

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Phil Seymour, Melissa Burns, and Peter Anderson

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Dick DeGrasse, Mike Clayton, Bill Boardman, Elizabeth Hayden, Andrew (Pete) Anderson, Murt Durkee, Steve Miller, Owen Howell

Via Zoom: Fred Porter, Jennifer West, Dick Cavanaugh, Mark Ouellette (S.B. Architects), Jeff Glotzl, Linda Knebel, Michael Hutcherson

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and a quorum was established. Thanks to everyone who came early to help us celebrate Phil!

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by P. Seymour, to approve the minutes of October 18, 2023 Special Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Bill Boardman spoke about the Revaluation. He stated he's been doing an unscientific study with the commitment books of 2023 and 2024, to see how the theoretical "1/3 increase, 1/3 decrease, and 1/3 stay-the-same" rates are playing out. He has gone through G, and broken out year-round homes and higher-end summer cottages. Of the 38 year-round homes he's looked at, 22 went up, 12 went down, and 2 stayed the same. Of the 38 summer cottages, 16 went up, 21 went down, and 1 stayed the same. He feels that the year-round population is not where the tax burden should be coming from.

S. Conover thanked Bill and replied that she's struggled with this as well. The nature of the revaluation as she understands it is to reflect the market value of the property. The sale prices of year-round homes have increased faster than the sale prices of traditional seasonal properties over the past few years. This is not a trend that is helpful for supporting our year-round community. She hasn't found anything that can be done to change the way that system works. It is a concerning trend. We need to recognize it and figure out what we can do to support and maintain the year-round community.

Bill suggested that we need something like California's Proposition 13.

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PUBLIC HEARING

2023-2024 General Assistance Ordinance Appendices A-H

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to enter into Public Hearing. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

M. Burns stated that it looks standard. P. Seymour asked if it changed in the past year. J. Anderson answered that it went up slightly.

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by L. Bruce, to exit Public Hearing. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to adopt the Updated 2023-2024 General Assistance Ordinance. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the next Ferry Service Advisory Board meeting is Monday, October 30th.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover reported that the next Sea Level Rise Committee will be October 26th, at 5:30. The Engineering RFP for the Narrows Project has been released, and the deadline for engineering firms to respond is November 3rd. We hope to have a recommendation for the Select Board to enter into a contract by the 22nd.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the Municipal Building Project Committee met Monday the 23rd and had a good discussion. They were going to ask the Select Board for a Special Town Meeting to determine how to move forward, however, Pete Anderson and Lauren had a video conference today with Steve Blatt and Mark Ouellette from S.B. Architects, and they have requested that we not take any action yet. They would like a couple more weeks to work with Construction Manager H.E. Callahan to bring the price down. The architects would like to meet with the committee next week. They have just started digging into the bids with the contractors. We need more time to get the costs down.

S. Conover thanked the committee and S.B. Architects for advocating for us and trying to bring the costs down.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: October 30th – 5pm

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 10/25/23 and Minutes of 10/11/23 Regular Meeting and 10/18/23 Special Meeting.
- Public Hearing: Annual General Assistance Ordinance, Appendices A-H
- Minutes/Correspondence:
 - Maine Community Foundation Health Center Endowment Fund statement through 10/23/23. Balance \$1,495,293.85.
 - Municipal Building Project Committee minutes of 10/4/23.
 - Municipal Building Project Committee minutes of 10/23/23
 - Energy Committee minutes of 9/12/23
 - Housing Committee minutes of 8/29/23.
 - Harbor Committee minutes of 8/24/23.
- Old Business
 - Maine Power Options draft contract & review by Mark Bower & Cressica Brazier
- New Business
 - Tarratine Club, Golf & Yacht Annual Liquor Licenses renewals
 - Road Improvement & Maintenance Plan by Steve Miller
 - Discuss scheduling possible Special Town Meeting for Municipal Building Project and to elect Select Board member.
 - Sign updated Policy on Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants/Payroll
- Warrant #9
- Manager Report
 - East Shore Drive: We have a signed contract with Farley & Sons, and we are receiving insurance.

CORRESPONDENCE

Discussed in Town Manager's report

OLD BUSINESS

1. Maine Power Options – Dick DeGrasse & Energy Committee
 - Dick DeGrasse reported that this is the best time to enter into an agreement because it's the lowest price of the year. It will be under 11 cents/kWh. Any of the non-taxable entities, such as the Community Center, the School, and the Church, can take advantage of the agreement, but it has to start with the Town.
 - Phil Seymour asked how long the lower price holds. Dick answered that most communities he's spoken with have 4-year contracts, but we can do 1 year if the Board prefers.
 - Shey Conover stated her understanding is that we have 24 hours to respond once they issue a quote and contract. The contract we have is a template.

