

## Section V.E.

### Public Facilities and Services

## I. Town Office

Most administrative functions of the community operate out of the Town Office, a 5,432 square foot building that was constructed in 1979. Municipal staff, who work at the Town Office, include the town manager, two clerks, town treasurer, one full-time public safety director, a part-time public safety administrative assistant, a part-time Code Enforcement Officer, and a part-time Assessor. The Town Manager indicates that the facility is adequate to meet current and anticipated demands.

## II. Municipal Fire Department<sup>1</sup>

Islesboro Number of Fire Calls, 2016-2017	
Type of Calls	Number of Calls
Alarm Investigation	17
Structure Fire	1
Smoke Investigation	1
EMT Lift Assist	10
Power Outage/Tree on Lines	12
Propane Calls	4
Grass & Brush Fire	5
Traffic Control	1
Water Rescue	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>
Source: Islesboro 2016-2017 Annual Report	

The Municipal Fire Department provides fire suppression, fire rescue, and fire education services for the community, including Islesboro Island, 700 Acre Island, Warren Island, Spruce Island, Ram Island, Seal Island, among others. The Town is a member of the

<sup>1</sup> Based on discussion with Fire Dept, Chief Merton Durkee and review of 2007-2008 Town Budget.

Knox County Mutual Aid Association and the Waldo County Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincolnville, Belfast, Camden, and Northport.

Equipment and staff are housed at the Fire Station, which is part of the Town Office complex. While the building is in good condition, it is at capacity housing the community's four fire trucks and two ambulances, with no room for new equipment. It also provides office and meeting/training space. Fire Chief Merton Durkee recommends that the Town site a fire substation at the northern end of the island to house one fire truck and one ambulance and include a training building to conduct live-burn fire training. He estimates the cost for the facility as \$200,000-\$300,000.

Islesboro Fire Department Equipment, 2017			
Item	Date of Purchase/Receipt	Condition	Description and How Used
<b>Engine #1: Freightliner</b>	2002	Excellent	1250gpm/1250gallon tank Pumper/Primary Attack
<b>Engine #5: International</b>	1991	Good	1000gpm/1250gallon tank Pumper/Tanker
<b>Engine #4: Ford</b>	1968	Good	750gpm/750gallon tank Pumper
<b>Engine #6: Ford</b>	1987	Good	500gpm/2000gallon tank Tanker
<b>700 Acre Island Engine Clary</b>	1987	Good	250gpm/250gallon tank Mini-Pumper

According to the Fire Chief, all trucks are adequate to meet existing need, but in the future, the Town should replace and/or add a 1000gmp/2000gallon tank Pumper/Tanker at an estimated cost \$200,000.

The Department currently includes 10 firefighters. According to the Fire Chief, the Town needs more young members for SCBA use and to replace older firefighters. The Department includes a junior program that includes 1 participant. In addition, the Fire

Chief indicates that he needs more time in-office to manage administrative responsibilities.

There are no existing plans to improve the Department's facility or equipment or to increase staff.

The Town's 2017-2018 budget for the Department is \$67,568.

In 1997, the Town adopted the Islesboro Addressing Ordinance to establish and maintain names and numbers of all properties to support Enhanced 911 service and the requirements of the US Postal Service.

### III. Public Safety<sup>2</sup>

Islesboro Number of Public Safety Calls, 2016-2017	
Type of Calls	Number of Calls
Ambulance	102
Police	477
Source: Islesboro 2016-2017 Annual Report	

The Islesboro Public Safety Department serves as the community's emergency operations center (EOC) and provides emergency medical, police, and water rescue services to Islesboro and associated islands. The Town is part of the Waldo County Mutual Aid Agreement with Lincolnville, Belfast, Camden, and Northport.

Equipment and staff are housed in the Public Safety Building, which is part of the Town Office complex. The building is used for dispatch, training, meeting space, storage, everyday business, vehicle storage, and sleeping space for off-island EMS/Health Center/Police/Fire/Training personnel. Capacity is around 38 in the meeting room.

According to the Public Safety Officer, Fred O. Porter, the facility is not sufficient for current and future demands. He recommends that an expanded facility should include a

<sup>2</sup> Based on discussion with Public Safety Officer Fred O. Porter and review of Town tax map.

roughly 8,000 square foot building to house a 4-bay garage, a 3-room dormitory with shower/bath, cooking, and training space and be equipped with a generator that can be used to back-up the generator currently used in the Town Office complex. He also recommends that the facility include a separate EOC office. He estimates the cost for the new facility, including the heated concrete slab and prefabricated steel shell, would be \$162,000, with additional monies needed to finish the interior.

<b>Islesboro Public Safety Equipment, 2017</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Date of Purchase/Receipt</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Description and How Used</b>
<b>Rescue #1</b>	2017	Excellent	Ambulance
<b>Rescue #2</b>	2006	Good/Old	Ambulance 20,000 miles
<b>Cruiser</b>	2013	Excellent	Police/Primary Response
<b>Source: Islesboro Public Safety Department, 2017</b>			

The Department currently includes 11 EMS, 2 police, and 5 emergency management staffers. According to the Public Safety Officer, current levels of staffing are low.

There are no existing plans to improve the Department's facility or equipment or to increase staff. The Town's 2017-2018 budget for the Department is \$119,868.

As necessary, patients are transported to Penobscot Bay Medical Center or Waldo County Hospital.

The Town is enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program.

#### IV. Waste Management

Islesboro Waste Management and Recycling Program, 2016-2017	
<b>Tons of Municipal Waste</b>	567.30
<b>Tons of Traditional MSW Recycling</b>	107.00
<b>Tons of Other MSW Recycling</b>	24.80
<b>Tons of Total Municipal Solid Waste<sup>3</sup></b>	435.50
<b>Municipal Recycling Rate</b>	28.23%
<b>Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 2017.</b>	

According to the Maine State Planning Office (SPO), Islesboro disposed of 567.3 tons of municipal waste<sup>4</sup> in 2016. The same year, it recycled 107.00 tons of cardboard, old newspaper, glass, plastic, universal waste, and metals, or 28.23%<sup>5</sup> of its total waste stream. Leaf and yard waste is banned from the local waste stream.

The Town of Islesboro instituted a Zero-Sort recycling system in 2010. Residents drop off waste at the Transfer Station and in pre-paid bags that are the cornerstone of the “Pay as You Throw” system. Trash is transported from the Transfer Station by Casella Waste Systems to the central collection facility in Waterville, Maine. Waste is then transported to Casella’s incinerator and landfill in Old Town, Maine. Recycling material is transferred to Casella’s sorting facility in Lewiston, Maine. The Transfer Station also facilitates the recycling of all forms of material including lightbulbs, batteries, electronic waste such as televisions and computers, and liquid paint. The Transfer Station does not accept household hazardous waste on a regular basis but holds an annual, one-day household hazardous waste collection day. Islesboro’s recycling program is mandatory and was established by municipal ordinance in 1993.

<sup>3</sup> Construction & Demolition Debris waste is included in Municipal Solid Waste total.

<sup>4</sup> Commercial waste is included in total municipal waste.

<sup>5</sup> The municipal recycling rate is actually 18.23%, but is adjusted to 20.73% when adjusted for bottle bill credits (5%). Recyclables are nearly evenly split between municipal (49.9%) and bulky waste (50.1%)

Public Works stores road salt and sand and manages solid waste at the site of the Transfer Station. Salt and sand are stored in a 3,750 square foot building that was built in 2004. The transfer station includes a 1,840 square foot structure that was constructed in 1991. Public Works currently includes two full time employees and a full time Transfer Station Attendant.

According to the Town Manager, both facilities are adequate to meet current needs. Naturally, additional removal will have an impact on the cost of operating the facility, whose annual operating budget is currently \$171,040.

## **V. Health Center**

The Islesboro Health Center occupies the center section of the Town Office Building. It has its own entrance, reception area, offices, examination and treatment rooms.

