

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

APPROVED
2/25/26

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Murt Durkee, Daniel Frohling

Others Present via Zoom:

Kate Misenheimer, Michael Nelson, Josh Leach, Dylan Purington

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

Minutes of January 28, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover acknowledged the copy of the letter we received from Jackie in Lincolnville asking the State and us to consider a different name for the new ferry. She personally supports the idea. We would want to work with Peter Willcox to learn more about the formal process for moving forward.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to ask Peter Willcox to talk to the State about the process of suggesting a different name for the new ferry to replace the Margaret Chase Smith. Discussion as below. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

M. Burns suggested the name Jessica Meir, after the astronaut.

Other Ferry Service Update:

M. Burns acknowledged the letter from Ken Smith commending the ferry crews for their exceptional service.

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P. Rothschild reported that he got a revised draft from Bill Lane at Gartley & Dorsky, who is reviewing this with the DOT engineers to make sure they reflected all the covenants. The next step is a survey, which will take place in March.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover stated the Sea Level Rise Committee meeting has been moved to Friday, February 13th, at 11:00, rather than Thursday evening, so that we can cheer on the Eagles in Augusta, against Vinalhaven.

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

Public Safety Renovation: S. Pendleton presented a slide show. The committee met last week. According to Brian, the funds that are still available in the original renovation allocation total about \$61,558. Phase 1 is complete. Discussion about next options:

Phase 2: demolish the Fire Chief's old office, the toilet room adjacent to the training room, and the kitchen equipment in the training room to expand the training room toward the north wall. The old Health Center lab alcove will become the temporary kitchen. We can have a painting party instead of hiring professional painters. This approach gives us the opportunity to generate more funds needed. The Public Safety staff is in agreement on this approach.

Phase 2A: build the new kitchen in what used to be the Health Center trauma room.

Phase 3: Update the existing former Health Center toilet room with a shower and make adjustments to meet ADA compliance. Create an interview room in the old Health Center lab, with soundproofing. This will involve building a new wall and doorway. Next to the updated toilet room and shower will be an updated room for storage and lockers, which will allow for better decontamination processes. Build wall for EOC.

We're anticipating that we need additional funds of between \$30,000 to \$40,000.

The committee is proposing that the Select Board approve moving forward with Phase 2 by spending the remaining \$61,558 to set up the training room, and then allow the committee to solicit funds from the community for the next phases.

P. Anderson asked if we spend the remaining existing funds for Phase 2, is the committee confident we can raise the funds needed for the rest of the work? S. Pendleton replied that there is support for the idea. The training room is a key part of the project.

M. Burns asked if the training room will double as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for major incidents, if we just do Phase 2. Murt replied that the EOC area will be set up just outside the existing radio room.

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S. Pendleton explained how the new proposal will be far less expensive than what was originally planned. The only thing holding us up from giving good numbers on 2A or 3 is we don't have quotes from contractors yet. We do have some good estimates on the new kitchen, which will also be ADA compliant.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the expenditure of the \$61,558 funds on Phase 2 as presented, knowing that we need to obtain additional funds for the final aspects of the Public Safety renovation. No further discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

S. Conover thanked the committee and Michael and Laura Giardino for all the work.

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that the roof is on the building, and the garage doors are framed out. We are still on schedule for a July completion date.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: February 23rd, 5:00pm.
- Ad Hoc Peak Season Ferry Tickets Committee: February 23rd at 10:30am.
- Lighthouse Committee: February 26th, 4:00pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 2/11/26 and Minutes of 1/28/26 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 1/6/26 Housing Committee minutes
 - 1/14/26 Committee Chairs Meeting minutes
 - 1/29/26 Lighthouse Committee minutes
- Correspondence
 - 2/2/26 copy of letter Ken Smith sent to EJ Dupont acknowledging the exceptional work of the "Maggie" ferry crew this difficult winter.
 - 2/3/26 copy of Jacquelyne Lusaredi, Lincolnville Ferry Terminal Supervisor, wrote to Dennis Damon, Chair of the MSFS Advisory Board re: reconsideration of the name for MCS replacement vessel, the George Mitchell.
- Handouts:
 - Total Law Incident Report for 2025, submitted by Fred Porter.
 - Maine Community Foundation 2025 year-end Health Center Endowment Fund statement. Balance: \$1,818,439. Available for distribution: \$63,700.
 - 1/31/26 Bar Harbor Wealth Management sub-accounting/capital reserves.
- Manager:

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- Re: Facilities Manager. J. Anderson reported that she's heard from Jesse Nash Consulting, the structural engineer. He can come out in April to assess the library and transfer station in preparation for finding a Facilities Manager. (Jesse has already done the Town Office building, but we can have him review that.) The Energy Committee has discussed suggesting that the Town hire a Facilities Manager. Each building that has solar panels will require Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Agreements, and heat pumps will need servicing. Bill Thomas from the Energy Committee knows the output of the solar panels. J. Anderson would like the data in a spreadsheet.
 - Solar Panels: Town Office, Salt Shed, Library, Health Center
 - Heat Pumps: Town Office, Library, Transfer Station
 - S. Conover asked about Jesse Nash coming in April and how we might marry that with the budget process to make sure we are able to think through what resources we might need.
 - J. Anderson replied that she will ask if he can come in March.
 - S. Pendleton added that the IMB Committee is having a survey of the lines done. It would be good to have the results before the budget workshops, as we might need to do repairs.
 - J. Anderson added that GWI is talking about taking over our broadband billing. We are waiting for a proposal.

- Warrant #17

CORRESPONDENCE

P. Rothschild stated he sent out a copy of the City of Rockland ordinance regarding protecting personal information. He's not suggesting that we adopt this exact ordinance, but there might be good points to consider. The tax assessor and others who are keepers of personal information are not authorized to distribute that.

S. Conover requested putting the draft in the packet for the next meeting and, so folks in the public can have a chance to look at it, then we can determine next steps. It might be worth sharing with the school as well. S. Pendleton added that we should include any existing regulations, so we can compare. We are likely covered under HIPAA, PCI, and other data retention laws. J. Anderson will gather the policies we have.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Liquor License for Blue Spoon Catering for Private Event 8/2/26 on Minot Island.
 - J. Anderson stated this has already been approved by the State. She will relay to them the date it was approved or denied by our Select Board.

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- We don't normally approve liquor licenses for private events. It may have come to us because it's an outside contractor.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the Blue Spoon Liquor License. No further discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

2. Discuss Select Board Policies, Chapter 349, Finance, on Sealed Bid Process
 - S. Conover stated we received a message from Harriet Bering of the Energy Committee, with questions and concerns about doing a sealed-bid process for the solar projects, asking if it's something we could change.
 - J. Anderson reached out to Town Attorney Kristin Collins, who reported that for the municipalities that she works with, bids are still submitted by mail with an official "bid opening." She stated, "I'm sure there is software out there to create the double-blind security needed to ensure against unfair dealing, but I doubt that's something the Town wants/needs to invest in."
 - M. Burns feels that the system isn't broken, and doesn't see a reason to change it. We're a small municipality that needs to focus on what we are.
 - S. Pendleton stated that Brian could have a separate mailbox that's dedicated to bids, but for the number of bids we get, it's not worth it.
 - S. Conover understands the committee's concerns. Their bid process is slightly different than a lot of the bids that come directly to the Select Board, in that they need additional analysis. I may be that they require multiple meetings in order to award the bid.
 - P. Anderson supports sticking with what we have. If we eliminate some step of the transparency process, we might end up causing perceived injustice.
 - P. Rothschild agreed. Why fix what isn't broken?
 - P. Anderson asked if there's a way to guide the Energy Committee into a more streamlined process that adheres to the current policy. S. Pendleton offered to talk with Harriet to follow up.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY26 #17

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY26 #17. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

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VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Good luck to the kids in Augusta tomorrow, and congrats to our athletes in at the Olympics in Italy. Our flagbearer went to UMaine Orono, as well as the men's hockey goalie.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: There is also a snowboarder from Sugarloaf. There's a nice article in the paper about all the athletes from Maine and UMaine. Five of the seven from UMaine have medaled.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Rothschild: In an effort to accelerate and broaden the concern for increasing affordable housing on Islesboro, Steve and I attended a meeting with Mike Nelson from the Housing Committee and IAP, Tom Tutor from IESC, and a representative from the School Board. We've met a few times to discuss creating a partnership of these committees and organizations. We suggest that perhaps the Town contribute in the budget a relatively modest amount of money (\$10,000 to \$15,000) to establish the idea that the Town will contribute to this effort. P. Rothschild proposes that at the next meeting, we have a resolution that includes the suggested amount in the budget to support affordable housing. This may include having a coordinator to facilitate construction. Tom Tutor has stated that IESC has funds that they would match. IAP has been supportive of this idea. S. Conover stated that we will put this on the agenda.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

1. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) and 25 MRSA § 2006 to consider concealed weapon permit renewal application 2026-#1.
2. Pursuant to 1 MRSA § (6)(F) and 36 MRSA § 841(2) to consider Poverty Abatement FY23-#1.

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to enter into Executive Session pursuant to the above statutes at 6:22pm. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Entered into Executive Session at 6:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary

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... Minutes of the 2/11/26 Islesboro Select Board – Executive Sessions

#1

Time in: 6:22pm

Motion by S. Conover and seconded by P. Anderson to **enter** executive session pursuant to 25 MRSA § 2006 and 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) and to consider concealed weapon permit renewal application 2026-#1.

VOTE: All in favor

Time out: 6:27pm

Motion by P. Anderson and seconded by M. Burns to **exit** executive session.

VOTE: All in favor

#2

Time in 6:28pm

Upon a motion by M. Burns and seconded by P. Anderson the Select Board voted to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA § 405(6)(F) and 36 MRSA § 841(2) to consider poverty abatement application #1-FY23/foreclosed on 11/30/2025.

Time out: 6:46pm

Motion by P. Anderson and seconded by M. Burns to **exit** executive session.

VOTE: All in favor

Returned to the Regular Meeting 6:47pm

#1 Upon a motion by P. Anderson and seconded by M. Burns it was voted to approve **concealed** weapon permit 2026-#1.

Vote: S. Conover/Abstained

M. Burns/Yes Peter Anderson/Yes Steve Pendleton/Yes Peter Rothschild/Yes

#2 Upon a motion by P. Anderson and seconded by M. Burns it was voted to grant the **poverty abatement** in the amount of \$2,837.59 for the 2022-2023 tax year pursuant to Title 36 MRSA § 841(2) in Case #1 – FY23.

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm

Janet Anderson-

