

Islesboro Island News

November/December 2023

\$5.00



Rachel Rolerson Smith photo



December 2023 Update

In May of this year, the Municipal Building Project Committee (MBPC) retained H. E. Callahan Construction in Auburn, ME to be construction manager for the new Health Center Building and the up-island Public Safety Garage. In early November, H. E. Callahan submitted a draft Guaranteed Minimum Price for construction of the two buildings. The Callahan numbers, plus the cost of renovating the Public Safety space in the Municipal Building, came to \$4,813,508, which was \$1,213,508 above the \$3.5 million approved by the Town. Although MBPC members acknowledged that the recent spike in construction costs is bound to impact the cost of the overall project, they felt that this increase was excessive.

Subsequently, the MBPC and the Select Board agreed to discontinue work with H. E. Callahan and to consider Ledgewood Construction of South Portland, one of the four companies previously interviewed by the MBPC. Ledgewood has worked on Islesboro, including as the construction manager for the extensive renovation of Islesboro Central School in 2008-2010.

On November 15th the MBPC met with Peter J. Pelletier, President and Director of Preconstruction of Ledgewood. He said that the company had a long history of working on medical buildings and described their approach to getting the best price once a project has been put out to bid. As to timing, he estimated that the final design refinements and bidding process would take approximately two months. Construction would start as soon as possible thereafter. In order to have “full production,” Ledgewood proposes to have construction crews work four ten-hour days per week and would arrange for a transport service to bring workers



from the mainland in the very early morning and return them late in the day. At the end of the meeting the MBPC voted to proceed with Ledgewood.

If you would like to hear Peter Pelletier’s talk at the November 15th meeting, please watch the recording of the meeting on the YouTube page of the Town’s website <https://townofislesboro.com>. A printed transcript of his presentation will soon be available at the Town Office.

Submitted by the Municipal Building Project Committee

Introducing Tariff 10

By John King

The Ferry Service Advisory Board met on November 30th, 2023 in Rockland in person and by Zoom. The day before the meeting MaineDOT provided the Advisory Board members with its proposal for Tariff 10. A condensed version of the proposed Tariff 10 showing only Islesboro rates can be found below. Once officially filed there should be a period for public comment by any and all interested.

For background purposes, we have been operating under Tariff 9 for a bit over four years. Tariff 9 was adopted after the rather infamous Tariff 8, which profoundly increased the ferry rates, was scuttled under public pressure. Tariff 9 adopted a Peak and Off-Peak rate structure. MaineDOT intended Tariff 9 to be in effect for four years and then reviewed. As previously reported, the costs of running the system have increased over those four years, with the increase primarily being associated with personnel costs, and fuel and repair costs.

Dealing with the pandemic was no easy task and the folks in Rockland did quite a bit of scrambling to keep things running. Indeed, we seem to have done better than some systems around the country thanks to their efforts. Also, by way of background, it should be noted that the state pays

100% of capital expenditures (such as new vessels). The state by statute, also pays 50% of the annual budgeted operating expenses from the highway trust fund. Fairbox revenue (what the users pay) constitutes the other 50%.

Based upon expenditures the past four years, MaineDOT anticipates a needed revenue increase for the next four years of a little over 18%. How to achieve that goal has been the subject of much discussion at the Advisory Board and the various Select Boards of the towns served by the MSFS, Swan’s Island, Frenchboro, Islesboro, North Haven, Vinalhaven, and Matinicus. One approach considered was the possibility of allocating more of the increase to the Peak Season tickets, when demand is high. Models were made and discussed with 100%, 75% and 60% of the needed increase being applied to Peak Season tickets as opposed to Off Season tickets. Most of the Select Boards were in favor of some application of that approach, although opinions differed as to the exact amount.

Then, at a special meeting of the Advisory Board held on October 30th which MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note attended, a proposal called the “Truck Model” was introduced. That model allocated significant increases to the cost per foot of commercial trucks and Peak Season Vehicle rates. The “Truck Model” generated a fair amount of discussion and some controversy with most of the serviced

towns taking the position that the 75/25 or 60/40 Peak vs. Non-Peak allocation was preferable.

Islesboro was one of those towns. In addition, from the beginning, the Select Board advocated in favor of a full time island resident rate, a senior citizen discount, and a commuter rate that is far more user friendly than the

Tariff 10... continued on page 5



The Burns Family display
Melissa Burns Photo

Inside

Around the Town ..	14
Bulletin Board	2
Church News	27
Cooks Corner/Friends	25
Crossword/John Rex Waller	12, 26
Ferry News/ John King	1 & 5
IMB Update/Roger Heinen	9
Journal Island Garden/Sandy Oliver ..	23
Land of the Free/Eva Murray	25
Letters	10
Jack McConnell	2
Municipal Building Committee	1
News and Notes	6
Newsmakers	13
Real Estate	29,30,31
Remembrances	26
School/ Principal/Superintendent	20
Tech Talk/Catherine Demchur-Merry ..	9
Trust Topics/Chloe & Robyn	24
<i>Featuring</i>	
Toby Martin	19
Nakomis Nelson	22
Janis Petzel	10
Candace Provey	23
Gwen Tatreux	11

Submissions: Ed Bacon, Kizzi Barton, Cressica Brazier, Linda Gillies, Katie Heckel, Liv Lenfesty, Joan Lillie, Patrick O’ Bannon, Melissa Olson, Candace Provey, Donna Seymour, Jane Wherren,
Photography: Melissa Burns, Kate Legere, Margie Mills, Nakomis Nelson

Second class postage paid at Islesboro, ME. and at other locations. USPS Permit #010334.

Draft Proposed Rates for Tariff 10

	Current Rate Oct-May	Illustrative Rate Oct-May	Illustrative Increase % Oct-May	Current Rate June-Sept	Illustrative Rate June-Sept	Illustrative Increase % June-Sept
Adult Round Trip (RT)	\$8.00	\$9.00	12.50% ↑	\$13.00	\$15.00	15.38% ↑
Minor Round Trip	\$4.00	\$4.50	12.50% ↑	\$9.00	\$10.50	16.67% ↑
Vehicle Round Trip	\$22.00	\$26.00	18.18% ↑	\$29.50	\$37.50	27.12% ↑
Motorcycle Round Trip	\$17.50	\$20.50	17.14% ↑	\$23.75	\$29.25	23.16% ↑
Truck per foot RT	\$4.00	\$5.00	25.00% ↑	\$4.50	\$6.00	33.33% ↑
Adult Bike RT*	\$13.00	\$15.00	15.38% ↑	\$18.00	\$21.00	16.67% ↑
Minor Bike RT*	\$9.00	\$10.50	16.67% ↑	\$14.00	\$16.50	17.86% ↑
Reservation	\$20.00	\$24.00	20.00% ↑	\$20.00	\$24.00	20.00% ↑

* Price reflects cost of bicycle and rider