

Swan's Island Annual Town Meeting
April 23, 2022

Town meeting opened at the Swan's Island School Gym at 9 A.M. There were approximately 90-100 people present. Ballot Clerks Bonnie L. Turner and Angela J. Tapley were sworn in.

Article 1. To choose a **Moderator** to preside at the said meeting. **Terry A. Staples** was elected with a 7-0 vote. No opposition.

Article 2. To choose a **Select Board Member** for a three-year term and **fix compensation**. Gary Farley and Jason Joyce were nominated. There were 91 votes cast. Gary received 36 and Jason received 55.

Jason M. Joyce was re-elected for a three-year term. It was suggested by the Selectmen to pay themselves **\$5,000 each**.

Article 3. To choose **Tax Collector** for a three-year term and **fix compensation**.

Gwen J. May was nominated and re-elected for a three-year term. There were 27 votes cast. All in favor. None opposed.

A motion was made to fix compensation for **\$6,000**. It was seconded and approved by all 29 votes cast.

Article 4. To choose one (1) or more **Assessors** and fix compensation.

This article was **indefinitely postponed** by a vote of 7-0.

Article 5. To choose one (1) or more **Overseers of the Poor** and fix compensation.

This article was **indefinitely postponed** by a vote of 14-0.

Article 6. To choose three (3) members for the **Municipal Advisory Committee** for three-year terms.

For the first position **Betsy R. Philbrook** was nominated and elected by a vote of 31-0.

For the second position **Jessica Stoehr** was nominated and elected by a vote of 14-0.

For the third position **Donna A. Wiegler** was nominated and elected by a vote of 28-0.

Article 7. To choose a **Road Commissioner** for a three-year term and **fix compensation**.

Christopher H. Sawyer was nominated and elected by a vote of 23-0.

The selectmen reported that the wage in the past has been the same as the State wage. Last year's wage was \$22.03 an hour. A motion was made and seconded to **pay Chris the State wage**. The vote was 21-0.

Article 8. To choose two (2) **Directors for S.A.D. #76** for three-year terms.

Emmie M. Sawyer was nominated and re-elected by a vote of 19-0.

Nancy A. Ordway was nominated and re-elected by a vote of 21-0.

Article 9. To choose two (2) **Planning Board Members** for three-year terms.

Terry A. Staples was re-elected. There were 50 votes cast. Terry received 26 and Jeff Clapp received 24.

Daniel V. Johnson nominated and re-elected for the second position. He received all 18 votes cast.

Article 10. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Administration**. The selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$105,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 28-0.

Article 11. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Insurance**. The selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$29,000**. It was so moved and seconded. Passed 19-0.

Article 12. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Social Security, Medicare, & Unemployment Taxes**. The selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$14,000**. It was so moved and seconded. Passed 18-0.

Article 13. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Municipal Buildings**. The selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$25,000 and take \$5,000 from Surplus for the Lighthouse**. Upon the Selectmen's suggestion, a motion was made and seconded. Passed. 18-0.

Article 14. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Planning Board**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$3,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 18-0.

Article 14a. To hear a report from the **Comprehensive Planning Committee**. Sonja J. Philbrook, Chairman of the Committee, was absent so Sonny Sprague reported that the Board needs \$6,500 to finish up the Plan. He told that once the Plan is ready, it will be sent to the State for approval. Once it is approved by the State then the town's people will need to vote on it. A motion was made to **take \$6,500 from Surplus**. Passed 20-0

Article 15. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Health Center**. The Selectmen recommended the that the town **raise \$26,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 26-0.

Article 16. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **General Assistance**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$24,500**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 19-0.

Article 17. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Senior Luncheons**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$900**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 14-0.

Article 18. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Fire Department**. The Selectmen recommended that the **town raise \$86,000, transfer \$42,000 from the Fire Department Reserve Fund**. A motion was made and seconded upon the recommendation

above. Passed 28-0.

Article 19. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Ambulance**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$32,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 28-0.

Article 20. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for Law **Enforcement**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$60,000, transfer \$15,000 from Motor Vehicle Excise and transfer the remaining \$441 from the Victim & Witness Compensation Fund and transfer \$2,000 from the Shellfish Conservation Account**.

A motion was made and seconded. Passed 32-1.

Before the recommendation was made and vote on, Chief Deputy Patrick Kane spoke to the crowd. He is looking for a deputy for the island but he is also short on the mainland.

Article 21. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Town Roads**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$155,000 and transfer \$30,000 from Motor Vehicle Excise**. A motion that was seconded.. Passed 25-0.