The Health Center is available for appointment and walk in patients five days a week, a half day on Saturday, and 24/7 for emergencies. Emergency patients are either stabilized at the center before transport to either Penobscot Bay Medical Center or Waldo County Hospital, usually at the patients' choice. Appointment and walk in patients receive a wide range of routine and specialized medical services that would usually be obtained on the mainland either through doctors' offices or hospital. The scope of services relieves many island residents from having to go to the mainland for these services, thereby avoid cost (ferry fares) and expenditure of time. The scope of services especially including advanced diagnostic services continues to grow through new equipment, most recently an INR level testing machine.

The condition of the current facilities is good and is generally adequate to meet current and anticipated demand; however, the Island has a drastic need for tick control as the known number of Lyme disease cases have increased in recent years. This initiative was formed through the Islesboro Health Board Advisory Committee. It is unknown what the requirements will be for disease detection, treatment and ultimate control of the infected ticks. Assistance is being requested of state and federal agencies.

The Health Center currently employs one Physician's Assistant and two Nurse Practitioners, one full-time secretary/receptionist, and one part-time clerk. It operates in conjunction with the Penobscot Bay Medical Center emergency staff.

Islesboro Health Center Visits, FY 2013-2017					
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
	2,914	2,921	3,002	2,595	2,521

Source: Islesboro Health Center. Note: In 2015-2016 the Health Center stopped counting flu shots as a Health Center Visit.

There were 2,521 Health Center visits in 2016-2017.

The 2017-2018 budget for the Health Center included \$443,128 of taxpayer support. Additional support is provided through generous general and specific donations by island residents and community organizations. The Town recently established a Health Center Endowment fund, but has not yet started fund raising. There is, however, some money in the fund, which will accept any and all contributions.

The Health Center is overseen by the Health Center Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen.

## VI. Islesboro Central School<sup>6</sup>

Islesboro Central School is a K-12 public educational facility that sits on 19 acres owned by the Town. Roughly 3 acres are developed for approximately 18,500 square feet of space in 2 primary school buildings and associated facilities. Another  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre is cleared for use by the horticulture program, easterly of the primary school campus. Approximately 15.25 acres remain undeveloped forest land. Some trails traverse this open space.

In 2007, school enrollment was the lowest it had been in 15 years. By 2009-2010 enrollment was back up to 86 students, and in 2012-2013 topped out at 105 students.

<sup>6</sup> Based on information collected by Comprehensive Plan Committee, including the 2007-2008 Annual Report, tax data, and Public Information Meeting to discuss concept plans for school expansion/renovation.

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year dropped to 87 students, 23 of which were magnet students commuting from the mainland and paying tuition. The school has a small but active adult education program. The Kinnicutt Center serves as the school cafeteria, Gymnasium, theater and performance hall.

Islesboro School Enrollments, 1996-2017														
	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1996-1997	8	6	8	4	5	5	11	4	19	11	13	6	9	109
1997-1998	7	9	6	9	4	5	3	11	5	17	10	13	6	105
1998-1999	7	6	9	5	11	6	5	4	11	5	15	9	14	107
1999-2000	7	6	8	5	9	5	5	4	10	5	16	9	14	103
2000-2001	4	7	7	6	10	7	11	6	7	4	9	5	16	99
2001-2002	4	4	7	7	7	10	5	13	6	9	6	9	5	92
2002-2003	7	7	4	7	7	7	12	6	11	6	7	7	9	97
2003-2004	5	8	6	3	5	5	9	11	4	12	7	5	3	83
2004-2005	3	5	11	5	3	5	8	9	12	4	10	7	5	87
2005-2006	5	3	5	11	5	4	7	8	7	10	5	7	6	83
2006-2007	3	6	3	5	12	4	6	8	7	7	11	5	7	84
2007-2008	2	3	4	6	5	11	3	7	8	6	8	9	5	77
2008-2009	5	2	3	4	5	7	12	3	8	8	7	8	10	82
2009-2010	6	2	3	3	6	7	13	3	9	8	8	9	9	86
2010-2011	6	4	6	2	4	6	8	11	12	7	9	8	7	90
2011-2012	1	5	4	5	2	5	8	8	12	11	6	11	8	86
2012-2013	7	4	5	4	6	8	9	8	13	11	12	8	10	105

2013-2014	3	7	4	3	4	6	9	9	10	13	10	11	6	95
2014-2015	3	4	6	4	5	4	6	4	5	3	7	8	11	70
2015-2016	10	2	7	6	6	4	10	9	10	7	6	8	9	94
2016-2017	1	10	4	8	5	8	5	9	8	9	4	9	7	87
Source: Maine Department of Education														

The School employs a staff of 23, including a part-time superintendent, a principal, four elementary and four secondary teachers. In addition, six instructors teach horticulture, art, music, physical education/health, guidance, and special education. The School also employs two custodians, a bus driver, a school lunch supervisor, a lunch room aide, a special education aide, and a federally funded Title 1 reading/math instructor.

The Town elects a five-member school committee which is responsible for school management.

The original school building is the former summer cottage of Mrs. John T. Atterbury, the last major summer cottage of the pre-Depression era, which was built in 1926. Later purchased by Mrs. Lillian T. Whitmarsh, the property was given to the Town for use as a school in 1952. Following acceptance by the Town, the former cottage was remodeled and began operating as a school in 1954. In the 1980s, the attached Kinnicutt Center was constructed to provide space for athletic activities, cafeteria, and theater.

The school building was remodeled again in 1997, providing additional classrooms, improved science laboratory, art room and music area. Although the remodeling provided improved educational facilities, the building is still not handicapped accessible. A 24 by 24 foot storage building was added to the campus in spring 2002 to handle storage needs.

Because the aging building is in need of significant maintenance and repair, the School Committee developed plans for renovation and expansion of the ICS building. In June

2008, the Town approved a note of \$200,000 to fund detailed preconstruction plans by Stephen Blatt Architects. In October 2008, the Town approved a referendum to borrow an additional \$450,000 to underwrite ongoing preconstruction costs and issue up to \$8 million in general obligation bonds (\$4 million for an anticipated term of approximately 25 years with the balance in shorter term bonds). The warrant article stipulated that project borrowing for construction will occur only after donors have made at least \$3,000,000 in gifts or written pledges.

Private fundraising was successful, underwriting \$4 million of the total \$8 million budget. The completely renovated school and expanded gymnasium was completed in 2010 and dedicated in the summer of 2010.

The school's current operating budget is \$2.3 million.

## **VII.   Preschool**

Founded in 1981, the Islesboro Preschool provides services for Islesboro children ages three months to five years old. The program works closely with the public school in providing for a smooth transition for pre-school children into the kindergarten school program. It offers an opportunity for parents and children to share experiences and work together in developing their children's growth.

The Preschool has been housed in the second floor of the Town Office building since the early 1990s. In August of 2017 the Preschool moved into a new, \$600,000 facility adjacent to the Town Office. There are 14 children currently enrolled for the Winter 2017-2018 program. The Islesboro Preschool is licensed for 20 children and expect to have that capacity in the summer of 2018 with occasional weekly care for summer visitors.

The Preschool's FY17-18 Budget is \$108,286 with the Town of Islesboro contributing an annual allocation of \$65,000 towards that budget. Due to the Town's ongoing funding

support the Preschool was able to raise funds to build the new facility and allows the Preschool to keep child care affordable so all families with young children on the island can participate.

### **VIII. Dark Harbor Wastewater Treatment and Disposal**

The only municipal sewer system in Islesboro is located at Dark Harbor Village. It serves 34 users with the capacity to add more. Wastewater is filtered through sand leach beds located adjacent to Pendleton Yacht Yard, and from there, passes through a small, 120 square foot, pumping station where it discharges into the ocean beyond the Dark Harbor Pool at a depth of 75' below the mean low tide level. The discharge is tested once a week by the Public Works Department to assure that it complies with federal and state standards. Operating costs are currently born by the 34 users of the system through a fee that is estimated to be \$17,267 for Fiscal Year 2018.

The Town maintains a capital reserve account, depositing \$10,000-\$15,000 each year, to cover the cost of ongoing maintenance and repair of a system first installed in 1904.

### **IX. Septage Disposal**

Apart from the 34 users of the Dark Harbor Wastewater system, all residential and nonresidential properties dispose of wastewater on site or in holding systems. The Town maintains a DEP-approved septage disposal field and holding tanks near the Transfer Station. In 2002, the Town adopted a Septage Disposal Control Ordinance that establishes rules for governing septage disposal management.

### **X. Water Supply**

All residents of Islesboro draw drinking water from bedrock wells (86%, based on 1994 survey of residents), dug wells, or springs for household use. There is at least one

community well located in Ryder Cove that serves 9 residences.<sup>7</sup> In addition, a community well is proposed as part of the Northeast Point Subdivision.

The Groundwater Protection Committee is considering testimony regarding potential benefits of community water systems from Richard V. de Grasses, P.E., a resident of Islesboro and a retired professional engineer who formerly served as Deputy Commissioner of the Vermont Public Service Board where he was responsible for all small community water systems in Vermont.

See Chapter 9 Groundwater, Section II Drinking Water Supplies for additional information.

## **XI. Grindle Point**

Grindle Point is a multi-use area, portions of which are owned and operated by the state and the Town. The facilities encompass approximately 2 acres and consist of the state owned ferry ramp, ticket office, and road leading to the pier. The Town owns the pier, Grindle Point Lighthouse and Sailors Memorial Museum, and parking area for 60 cars. The ferry ramp is maintained by the state. The Town owned pier, which was 110' long and 11'7" wide, was expanded to double its size in 2007. The Town received a state SHIP Grant totaling \$102,000 and matched it with \$50,600 of Town funds to add new steel and decking to the west side of the existing pier, widening it to 22'7". The old decking was removed and the existing steel was sent out of state to be sandblasted and galvanized, then reinstalled along with new decking. This added an additional \$155,000 cost to the project, which was paid for entirely by the Town. The two original inclines were kept, one off the east end that serviced two floats, one off the south end that serviced another two floats, and a new one off the west side which provides access to dinghy floats.

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<sup>7</sup> Gerber, Robert G. Inc. Islesboro Ground Water Resource Evaluation. Prepared for the Islesboro Comprehensive Plan Implementation Project. Freeport, Maine. August 1995.

The Harbor Committee, Museum Committee, and Parking Committee oversee the various facilities and report to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen.

## XII. Cemeteries

Islesboro Cemeteries (2008)					
Name	# acres	Ownership			Comments
		Public	Private	Nonprofit	
Adin Moody			X		Depressions
Amasa Hatch			X		Stones
Bay View Cemetery <sup>a</sup>	1	X <sup>b</sup>			Stones
Beech Hill Burying Ground	1		X		Stones
Benham Grave			X		Stone
Boardman Cemetery			X		Stones
Christ Church Cemetery	4.06			X <sup>c</sup>	Stones
Darrell Rolerson			X		Stone
David Rolerson			X		Stone
Davis Warren, Point Comfort			X		Stone
Dodge Burying Ground			X		Stones
Dodge Grave			X		Stones
Edson Sherman			X		Stone
Flat Island		X <sup>d</sup>			History, Point Not Exact
Fletcher			X		Stones
Gray Family Cemetery			X		Stones
Greenwood Cemetery <sup>a</sup>	1.77			X <sup>e</sup>	Stone
Grindle Point, Oak Tree			X		History
Keller Yard			X		Stones
Mansfield Clark Cemetery			X		Stones
Maple Grove Cemetery <sup>a</sup>			X		Stones
Marshall's Point	5.7		X		Small Stones
Old Burying Ground			X		Stones
Otis Dodge Children			X		Stone, History
Paige Pendleton			X		Stone
Pendleton Cemetery	1.73		X		Stones
Randlett Cemetery			X		Stones
Sherman Point Cemetery			X		Stones

Islesboro Cemeteries (2008)					
Name	# acres	Ownership			Comments
		Public	Private	Nonprofit	
<b>Soldier Memorial-Library</b>			X		Stone
<b>Sprague's/Wildwood</b>	<b>0.667</b>	X <sup>b</sup>	X		Stones
<b>Thrumcap Island</b>	<b>0.7</b>		X		History, Point Not Exact
<b>Tiffany Cemetery</b>			X		Stones
<b>Trim Burying Ground</b>			X		Stones
<b>West Side Burying Ground</b>			X		Stones
<b>Note: Those cemeteries without acres noted are generally very small or the acreage is unknown.</b>					
<sup>a</sup> Plots available for purchase.			<sup>b</sup> Owned by Town		
<sup>b</sup> Owned by Town			<sup>c</sup> Owned by Episcopal Church		
<sup>d</sup> Owned by State			<sup>e</sup> Owned by Free Will Baptist Church Society		
Source: Town files & map, Cemetery Chairperson, Town Assessor, Shea Conover.					

Bay View Cemetery, which is Town owned, expanded within the last ten years. No problems with capacity are foreseen for next ten years.

Maple Grove Cemetery, a privately owned cemetery, also expanded in the last ten years, through donated land. The conditions of the donation state that plots will be available only to island residents. There are no foreseen space problems.

Greenwood Cemetery, a non-profit cemetery, has over a dozen standard plots and a dozen cremation plots available. The property is landlocked; however, on the north and east sides, there is raw land which might be available for purchase. Attention is currently focused on restoration of the associated church structure.

### **XIII. Power and Telecommunications**

Three-phase power is available at the Ferry Landing and the Transfer Station.

Cell phone coverage on the island is spotty, with up to half of the Island without reliable cell phone coverage.

Limited DSL internet is available to the central part of the Island from the telephone building at the end of Ferry Road down Mill Creek Road, part-way down Pendleton Point Road to the south and north toward the Narrows.

Islesboro is currently in the build out phase of a \$3.8 million dollar project, funded by a bond approved by Islesboro voters, to install a 100 megabit system that covers the entire island. Fiber optic cable is being run throughout the island to all homes, power devices and routers included, for those who have signed up for the service. The Town of Islesboro will own the utility and contract out daily operations to an experienced broadband technology management company. Islesboro was able to have a new fiber optic cable included in the CMP power transmission cable that was installed under Penobscot Bay in 2016 and ties into Maine's rural broadband initiative, the Three Ring Binder that delivers high speed internet access throughout the State.

Cable television is not available on the Island.

All solar collectors, antennas, and communication towers, among other things, are regulated under § 3.11.5 (2) of the Land Use Ordinance, to exceed height limitations; however they may not exceed "75 feet above the original mean grade level..." There has been some uncertainty in the application of the height limit to "peripherals" in a recent application.

## **IX. Issues and Implications**

1. Should the Town site a fire substation and training building at the northern end of the island as recommended by the Fire Chief?
2. Should the Town expand the public safety facility and provide a separate emergency operations center (EOC) as recommended by the Public Safety Officer?
3. What might the Town do to help fund the pre-school program?
4. Should the Town seek opportunities to purchase property in the area of the emerging Town Center?
5. Are there areas around the Central School that might be appropriate for development of a residential neighborhood?

6. To promote more compact development while protecting groundwater, should the Town: a) develop a public waste disposal system, b) encourage and/or require the construction of private community systems that meet newly specified Town standards, including on-going maintenance?
7. All subdivisions of five acres or less are required to build and install community water systems as part of their subdivision plan in Vermont, where issues surrounding fresh water quantity and quality are not much different than they are in Islesboro. To better protect groundwater, should the Town require community water systems for proposed future subdivisions?
8. Given concerns about the need for tick control to address the increasing number of Lyme disease cases in recent years, what should the Town do to support the Islesboro Health Board Advisory Committee initiative for disease detection, treatment and ultimate control of the infected ticks?
9. Should Islesboro investigate the siting of alternative energy sources?
10. Given recent questions about height limits and new provisions in federal law, should the Town clarify and/or revise its policies about height limits and regarding the siting of telephone cell towers? Are there areas of the community where towers should not be allowed? Should the Town require telecommunication facilities to be co-located on taller structures in the community?