

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, October 9, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

APPROVED

10/23/24

MINUTES

Members Present:

Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Melissa Burns, Peter Anderson, and Stephen Pendleton (Zoom)

Members Absent:

Chair Shey Conover

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, John King, Murt Durkee

Others Present via Zoom:

Maggy Willcox, Peter Willcox

Call to Order: Vice Chair Lauren Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of September 25, 2024, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of September 25, 2024 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported that there is a Ferry Service Advisory Board meeting tomorrow in Rockland. MDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note will be there.

John King reported that he was at the last SB meeting where Fred Porter discussed the Atlantic Partners proposal regarding emergency transportation, and the SB reinstated the Emergency Transportation Committee. John met with Fred Porter and talked with Murt Durkee. Earl MacKenzie declined joining, as he is too busy. Peter has agreed to be on the committee. No formal meeting yet. John sent the SB a memo dated 10/7, and drafted a proposed letter. He made the point that we're unique in that we're only 3 miles from the mainland. In the proposed letter, John tried to keep a tone is that the emergency boat is a good idea, even though it probably won't impact this island as much. Because this proposed boat will be 70' long, it can't dock in Lincolnville. If a patient were to be picked up on this island, the boat would have to go to Belfast or Rockland. This is a

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significant change, and not one that's advantageous for this town. In John's letter, he wrote that significant modifications would probably have to be made to Islesboro's docks to accommodate this boat. However, Earl MacKenzie told John that if both floats at Grindle Point are empty, the boat might be able to dock there. John suggests deleting that sentence out of his proposed letter.

S. Pendleton stated that he feels the boat not going to Lincolnville is not an issue. The medical facilities are in Belfast and Rockland, and the boat going to those harbors puts the patients closer to those hospitals. While being able to come to the Islesboro side is critical, where it lands on the other side to drop people off might be beneficial in one of the other locations. However, not as good as the ferry run. John replied that this is the point. It certainly can't hurt having such an operation, but it's a big undertaking.

M. Burns stated we got the Q&A from the Lincolnville Select Board. Even though it may not happen in the next year or two, Mackenzie was definitive when she stated that the DOT's goal is that they will no longer keep the ferries on the islands, and islanders will be responsible for LifeFlight or something other than the ferry service. Her concern is that instead of getting into the weeds of details, we should help propel this new idea forward. It's no longer if, but when we no longer have the ferry for emergency services, we do have something in place. We need to get away from relying on the MSFS.

John King stated that after the last meeting, he had discussions with some folks who thought the statute that authorizes the creation of the MSFS actually had in the statutory language that it was not only for transportation, but also for emergency services. The current statute does not state this, but the original one might. He hasn't researched it yet. It is in the Tariff. If they make a change to the tariff, they have to follow the Administrative Procedures Act. If they make an attempt to make such a substantial change, all islands would have an opportunity to speak up. L. Bruce stated that if we have an alternative to using the ferry, that would be an argument in their favor.

P. Willcox stated he feels that keeping the ferry in Lincolnville is completely inappropriate, and two ferry captains agree. In a southerly wind, it's going to get beat up in the pen. Also, keeping the ferry in Lincolnville shouldn't preclude it from doing emergency runs. One of the captains who lives on the mainland feels he can get to the ferry dock in Islesboro before the ambulance. As much as he feels it's inappropriate to keep the boat in Lincolnville, he doesn't think we should eliminate emergency runs simply because it's kept there.

L. Bruce stated she read John's letter carefully. She doesn't know if there's anything that would preclude us from saying we're not strongly in favor of any change to the ferry service based on this letter. It just states it's wise to move forward and investigate further. John stated that he tried to make a point that we heavily rely upon the ferry service, but not to discourage this new operation.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to sign the proposed letter. No further discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

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SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover was absent. No update.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce stated she had no update.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: October 21st, 5:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 10/9/24 and Minutes of 9/25/24 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 8/29/24 Lighthouse Committee Minutes
 - Maine Islands Coalition Strategic Plan 2024-2029
 - We discussed Nancy Alexander and Michael Nelson being on this coalition. There may be someone from the Energy Committee joining.
 - Maine Islands Coalition Minutes from 9/20/24 meeting.
 - FY25 1st quarter Revenue & Expenses
- Correspondence
 - 10/4/24 Thank you from Town of Lincolnville for our annual harbor stipend.
 - 10/3/24 email from John King re: Island Medical Transport Draft Plan and draft letter “To Whom it may Concern” for the Select Board to consider.
- Manager
 - October 15th, 2025 Dog Licenses will be available.
 - November 7th Lincolnville Select Board will be coming over on the last ferry. The meeting will start at 5:30. We will have pizza, and then they will leave at 7:30 on the Quicksilver.
 - Broadband Facts that Tina will post at the front counter and on the website.
 - Bond signing.
- Warrant FY25 #8

CORRESPONDENCE

Addressed in Town Manager Report.

OLD BUSINESS

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1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #8

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #8. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

Maine Islands Coalition: Nancy Alexander, Michael Nelson.
Emergency Transportation Committee: Fred Porter, Peter Willcox, John King, Murt Durkee

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the slate of appointments. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: Absent.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: Junior Class Dinner tonight at the garden.

S. Pendleton: Will be back on the island next Wednesday for a while.

P. Anderson: No comments.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to adjourn meeting at 6:27 PM. No discussion.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary