

Swan's Island Annual Town Meeting
March 5, 2018

Town meeting opened at the Swan's Island School Gym at 9 A.M. There were approximately 110 people present.

Article 1. To choose a **Moderator** to preside at said meeting. **Gary Rainford** was elected. 14 votes cast. Gary received 11.

Article 2. To choose a **Town Clerk for a three-year term and fix compensation.** **Gwen May** was elected. There were 35 votes cast. 33 for Gwen.

Compensation was set at **\$4,500**, as recommended. 55 votes cast, all in favor.

Article 3. To choose a **Selectman for a three-year term & fix compensation** for all the Selectmen for the ensuing year.

Myron A. Sprague Jr. was elected. 37 votes cast. "Sonny" received 33.

Compensation was set, as recommended by the selectmen, to pay a **stipend of \$5,000 each per year.** 71 votes cast. All in favor.

Article 4. To choose one or more **Assessors and fix compensation.**

This article was **indefinitely postpone.** 34-0.

Article 5. To choose one or more **Overseers of the Poor and fix compensation.**

This article was **indefinitely postpone.** 30-0.

Article 6. To choose a **Treasurer for a three-year term and fix compensation.**

Monica Cease was elected. 105 votes cast. Monica received 60.

Bonnie Turner was also nominated as well as Meghan Joyce. Bonnie received 33 and Meghan received 12.

Compensation was set at **\$8,000.** 47 votes cast, 41-6.

Article 7. To see what sum of money the town will raise for **Administration.**

Voted to **raise \$95,000.** Passed, 30-3.

Article 8. To choose **one Director for S.A.D. No. 76 for a three-year term.**

Tammy E. Tripler was re-elected. 25-0.

Article 9. To choose a **Planning Board Member for a three-year term.**

Jason B. Matthews was elected. 31-0.

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to **raise for the Planning Board.**

Voted to **raise \$4,000.** Passed. 32-0.

Article 10a. To hear a report in regard to the **Swan's Island Comprehensive Plan** and take action relative thereto.

Sonja J. Philbrook, chairman, explained the need for an updated Comprehensive Plan and asked for \$10,000 to be given in blind faith.

Voted to take **\$10,000 from surplus** upon the selectmen's recommendation. Passed. 55-0.

Article 11. To choose **three members for the Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) for three-year terms.**

Jennifer Helman was elected. 80 votes cast. 45-35. Donna Wiegler was runner up.

Gary Farley was elected. 100 votes cast. 55-45. Donna Wiegler received 33 and Sarah Lane received 12.

Ezekiel "Zeke" Freelove was elected. 103 votes cast. 54-49. Keith Harrington received 26 and Donna Wiegler received 23.

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Municipal Buildings.**

Upon a recommendation by the selectmen, the town voted to **raise \$7,000 and transfer \$5,000 from surplus for the Lighthouse.** Passed. 50-0.

It was reported that there will be an AED placed in the hallway at the Town Office making a total of four placed around town.

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Insurance.**

Voted to **raise \$25,000.** Passed. 41-0.

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Social Security, Medicare, & Unemployment Taxes.**

Voted to **raise \$14,000.** Passed. 38-0.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Fire Department.**

Voted to **raise \$65,000 and transfer \$10,000 from surplus.** Passed. 67-0.

The Fire Department and Ambulance accounts have been split this year with the Fire Department receiving 75% and the Ambulance account receiving 25% of what was normally all one department. Robert Gardner, Fire Chief, told the audience that Emera doesn't allow the Fire Department to pull a meter if there is a fire so he urged people to put in a breaker with a disconnect that would go underneath the meter socket so the fire department could shut off the power legally. Sonny Sprague also explained that there is great concern by Emera that if a generator isn't hooked up properly, the electricity could back up and harm a neighbor.

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Ambulance Service.**

Voted to **raise \$36,000 and transfer \$18,033.84 from surplus (for the ambulance payment).** Passed. 65-0.

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Town Roads.**

Voted to **raise \$130,000, transfer \$30,000 from Vehicle Excise and transfer \$14,000 from the Paving Account.** Passed. 45-0.

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Snow Removal**.
Voted to **raise \$65,000**. Passed. 56-0.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Law Enforcement**.
Voted to **raise \$90,000, transfer \$15,000 from Vehicle Excise and transfer \$2,000 from the Shellfish Account**. Passed. 48-3.

Article 20. To hear a report in regard to **Housing for Law Enforcement** and take action relative thereto.

A motion was made to **finance \$100,000 over a ten year period**, increasing the police budget by \$11,640 during those years. Passed. 70-42.

After a lot of discussion, a two story 20X24 addition will be added to the Town Office to give the law enforcement two extra bedrooms for the apartment upstairs and leave the downstairs unfinished at this point.

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Solid Waste**.
Voted to **raise \$122,000**. Passed. 46-0.

Lawrence W. Smith, the attendant, was given a raise to \$1,200 monthly which is up from the \$1,100 monthly previously received.

Article 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Nursery School**.
Voted to **transfer \$18,000 from surplus**. Passed. 30-0.

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Health Services**.
Voted to **raise \$24,000**. Passed. 41-0.

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **General Assistance**.
Voted to **raise \$15,000**. Passed. 42-0.

Article 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Senior Luncheons**.
Voted to **raise \$750**. Passed. 48-0.

Article 26. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Cemeteries**.
Voted to **transfer \$9,000 from surplus**. Passed. 51-0.

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan's Island Library**.
Voted to **transfer \$12,000 from surplus**. Passed. 55-0.

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Lobster and Marine Museum**.
Voted to **transfer \$5,000 from surplus**. Passed 56-0.

Article 29. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan's Island Shellfish Conservation Program**. Voted to **raise \$0**. Passed by a voice. No objection.

Article 30. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Recreation**.
Voted to **transfer \$2,000 from surplus**. Passed by a voice. No objection.

Article 31. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Mill Pond Park**.
Voted to **transfer \$1,500 from surplus**. Passed by voice vote. No objection.

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Town Floats**.
Voted to **transfer \$6,662 from Watercraft Excise and transfer \$3,000 from surplus**. Passed by voice. No objection.

Article 33. To see what action the Town wants to take regarding the **I.O.O.F. Hall**.
Voted to **transfer \$5,000 from surplus**. Passed by voice. No objection.

Article 34. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Island Fellowship Program**.
Voted to **transfer \$10,000 from surplus**. Passed by voice. No Objection.

Article 35. To see if the Town will vote to **collect interest on all taxes not paid on or before a certain date and the rate of interest to be collected**.
It was recommended to set the date for interest to start **on September 15 at a rate of 8%**.
Passed by voice. No objection.

Jil Lewis spoke on behalf of the **Broadband Committee**. She reported that they are preparing a survey and will have a meeting in March or April to explain.

Article 36. To see if the Town will **authorize the Selectmen on behalf of the Town to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable and execute quit-claim deeds for such property**.
Passed by voice. No objection.

Article 37. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to sell and assign unmaturred tax mortgage liens for not less than the amount unpaid, interest and costs**. Passed by voice. No objection.

Article 38. To see if the Town will vote to **allow the Tax Collector to accept future year's taxes with no interest involved**. Passed by voice. No objection.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to **increase the property tax limit of \$704,390 established for Swan's Island by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property levy limit**. {Written ballot required}. Passed 48-4.

Adjourned at 3:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen J. May, Town Clerk