



**Town of Southwest Harbor**  
**Warrant Committee Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, February 26, 2026  
6:00 p.m. – 8:15 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; 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.
2. Adoption of the Agenda: Don Lodge moved to approve the agenda, with a modification to have a review of Contract Services, seconded by Lydia Goetze and approved unanimously.
3. Approval of the Minutes: Don Lodge moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ellen Pope and approved unanimously.
4. Community Service Organizations: Karen Reddersen reviewed the budget requests from the Southwest Harbor Library, Harbor House, Mt. Height Cemetery, Downeast Transportation (Explorer) and other community services organizations. (The budget request from the Southwest Harbor- Tremont Ambulance Service had been previously reviewed at the February 18, 2026 Warrant Committee meeting.)
5. Highway Department: Karen Reddersen reviewed the Highway Department budget.
6. Harbor Department: Karen Reddersen reviewed the Harbor Department budget.
7. Reserve Appropriations: Karen Reddersen reviewed Reserve Appropriation requests. During the discussion, it was noted that expenses for culvert replacements are estimated to be \$10,000 for fiscal year 2027, but there is no request for an appropriation for the Culvert Replacement Reserve. One suggestion is to reduce the Historic Cemetery Reserve request for FY 2027 from \$25,000 to \$15,000 and use the \$10,000 savings for the Culvert Replacement Reserve. This suggestion will be put forward during the warrant article approval process at the March 2, 2026 Warrant Committee meeting.
8. Capital Improvement Plan Appropriations: Karen Reddersen reviewed Capital Improvement Plan Appropriation requests. During the discussion, it was observed that there are CIP items

within the Police and Harbor Departments where the FY 2027 requests could be reduced. This led to a discussion as to whether the Warrant Committee should recommend funding a fourth officer position in the Police Department. (The funding of a fourth officer position in the Police Department had been previously discussed at the February 18, 2026 Warrant Committee meeting.) No actions were taken.

9. Review of Contract Services: The Solid Waste Contracted Services was reviewed again. It was noted that while there is \$34,708 allocated for recycling, there is not likely to be a dedicated recycling plan during FY 2027. Thus, the \$34,708 allocation does not need to be included in Contract Services.
10. Other Business: Mark Amstutz will prepare several scenarios as to how to fund the fourth officer position in the Police Department. He will distribute and discuss the scenarios at the next Warrant Committee meeting.
11. Next Meeting Date: The Warrant Committee will hold its next meeting on March 4, 2026. Anne Trotter reviewed the possible agenda items with the Committee.
12. Adjournment: At approximately 8:15 pm, Mark Amstutz moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lydia Goetze and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Amstutz, Secretary