

Swan's Island Annual Town Meeting

March 7, 2016

Town meeting opened at the Swan's Island School Gym at 9 A.M. Jill A. Philbrook and Tyler M. Philbrook were both sworn in as ballot clerks for the day. There were approximately 84 people present.

Article 1. To choose a **Moderator** to preside at the said meeting. **Gary Rainford** was nominated and sworn in as moderator, receiving all 5 votes cast.

Clay Savage lead the meeting with a prayer.

Article 2. To choose a **Selectman for a three-year term & fix compensation** for all the Selectmen for the ensuing year.

Jeffrey L. Ellison was the only one nominated as he was running for re-election. There were 22 votes cast; 20 for Jeffrey, 1 for Eric Staples and 1 scattered.

While the ballot clerks were counting the ballots, Dexter Lee, Selectman, read the list of taxpayers who had paid on their taxes since the town report was sent to the printers.

The motion was then made for the **selectmen to receive \$17 an hour**. Passed by voice vote.

Article 3. To choose one or more **Assessors and fix compensation**.

This article was indefinitely postpone, upon the recommendation of the selectmen, and passed with a voice vote.

Article 4. To choose one of more **Overseers of the Poor and fix compensation**.

Discussion: Candis Joyce asked if this article would be part of the Administrative Assistant's job if that job became reality to which Dexter Lee, selectman, answered yes.

This article was indefinitely postpone, upon recommendation, with a voice vote.

Article 5. To choose **three members for the Municipal Advisory Council for three year terms**. **Samuel J.D. Joy** was nominated and re-elected for another three-year term by a 24-1 vote.

Gary W. Turner was nominated and re-elected for another three-year term by all 20 votes cast.

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

Gwen May was nominated and was re-elected for another three years with all 24 votes.

A motion was made **to pay the town clerk \$5,000 yearly plus fees** for the next 3 years. Passed by a voice vote.

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

The selectmen recommended raising \$105,000 if the people wanted an Administrative Assistant and \$85,000 if they didn't approve. After much discussion, a motion was made and passed to **raise \$105,000**. Fifty votes were cast, 46-4 in favor.

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

Jaime Rose and Clay Savage were nominated. There were 72 votes cast. Clay received 28 and

Jaime received 43. **Jaime Rose was elected for a three-year term.**

In the second round, **Lindsay L. Staples was re-elected for another three-year term** by 31 votes out of the 32 that were cast. One was for Clay Savage.

Article 9. To choose **two Planning Board Members for three year terms.**

Joseph W. Staples was nominated to be **re-elected for another three years** and won by all 22 votes cast.

Terry A. Staples was nominated to be **re-elected for another three years** and won by all 16 votes.

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to **raise for the Planning Board.** Dexter recommended raising \$6,000. A motion was made and by voice voted to **raise \$6,000.**

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Municipal Buildings.** Upon a recommendation by the selectmen, a motion was made to **raise \$5,000, transfer \$5,000 from Surplus for the Lighthouse and transfer \$59,000 from Surplus for municipal buildings.** Passed.

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Insurance.** The selectmen recommended the town **raise \$29,000** which was put into a motion and passed.

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Social Security, Medicare, & Unemployment Taxes.** Selectmen recommended the town **raise \$16,000.** Passed.

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Department of Public Safety.**

A recommendation was made to **raise \$95,800.** Passed.

It was reported that the Ambulance Fund Raiser has brought in over \$34,000 to date with money still coming in.

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Town Roads.** A recommendation, by the selectmen, was to **raise \$126,000 and transfer \$30,000 from motor vehicle excise.** Passed.

Article 15A. Shall the Town of Swan's Island vote to **authorize the Selectmen to designate certain Town roads as ATV-access routes?**

A straw vote was taken and **passed** with a ballot vote, **53-27.** The selectmen stated that there was a lot of work to be done with making a policy so it will at least be fall before it goes into effect.

