



**Town of Southwest Harbor
Warrant Committee Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 9, 2026

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Town Office conference room and via Zoom

Draft

1. Chair Anne Trotter, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and took roll call: Mark Amstutz; Lydia Goetze (via Zoom); Don Lodge; Ellen Pope; Alan Rosenquist (via Zoom); Colin Samuel; Bryan Stevens; Anne Trotter; Carl Wrubel; Town Manager, Karen Reddersen; and Director of Finance, Becky Gatcomb (via Zoom)
2. Adoption of the Agenda: Don Lodge moved to approve the agenda, with an amendment to allow Mark Amstutz to remark on the budget, seconded by Carl Wrubel and approved unanimously.
3. Approval of the Minutes: Don Lodge moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ellen Pope and approved unanimously.
4. Remarks by Mark Amstutz on the budget: It was noted that Southwest Harbor property tax revenues are estimated to increase by 9.6% or \$1.1 million for fiscal year 2027 while inflation is expected to rise by 3.0% over the same period. Mark Amstutz encouraged members of Warrant Committee to identify possible savings of \$100,000 or more during the budget review process. Any savings could reduce the property tax increase.
5. Revenues: Karen Reddersen and Becky Gatcomb reviewed the following revenue sources.
 - a. Non-Property Tax Revenues
 - b. State Revenue Sharing
 - c. Unassigned Fund Balance Used

The Warrant Committee had a discussion on the revenue. In its letter to the Select Board, the Warrant Committee will request the Select Board consider increases in non-property tax revenues in future years to reduce the property tax burden. Possible ideas include:

- Short-term rentals
- Building permits
- Solid waste pay-to-throw

6. Expenses: Karen Reddersen and Becky Gatcomb reviewed the following expense categories.
 - a. Administration
 - b. Code Enforcement
 - c. Board & Committees
 - d. Contracted Services
 - e. Debt Services
 - f. Insurance
 - g. Municipal Buildings

The Warrant Committee had a discussion on these expense categories. The Committee requested additional information on the municipal solid waste under Contracted Services and Karen Reddersen will provide an update at the next Warrant Committee meeting.

7. Other Business: There were no items discussed under Other Business.
8. Next Meeting Date: The Warrant Committee will hold its next meeting on February 18, 2026. Anne Trotter reviewed the possible agenda items with the Committee. The police chief and a representative from the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Ambulance Service will review their budgets.
9. Adjournment: At approximately 7:30 pm, Don Lodge moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ellen Pope and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Amstutz, Secretary