

**TOWN OF WAYNE, MAINE  
BYLAWS OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Section 1. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of these bylaws is to establish reasonable rules of procedure for Board of Selectmen (Board) meetings and to promote the fair, orderly and efficient conduct of the Board's proceedings and affairs. These bylaws shall govern the Board's practices and procedures except as otherwise provided by law and shall be liberally construed so as to accomplish their purpose.

**Section 2. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

**Section 3. Officers and their Duties**

Officers of the Board shall consist of a Chair and a Vice-Chair to be chosen annually at the first Board meeting in July by and from among Board members. The Chair shall preside at all Board meetings and shall have authority to rule on questions of evidence and procedure, to maintain order and determine the course of proceedings, and to take such other action as may be necessary and not inconsistent with these bylaws or other law to enable the Board to perform its duties and conduct its affairs. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall preside and shall have the same authority.

Notwithstanding the presence of the Chair, the Selectman may, by unanimous consent, authorize the Vice-Chair to preside at that Board meeting. In that instance the Vice-Chair is to have and exercise any and all authority conferred upon the Chair. In a situation where the Chair and the Vice-Chair of the Board are absent, the Board shall appoint by affirmative majority vote of its present members present, a temporary Chair of the Board to serve until such a time as the Chair or Vice-Chair returns to the Chair. The temporary Chair is to have and exercise any and all authority conferred upon the permanent Chair. The Town Clerk shall maintain a permanent record of all Board meetings and all correspondence of the Board, which shall be a public record except as otherwise provided by law.

**Section 4. Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Board should be held every other Tuesday at 6:30 PM or as otherwise necessary or required by law. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair or upon the request of a majority of the Board, provided, however, that notice thereof shall be given to each member at least twenty-four hours in advance, whenever possible, and that no business may be conducted other than as specified in said notice.

Notice of all Board meetings shall be given as required by law. The town Manager or designee will post all meeting notices at the following locations:

1. Wayne Post Office;
2. Wayne General Store;
3. Town Office;
4. North Wayne Building; and
5. Town of Wayne Website

All such meetings shall be open to the public except otherwise provided by law.

No business may be conducted by the Board except at a duly called and noticed meeting or without a quorum consisting of a majority of the Board being present. The regular order of business at meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call meeting to Order:
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Selectman Present / Quorum.
4. Meeting Minutes.
5. Warrants.
6. Business Agenda.
7. Supplements / Abatements
8. Town Manager Report.
9. Board Member Reports.
10. Public Comments.
11. Adjourn.

Board members are allowed to go into an executive session to deliberate on the matters authorized by 1 MRSA 405 and no others. The executive session can only be entered after a motion has been made in public session to go into executive session. The motion to go into executive session must indicate the precise subject matter although the wording of the motion, obviously, may not substantially reveal the sensitive information which the law intends to protect by the executive session process. The motion also must "include a citation of one or more sources of statutory or other authority that permits an executive session for that business". The motion must carry by at least 3/5 of the members present. No topic other than that referred to in the motion shall be discussed during executive session. All matters discussed during the executive session shall be held in strictest confidence by the Board and shall not be discussed with or divulged to any person other than a fellow Board member or persons in attendance at the executive session. Any violation of this confidentiality requirement shall be deemed to be malfeasance of office and shall subject the offending Board member to sanction by the Board.

## **Section 5. Public to Address Board**

The Select Board encourages citizens of the Town of Wayne to attend Board meetings, conducted at the Town office at 6:30 Tuesday evenings, which are open to both the press and the public except during executive sessions. Executive sessions, which usually occur at the end of a meeting, deal with topics that the open discussion of which may potentially harm the Town, affected individuals or both, or are authorized / mandated by state law. The Select Board follows state law with regard to executive sessions. The Board encourages residents to bring issues of concern or interest of an individual or of the community to the attention of the Select Board. Citizen involvement in Town governance enhances the sense of community that makes Wayne a great place to live, work and visit. Select Board meetings follow an agenda, which lists the issues the Board will address. The Board wants to hear from citizens and recognizes one way for residents to participate is to speak out in the "Public Communications" sections of each Select Board Meeting. The Select Board also recognizes that efficient, productive and orderly meetings are essential to ensure full and fair consideration of agenda subjects at each meeting. To balance these two interests, the Select Board adopts this Policy to govern the "Public Comments" agenda item of the meetings.

Citizens will be allowed to comment on each agenda, with comments pertaining only to the item being discussed before final action is taken. Comments will be limited to three to five minutes.

There will be one "Public Comments" segment at each regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting at the end of the meeting. Each "Public Comments" segment is limited to fifteen minutes, allowing three (3) minutes per person. Repeat speakers shall be allowed to speak again after anyone wishing to speak has done so and we are still in the fifteen minute allotted time frame. The full fifteen minute time interval will not be reserved for potential discussion. A citizen who is present at the meeting may request the Select Board to extend the Public Comments time, with the Select Board voting on the amount of time and either accepting or rejecting the additional time allocation requested.

All Public comments or questions shall be directed to the Chairperson, who will recognize each speaker in turn. Remarks may not exceed three minutes per speaker. Each speaker must identify him/herself and the group he/she represents, if applicable. Speakers may not "read into the record" remarks prepared for or directed to another person or entity. This segment of the agenda is intended for brief, usually informal, discussions.