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

It was recommended to **raise \$55,000.** Dexter reported that the contract would up for bids this spring.

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

The recommendation, by the selectmen, was to **raise \$92,500 and transfer \$15,000 from Motor Vehicle Excise.** Passed.

Article 18. **To see if the Town of Swan’s Island will vote:**

- (i) To authorize the Town to continue as a member of the Municipal Review Committee, Inc. (“MRC”), organized as a Maine non-profit corporation and acting as a regional association pursuant to Title 13-B and Title 38 of the Maine Revised Statutes as amended (and specifically Section 1304-B (5-A) of Title 38 for the purposes of managing and facilitating solid waste disposal.
- (ii) To adopt, ratify and confirm the Restated Articles of Incorporation and the Restated Bylaws of the MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk at the Town Office.
- (iii) To authorize the Town to execute and deliver a Municipal Joinder Agreement with MRC in substantially the form on file with the Town Clerk at the Town Office (the “Municipal Joinder Agreement”) pursuant to which the Town will become a Joining Member of the MRC (as defined therein) and deliver its municipal solid waste for disposal to a waste management facility being developed by Fiberight, LLC and/or its affiliates (collectively, “Fiberight”) in Hampden, Maine, or other waste disposal facility;
- (iv) To authorize the MRC to take certain actions on behalf of the Town as set forth in the Municipal Joinder Agreement; and
- (v) To authorize a majority of the Selectmen or their duly authorized designee or designees as a representative of the Town to execute and deliver the Municipal Joinder Agreement on behalf of the Town and to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town in conjunction therewith such other documents and to take such further actions as they may deem necessary or appropriate in order to effect the transactions contemplated by the Municipal Joinder Agreement.

Each section passed individually.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Solid Waste**. The selectmen recommended the town **raise \$65,000**. Passed.

Article 20. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Nursery School**. The recommended amount was to **raise \$18,000**. Passed.

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Health Services**. Recommended amount was **\$34,000**. Passed.
Donna Wiegler reported that the budget was up due to capital improvements.

Article 22. **To hear a report on Eldercare Outreach of Swan’s Island**.
Donna Wiegler, head of Eldercare Outreach, stated that she sees no need for this article to be on the warrant because there is a written report in the book.

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **General Assistance**. The recommendation was to raise **\$16,000** for G.A. Passed.

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Senior Luncheons**. A recommendation was made to **transfer \$750 from Surplus**. Passed.

Article 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Cemeteries**. The motion was made upon a recommendation, to **transfer \$9,000 from Surplus**. Passed.

Article 26. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan's Island Library and Museum**. The selectmen recommended that **\$12,000 be raised**. Passed.

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan's Island Shellfish Conservation Program**. The recommended amount to **raise \$1,500** passed. It was reported that there will be two Shellfish Wardens this year.

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Recreation**. The town voted to **raise \$6,000**, some of which will be spent on the Fine Sand Beach path but not a lot, it was reported.

Article 29. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Mill Pond Park**. The selectmen recommended that **\$1,500 be transferred from surplus**. Passed.

Article 30. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Town Floats**. Upon the selectmen's recommendation, a motion was made to **raise \$1,000 and transfer \$6,498 from Boat Excise**. Passed.

Article 31. To see what action the Town wants to take regarding the **I.O.O.F. Hall**. The selectmen recommended to **transfer \$7,000 from Surplus** which passed.

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Island Fellowship Program**. A recommendation was made to **raise no money** for this article because last year's money didn't get used due to several issues that came up. The Island Fellow will be selected this year to work with both the Fire and EMS Departments. Passed.

Article 33. 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 taxes to come **due on September 15 at a rate of 7%**. Passed.

Article 34. 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**. A motion was made to act upon the article and **passed**.

Article 35. 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.

Article 36. To see if the Town will vote to **increase the property tax limit of \$647,633 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}. This was made into a motion and carried: 32-5

Adjourned at 11:53 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen J. May, Town Clerk