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- We would like a contract to sign at the next Select Board meeting on 11/8, Contract for 1 year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tarratine Club, Golf & Yacht Clubs Annual Liquor Licenses Renewal
 - This does not require a Public Hearing because they've had these licenses for 5 years without issue.

MOTION BY L. Bruce, seconded by M. Burns, to approve Tarratine Clubs' Liquor Licenses Renewal. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

2. Road Improvement & Maintenance Plan – Steve Miller
 - Steve Miller presented and discussed his letter regarding road improvement.
 - Many years ago, Steve served on the Advisory Committee, whose purpose was to delineate what is and what isn't a Town road. That committee worked with DOT information and presented a report. During that process, Steve learned what the rules were in terms of use of the roads.
 - Steve is concerned about maintenance, not just of the surface of the travel ways, but mostly with encroachment of vegetation. When there's a storm and a tree falls down, it's removed from the travel way, but often the rest of it is left, and the area in which we can operate safely, either as a vehicle, or a pedestrian or bicycle, has narrowed. Branches are encroaching into the travel way in several places.
 - State money was once involved in maintaining roadways here. The burden of has shifted to the Town. Legislation suggests it is the responsibility of municipalities.
 - It's time to make a plan to address safety on road. There's more traffic now than there was 15 years ago, and there are few shoulders for pedestrians to walk on.
 - Steve met with the Safe Roads Committee, and they are supportive of developing a plan. It's been recommended in the Comprehensive Plan and in Islesboro Looking Forward. It will be good to get expert advice on what should be done now, what should be phased, and get a sense of what it will cost, to come up with a budget.
 - Steve met Peter Coughlin from Maine Local Roads Center, a division of DOT. He was very helpful, and there are engineers that he might recommend the Town consider with an RFP. Drawing on the experience of other communities and the DOT makes sense.
 - If the Select Board agrees it's time to get serious about a road maintenance plan, Steve suggests working with Peter Coughlin to come up with a sense of how this would be structured, how the RFP would be drafted, etc.
 - S. Conover asked J. Anderson about the road system that she used a couple years ago. J. Anderson answered that it was about entering data; a Road Ranger came out and did a survey/inspection; we entered data into Road

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System and Sign Maintenance Software (RSSMS). There was a problem with the software.

- Steve thought the updated system would be helpful in tracking once a plan is in place.
- L. Bruce asked what the first step would be. Steve answered that the Safe Roads Committee was supportive of a plan being initiated, and they might be helpful with first steps, but he couldn't speak for them. Jeff Glotzl is now the Chair of that Committee, and we could ask them.
- J. Anderson will talk with Peter Coughlin to explore what other towns have created for a plan. She did email the Town Manager's list serve for road improvement plans and hasn't heard back from anyone yet.
- We will need to appropriate more money next year for road maintenance.
- Murt Durkee added that this year we've been pounded with excessive water. We should keep records of roads damaged by weather and water, and explore whether we can get State funding for any of it.
- J. Anderson stated Fred Porter has been documenting damage for FEMA.
- Owen Howell asked how East Shore Drive will affect the usual 1-2 miles of paving. S. Conover answered that we will not be paving this year. Now is a good time to think about a plan, because we will have to rebuild that fund.
- Steve Miller added that a plan will help prioritize what repairs will need to be done first, before paving.

3. Discuss Scheduling a Special Town Meeting for Municipal Building Project and Select Board Member Election.

- Hold off on Town Meeting until we know more about the Municipal Building Project.

4. Sign Updated Policy on Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants

- Phil has been one of the two on this responsibility, and Lauren will be away for a while this winter.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by P. Seymour, to nominate Melissa Burns and Lauren Bruce to serve as the municipal officers on the Policy on Treasurer's Disbursement Warrants. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None

APPROVE WARRANTS: FY24 #9

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY24 #9. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

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APPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: Thank you to Phil for all of his years of service at this table, the many Town committees he has served on, as an EMS Responder, and as a neighbor—thanks for all the work, and enjoy your retirement in the big city.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: Phil, you are beloved on this island. Thank you.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Thanks, Phil, it's been a pleasure in our short time together. The Islesboro Eagles are doing well, we should continue to support them.

M. Burns: Thank you to Phil, you've been a great mentor. I will miss you. Drive to Richmond on Friday and support our Eagles.

P. Seymour: Thanks to everyone. It's been a privilege to be on the Board, to serve with you and with past members. I've enjoyed my time on the island; it's hard to leave. I'm going to miss everybody; I've made a lot of friends here. I immensely enjoyed working as an EMT. If anyone wants a real experience in life, do that. If you save someone's life, you're six inches off the ground for the rest of the day.

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by M. Burns, to Adjourn Meeting at 6:55 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary