



Town of Southwest Harbor
Warrant Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 2, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.
Southwest Harbor Fire Station 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; Colin Samuel; Bryan Stevens; Anne Trotter; Carl Wrubel; Town Manager, Karen Reddersen; and Director of Finance, Becky Gatcomb.
2. Adoption of the Agenda: Ellen Pope moved to approve the agenda, with a modification that the meeting is being held at the Southwest Harbor Fire Station instead of the town office, seconded by Bryan Stevens and approved unanimously.
3. Approval of the Minutes: Lydia Goetze moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Alan Rosenquist and approved unanimously.
4. Voting on the Warrant Articles: Several funding scenarios for a fourth police officer position were proposed, considered, and discussed. The Warrant Committee voted on each of the warrant articles.
 - Article 21 – Southwest Harbor Public Library: Lydia Goetze moved to approve the passage of \$75,000 for the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Seconded by Anne Trotter. Vote: 9-0-0.
 - Article 22 – Harbor House: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$70,950 for Harbor House. Seconded by Anne Trotter. Vote: 9-0-0.
 - Article 23 – Mt. Height Cemetery: Anne Trotter moved to approve the passage of zero funds for Mt. Height Cemetery. Seconded by Colin Samuel. Vote: 9-0-0.
 - Article 24 – Southwest Harbor – Tremont Ambulance Service: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$218,000 for Southwest Harbor – Tremont Ambulance Service. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 8-0-1 (Anne Trotter abstained).
 - Article 25 – Downeast Transportation: Lydia Goetze moved to approve the passage of \$10,000 for Downeast Transportation. Seconded by Anne Trotter. Vote: 9-0-0.

- Article 26 – Other Community Service Organizations: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$27,374 for Other Community Service Organizations. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 27 – Reserves: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$664,403 for Reserves with modifications to include a decrease of \$10,000 to the Historic Cemetery Reserve and an increase of \$10,000 to the Culvert Replacement Reserve. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 29 – Debt Service: Lydia Goetze moved to approve the passage of \$1,405,459 for Debt Service. Seconded by Ellen Pope. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 31 – Revenues: Ellen Pope moved to approve the passage of \$2,125,532 for Revenues, which reflected \$71,703 from Tremont for the fourth police officer position. Seconded by Don Lodge. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Administration: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$723,893 for Administration. Seconded by Carl Wrubel. Vote: 9-0--0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Code Enforcement: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$124,477 for Code Enforcement. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Boards & Committees: Carl Wrubel moved to approve the passage of \$5,000 for Boards & Committees. Seconded by Bryan Stevens. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Contracted Services: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$841,089 for Contracted Services, which reflected a reduction of \$34,580 for the recycling fund. Seconded by Don Lodge. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Insurance: Lydia Goetze moved to approve the passage of \$52,900 for Insurance. Seconded by Anne Trotter. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Municipal Buildings: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$52,395 for Municipal Buildings. Seconded by Bryan Stevens. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Highway Department: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$404,942 for Highway Department. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Dispatch Division: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$484,648 for Dispatch Division. Seconded by Carl Wrubel. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Fire Department: Anne Trotter moved to approve the passage of \$397,069 for Fire Department. Seconded by Ellen Pope. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Harbor Department: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$178,700 for Harbor Department. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
- Article 20 – Municipal Operations, Police Department: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$1,158,395 for Police Department, which reflected the addition of \$179,259 for the fourth police officer position. Seconded by Alan Rosenquist. Vote: 8-1-0 (Lydia Goetze opposed).

- Article 20 – Municipal Operations (Total): Lydia Goetze moved to approve the passage of \$4,423,507 for total Municipal Operations. Seconded by Bryan Stevens. Vote: 9-0-0.
 - Article 28 – CIP Appropriations: Mark Amstutz moved to approve the passage of \$249,827 for CIP appropriations, which reflected a reduction of \$72,925 from the following CIP requests:
 - \$50,000 in Police Cruiser CIP
 - \$6,000 in Harbormaster Truck CIP
 - \$3,043 in Parking Lot Upper Town Dock CIP
 - \$3,125 in Public Bathroom Lower Town Dock CIP
 - \$9,000 in Concrete Pier Extension Lower Town Dock CIP
 - \$1,807 in Dinghy Floats Manset Dock CIP
 Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
 - Total Municipal Budget Warrant Articles: Don Lodge moved to approve the passage of \$7,144,520 for total municipal budget warrant articles. Seconded by Lydia Goetze. Vote: 9-0-0.
5. Drafting Recommendation Letter to the Select Board: Anne Trotter solicited input from the Warrant Committee members on the letter outlining the Warrant Committee recommendations to the Select Board. Anne Trotter will provide a draft to Committee members on March 3 for their comments. The letter will be submitted to the Select Board by the end of the day on March 3.
 6. Other Business: The Warrant Committee thanked Mark Amstutz for his work on the scenarios. The Committee also thanked Karen Reddersen and Becky Gatcomb for their work on the budget process. Committee members were encouraged, if possible, to attend the Select Board meeting on March 10, when Anne Trotter will review the Committee recommendations with the Select Board.
 7. Adjournment: At approximately 8:15 pm, Alan Rosenquist moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ellen Pope and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Amstutz, Secretary