Dexter Lee wished to applaud (Lawrence) Sonny Stanley for 25 years of service as the Road Commissioner. There was a round of applause.

Article 22. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Snow Removal**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$85,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 18-0.

Article 23. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Solid Waste**. The Selectmen recommended that the town **raise \$100,000**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 24-0.

Sonny Sprague reported that there was an 11% increase in the usage of the solid waste facility this past year. He praised Lawrence W. Smith for a job well done. The Selectmen have been thinking that they may impose fees for carpenters and wharves plus a schedule for when the big jobs are allowed to bring their loads to the Station.

Article 24. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Nursery School**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$9,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 12-0.

It was reported that the school was not open for the 2021-2022 school year.

Article 35. To hear a report from the Broadband Committee and take action thereto. This article was taken up out of context. Gil Paquette from Versant Power spoke as a representative for the power company telling the voters about their plan to lay a submarine cable from Lopaus Point to the Ferry Terminal area on Island. There will be fiber optic running through the cable that is to be installed in September.

Thomas Ploch, chairman of the Broadband Committee, spoke next. He is optimistic that the grant will be awarded.

Article 35a. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a Fiber Optic Service Development Agreement with TDS Metrocom, LLC, (“TDS”)**, in which the Town will contribute previously authorized funding to TDS for the development of a high-speed broadband network to each residence on the island, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen determines to be in the Town’s best interests, and to execute such agreement. A motion was made to enter into the agreement which was seconded. Passed 34-0.

Article 35b. To see if the Town will vote to **authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with Versant Power (“Versant”)** to provide the Town with the right to use up to twenty-four (24) strands from Versant’s subsea fiber optic cable for a term of at least twenty (20) years, in a contract amount not to exceed \$86,032, subject to annual appropriation if/when the Town activates any licensed fiber strands (and if an annual appropriation is not made, the license shall terminate), all on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems to be in the best interests of the Town, and to execute such agreement. A motion was made to enter into the agreement which was seconded, Passed 35-0.

Article 25. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Cemeteries**. The Selectmen recommended that the town transfer \$9,000 from Surplus and put lot sales into the Cemetery Trust Fund. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 11-0.

Article 26. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan’s Island Library**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$18,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 14-0.

Article 27. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Lobster & Marine Museum**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$5,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 20-0.

Article 28. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan’s Island Historical Society**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$5,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 21-0.

Article 29. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Swan’s Island Shellfish Conservation Program**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$2,000 from the Shellfish account to Law Enforcement**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 10-0.

Article 30. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise **Town Floats**. The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$6,000 from Surplus and \$6,500 from Watercraft Excise and authorize the Selectmen to use an undermined amount of money from the Fish Plant Account to buy a new float**. A motion was made and seconded.

Passed 29-0.

Article 31. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for **Recreation**.

The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to raise no money but Zeke Freelove stood up to tell the selectmen that he felt that the Recreation Committee should get \$10,000 like they always had because they are dealing with mold issues that need to be resolved among other things. A made a motion that the Town vote **to raise \$10,000** and it was seconded. Passed 31-0.

Article 32. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Mill Pond Park**.

The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$1,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 18-0.

Article 33. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **I.O.O.F. Hall**.

The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$3,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 18-0.

Article 34. To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise for the **Island Fellow Program**.

The Selectmen recommended that the town vote to **transfer \$14,000 from Surplus**. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 26-0.

Article 36. 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.

A motion was made that **September 15 is the date to start collecting interest and at a rate of 4%**, which is set by the State. It was seconded. Passed 24-0.

Article 37. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board 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 and seconded. Passed 17-0.

Article 38. To see if the Town will authorize the Select Board on behalf of the Town to **spend an amount not to exceed 1/3rd of the budgeted amount in each budget category of the annual budget during the period from January 1, 2022 to April 23, 2022**, the date of the Annual Town Meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 21-0.

Article 39. To see if the Town will vote to **allow the Tax Collector to accept future year's taxes with no interest involved**. Gwen told the audience that a few do pay regular amounts throughout the year to make it easier when the bill is due. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 21-0.

Article 40. To see if the Town will **vote to increase the property tax limit of \$762,400** established for Swan's Island by State law in the event the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than the property tax levy limit. A motion was made and seconded. Passed 20-0.

Town Meeting was adjourned at 11: 49 A.M.

Jil Lewis spoke quickly to say that if anybody is interested in composting cardboard to get in touch with her.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gwen J. May, Town Clerk