A speaker requesting to present a more formal or comprehensive discussion may request in advance to be on the agenda for that evening. To request to be on the agenda, one should contact the Town Manager by Tuesday noon prior to the following scheduled Select Board Meeting. The "Public Comments" segment is not an appropriate time to request an interpretation and/or decision of the Select Board. All reasonable requests will be considered, but will be at the Select Board Chairperson's discretion

whether to allow an agenda item, depending on the nature of the request and the time available at a specific meeting. Any request to be on the agenda denied by the Chairperson of the Board, may be brought forth before the entire Select Board during Public Comments time for the entire Select Board to review. If a motion is made and passes to add the item to a future agenda, the Chairperson will add it to the agenda within the next two scheduled Select Board meetings.

The Select Board will not accept written materials distributed at a Select Board meeting, other than petitions submitted in accordance with state law. Individuals or groups must submit written materials for the Board's attention to the Chairperson of the Select Board, no later than noon on the Monday before the next scheduled Select Board meeting. The Chairperson shall provide to the Town Manager any written materials received from the public for distribution to all Board members.

Individuals or groups who desire a response from the Select Board are advised to contact the Town Manager and all Select Board Members to request placing an item on the Board's agenda for discussion or submit a letter rather than relying on a "Public Comments" session. The Select Board shall note any concerns, questions, comments and communications from the public and possibly address at a following meeting. The Chairperson also could direct the individual or group to an appropriate resource for further information. The Select Board will not enter into debate with the public on a topic but may provide factual information regarding the substance of a comment or ask clarifying questions. Following the meeting, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Select Board will submit contact information (if provided) for the member of the public who asked a question or provided a comment to the appropriate resource for further information, if needed.

Questions about Town affairs and criticisms or concerns about Town policies, actions, or programs are welcome, provided they do not become personal.

No personal attacks on any individual or firm, including Town employees, Town officials, or members of the public, will be tolerated during any meetings. Please direct concerns about Town officials to the Chairperson of the Select Board outside the public meeting. Complaints concerning any employee of the Town, other than the Town Manager, shall be directed only to the Town Manager and are not permitted to be publicly discussed, pursuant to Maine Labor Laws. Complaints involving the Town Manager shall be directed to the Select Board for consideration, but are not permitted to be discussed pursuant to Maine Labor Laws.

The Select Board vests in its Chairperson the discretion to terminate any remarks if the speaker does not adhere to this policy. At any time, remaining Select Board may call a point of order and ask the Chairperson to address any individual(s) that are not abiding by this policy. This pertains to the public, Select Board Members, and all Town employees.

## **Section 6. Workshop Sessions**

Workshop sessions may be scheduled by the Chair for the purpose of disseminating information for Board enlightenment and evaluation or for the discussion or refinement of future agenda items.

Members of the public are invited to attend any workshop session but will not be allowed to participate in the workshop. Prior to adjourning any workshop session, the Board will provide time for members of the public to address the session to provide information relevant to the subject being explored or to ask questions, through the Chair, relating to the subject of the workshop session.

## **Section 7. Agenda Items**

All agenda items shall be, under normal circumstances, submitted by the Board members to the Town Manager three working days prior to any regular or special meeting. The Town Manager will draft the agenda and obtain the Chair's approval before distribution. In the event that a matter shall arise which was not submitted to the Town Manager within the proper time frame, then that item shall be presented to the Chair as soon as possible. The Chair may present the matter to be considered by the Board, with a majority vote of Board members present required for it to be included on the agenda.

## **Section 8. Hearings**

Public hearings of the Board shall be called as required by law or on such other occasions as a majority of the Board may deem appropriate. Notice of all such hearings shall be given as required by law and shall include the date, time and place of the hearing and a general description of the subject matter.

The Chair shall convene all hearings by describing the purpose of the hearing and the general procedures to be followed. The Board may receive any oral or documentary evidence but shall exclude irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence, provided, however that formal rule of evidence shall not apply. Every party shall have the right to present its case in the order determined by the Chair and without interruption, provided however, that the Chair may impose such reasonable time limits as may be necessary to ensure that all parties have an adequate opportunity to be heard. In any adjudicatory proceeding, including proceedings on licenses, permits or other approvals, every party shall also have the right to submit rebuttal evidence and to conduct cross-examination of any other party through the Chair, provided, however, that the Chair may impose such other reasonable limitations as may be necessary to prevent an abuse of process.

### **Section 9. Meeting Length**

Any action of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of its membership unless otherwise provided by law.

No member may participate or vote in any matter in which the member has a conflict of interest or other disqualification as defined by law. Any question of whether a member has such a conflict of interest or other Disqualification shall be decided by majority vote of the remaining members.

No member may participate or vote in any adjudicatory proceeding, including proceedings on licenses, permits or other approvals, unless the member was present during all hearings thereon.

All members who are present and not disqualified as provided herein shall vote in every matter to be voted upon unless excused by the Chair for good cause shown. Those present, in such circumstances, who refuse to vote are regarded as having voted affirmatively, i.e. for the proposition, or to have voted with the majority.

### **Section 10. Meeting Length**

All Board meetings, workshops or executive sessions should, except in extraordinary circumstances, adjourn at or before 9:30 p.m.

### **Section 11. Conflict with Laws**

Any conflict or inconsistency between these bylaws and any applicable law shall be resolved in favor of the law.

### **Section 12. Waivers; Amendments**

These bylaws, or any provisions thereof, may be waived on any occasion by majority vote of the Board unless otherwise provided by law. These bylaws may be amended at any time in writing by majority vote of the Board.

**RULES OF PROCEDURES ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN ON JULY 15, 2014 BY:**

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Gary Kenny

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Stephanie Haines

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Stephen Saunders

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Peter Ault

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donald Welsh

Attest:

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Aaron Chrostowsky, Town Manager

Last Updated: 7/2014