

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, December 31, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

APPROVED

1/14/26

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Peter Anderson, Melissa Burns, Peter Rothschild, Stephen Pendleton

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Murt Durkee, John King

Others Present via Zoom:

Peter Willcox, Amy Mulnix

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of December 17, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of December 17, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover stated she hasn't yet drafted a letter to the MDOT representatives who came to Islesboro for the ferry design presentation on December 16th. She will draft it and send it around for members to review.

P. Willcox had no update.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover stated she had no update.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT: UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE, & PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that ¾ of the walls are up. No roof yet, but they've made progress.

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Murt Durkee asked if the contractor has provided a timetable for when the building will be completed. S. Pendleton will check.

Murt Durkee also asked whether Paul Grindle has finished the backfill work around the slab. S. Pendleton will check on that as well.

Public Safety Renovation: No update.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: January 12th, 5:00pm.
- Select Board & Committee Chair Workshop: January 14th, 4:30pm.
- Housing Committee: January 6th, 5:00pm.
- Sea Level Rise Committee: January 8th, 4:30pm.

P. Anderson stated that the Harbor Committee will be coming to the Select Board with proposals regarding repair of the pier at Grindle Point and replacing the pier at Seal Harbor. They don't have much of a solid financial plan yet. P. Anderson will report on that when there's more information. He's hoping this will ultimately result in further conversation about mooring fees and how to turn our working waterfronts into somewhat of a revenue center, instead of just costing hundreds of thousands of dollars for the taxpayer. He will send an email when he has a better idea of what they are looking to do.

M. Burns asked if they've said anything about grant proposals. P. Anderson replied that they have grant ideas in mind, but they are unclear about how much funding will come from their own budget and from potential town matching funds. J. Anderson added that Reed Silvers from Midcoast Council of Governments (MCOG) is going to help them with grant-writing.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 12/31/25 and Minutes of 12/17/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 10/30/25 Harbor Committee minutes
- Correspondence
 - None.
- Handouts:
 - Select Board Workshop – biannual meeting with Committee Chairs
- Manager:
 - No updates.
- Warrant #14

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CORRESPONDENCE

None.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ferry Road Parking

- P. Rothschild reported that he had a meeting with four engineers from DOT. They agreed to the slightly revised scope. Bill Lane says the next step is to complete the survey, which won't happen until late March.
- Once we have the survey, we can finalize plans and move ahead.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Set date to Zoom with Auditor re: FY24 Audit

- S. Conover stated that we get a report every year, but don't discuss it much. She does not have specific concerns, but thinks it would be a good practice to invite the auditor to make a presentation and have a discussion.
- Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 28th before the regular Select Board meeting. Time to be determined.

2. Set Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Town Selling Peak Ferry Tickets at Off-Peak Prices, June – September

- S. Conover stated that suggested members are to include John King, Gabe Pendleton, Peter Willcox, and Dave Dyer. Janet Anderson stated she can be involved, and Brian Bohanon may sit in.
- P. Anderson stated he would be interested in being at the meetings.
- John King stated that he would like to be able to determine what this might cost, and Brian Bohanon would be a good person to help this process.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Pendleton, to establish an ad hoc committee to investigate subsidized ferry tickets, with John King, Gabe Pendleton, Peter Willcox, and Dave Dyer. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

- John King asked the Board if there are specific items to focus on. S. Conover recommended looking at minutes of the previous two meetings to see the different ideas and concerns that were discussed, such as cost and eligibility. It would be helpful to be thinking about a proposal that could be considered for the budget. Also recognize that this program is designed to help address affordability. There's concern about an increase in taxes, particularly what might be coming down from Waldo County.
- S. Pendleton stated this could be a precedent setting event that could bleed over into other affordability issues. We need to be cognizant of that from a broader perspective. If we're helping in this area, should we be helping in other areas?

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- M. Burns added that how the group defines residency could be used for a future issue.
- S. Conover suggested it would be helpful for the attorney to have her eyes on things as they are drafted.
- P. Anderson agreed that he'd like the attorney to see the details as we go along. He's been concerned that his expressed concerns involving legality are not being conveyed explicitly to the attorney. He wants to make sure that she understands that we are collecting tax money from everybody, and only offering the service to certain participants of that payment process.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY26 #14

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve Warrant FY26 #14. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Happy New Year!

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

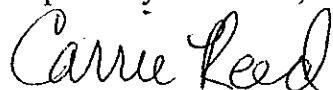
P. Rothschild: Many more happy new years!

M. Burns: Happy New Year!

S. Pendleton: Happy New Year!

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to adjourn meeting at 5:52 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary