

Town of Islesboro
SELECT BOARD
Special Meeting
April 23, 2018 @ 4:00 PM
Town Office Meeting Room

**DRAFT**
Approved
5/2/18

MINUTES

Members Present: Arch Gillies, Sandra Oliver, Hanna Kerr, Gabriel Pendleton,
Others Present: Janet Anderson – Town Manager, Nick Porter, Fred Porter, Phil Seymour,
Rick Rogers, Chris Bolduc, Sunny Bolduc, Elizabeth Hayden, Fred
Thomas, Sharon Daley, Bill Boardman, Rebecca Schnur, Linda
Sienkiewicz, Bill Warren, Tom Tutor, Brenda Thomas, Brenda Thomas,
Craig Olson

Arch Gillies called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM, and a quorum was established.

a) LETTER FROM MDOT COMMISSIONER DAVID BERNHARDT (4/19/18)

The Commissioner reported disappointment with the intimidating behavior that some Islesboro customers have directed at the MSFS crew over the last couple of days. (A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.)

G. Pendleton reports that some Ferry workers felt that things were a little uncomfortable while others did not notice any problems.

RE Facebook posts: Fred Porter reported that in talking with Waldo County Sheriff's office that no threats met the criminal threshold, but further instances would be investigated. Apologies have been made for any unintended threatening posts.

1) SELECT BOARD LETTER TO MDOT/MSFS

Gabe has been working on a draft letter to send to the state; it is not ready yet to be sent. Plans are in the works for seeking further counsel and possible legal action.

2) LEGAL RESPONSE(S)

Gabe, Arch & Janet were on a conference call with town attorneys last week and they outlined a series of steps to put in place for going forward. Another conference call is scheduled for tomorrow.

3) ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional counsel will be looked into; this will be beneficial as different areas of expertise will become available.

The following discussions were held:

- It would be helpful to get someone with experience in agency rule making and lobbying. We may need to get someone from state legislature on our side.
- Janet submitted a Freedom of Access request for data from the MDOT/MSFS.
- Different options mentioned for raising money for the purpose of challenging the rate increase.
- The possibility of changes to the proposed FY19 budget was discussed.

MOTION BY G. Pendleton, seconded by H. Kerr, to have Janet seek outside counsel in regards to pursuing challenging the State's decision to raise the Ferry rates in the manner they did. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

4) LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

Mainland accessibility – We need to be thinking about how year-round residents can get back and forth easily and affordably. It's a risk to depend on the state. We need to start thinking now about risk aversion.

5) COMMUNICATIONS

Regular updates will be made via the Town's email list and Facebook as they become available.

Emails and letters should be sent to State Legislators and newspapers stating how the increase will impact islanders and island businesses.

COMMENTS

Becky Schnur: Wonders if a 48 hour boycott of the ferry would be an effective way of proving how important the Islesboro run is to the Ferry Service. A group of citizens are getting together to talk about options.

Arch: The Select Board is working on the issue.

Bill Boardman: QS is contemplating running 2 or 3 trips concurrent with the ferry schedule with competitive prices. The town really needs to put some thought into parking on this side as there will be a lot more people parking and walking across.

Chris Bolduc: Frustrating for commuters when they have paid for parking in Lincolnville and there are not any spots to park.

Sandy: It would be interesting to find out how much money Islanders spend at mainland establishments. They will be affected by fewer patrons from the island. People will be spending more online.

Fred Thomas: This is really going to impact retirees on fixed incomes. Wonders if we can get some older school kids to write letters explaining how the raised rates will affect them and their families. Arch will talk with the school.

Gabe: It is really important to get a list from a cross-section of island residents and businesses on the impact to them.

Craig Olson: Need to find out if the State followed proper procedures.

MOTION BY S. Oliver, seconded by H. Kerr, to adjourn the meeting and it passed 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina L. Pendleton
Administrative Assistant