shift total – \$162,000*

*(\*Voters should consider what additional amount they would like to raise and appropriate for coverage for the Fire Department. Per Diem rate is budgeted to be \$24.00/hr.)*

C. ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$200,000 towards the future purchase of a fire truck. the funds will be held in a capital reserve fund until time of purchase. To see what action the Town will take concerning the future purchase of a fire truck and to raise and appropriate \$200,000 to be held in the Capital Reserve Fund.

*(Note: The Select Board will not enter into a contract to purchase a fire truck without the approval of the Town.)*

### **Brief recess was taken at 7:45 pm**

V. Community Programs – 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Requests Revisited  
Chairman Frank recused himself from discussion and voting. Vice-chair Devlin spoke and took over the discussion and voting

**No Motion. The Warrant Article will remain as a closed article.**

A. Deertrees Theatre – requested the Select Board to reconsider opening the warrant question for the Community to decide. A statement from Gail Phaneuf was read by Dylan Schnell (Worker from Deertrees and her nephew) regarding the importance of the Theatre to the community and long-standing members of the community. They are a non-profit organization and think that the Town should help support the Theatre. Another statement from Dylan Schnell himself was read stating similar reasoning.

### VI. MSAD 17 Discussion

Chairman Matthew Frank gave an overview of the MSAD17 budget and what it will be as an increase to the Town. We will be paying \$22,700 per student and we could send them to another school system or private school for that amount. I encourage you to vote 'NO' on the School Budget on June 11, 2024.

Town Manager Cass Newell said she had already contacted the Maine State Department of Education and spoke to them to see what could be done. We can change school districts but it may take 6-9 months. I am also checking to see how Sebago succeeded from their school district.

A. Town Manager to investigate Educational Alternatives

**Motion to have the Town Manager explore other opportunities, other SAD's as an informational study and be allowed to write a Press Release on the Select Board and Town's position on the school budget made by S. Densmore, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Devlin Approved 5-0**

VII. Signing of Warrant – A copy of the Town of Harrison Annual Meeting Warrant was printed with the changes to Articles 19, 20 & 21 for the Select Board to Sign.

Vice Chair Devlin asked if there would be handouts at the Town Meeting for the Public. He wanted to know about the availability of using Naples and Casco clickers for voting. Perhaps putting that Assessment letters are going out in the newsletter this week.

Town Manager Newell answered yes to the handouts. She has looked into it the clickers. They do not have enough but she is still working on it. She will take it under advisement about putting it in the newsletter without causing confusion.

**Motion to enter into Executive Session – 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) Personnel Matter made at 9:20 pm after a brief 10 min. recess by S. Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Densmore Approved 5-0**

VIII. Executive Session – 1 MRSA §405(6)(A) Personnel Matter

Exit Executive Session at 11:40 PM and adjourned the meeting.

IX. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

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Matthew Frank, Chairman

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Denise Dumont, Secretary