

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 5:30 PM

APPROVED
3/13/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Present via Zoom: Vice Chair Lauren Bruce

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Andrew (Pete) Anderson, Murt Durkee, Frank Start, Josh Leach, Janice Leach, Linda Gillies, Charles Cilley, Derreth Roberts, Jesse Burns, Melissa Jagger, Jordy Watson, Mike Clayton, Scott de Grasse.

Others Present via Zoom:

Terry Sanderson, Tom Michaud, Bill, Silas, Peter Willcox, Maggy Willcox, Elizabeth Hayden, Nita Villa, Exam Room T.

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:25 PM, after the Up-Island Public Safety Garage Public Info Meeting, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of February 12, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of February 12, 2025 Regular Meeting. Discussion about the motion for the Energy Committee “charge a gate.” Change to “charge ahead.” Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by M. Burns, to take the agenda out of order to hear the Public Works Update first. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Jordy Watson reported that the Public Works team took care of the list that Babe Hatch presented to the Town. Dave Dyer, as Deputy Road Commissioner, has been looking at the incoming complaints and determining what is safe and feasible for Public Works to handle, and giving weekly tasks. Ryder’s Cove is mostly taken care of. The left side is done and the right side is going to take a little time because of the snow. On the left side, we’ll go back and cut down some of the alder stumps. Tomorrow, we plan to have three people try to knock out some alders by Bruce Frank’s house and a couple other spots on Main Rd. There’s a tremendous amount of cutback that needs to happen. Those who

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drive cars don't see it as much. For two people to do all of that in a timely manner along with their other duties is not feasible.

M. Burns asked when the roads will be posted. Jordy replied that they are posted as of this afternoon.

Frank Start suggested Jordy drive around in the school bus to evaluate the higher branches. Jordy replied that he knows what needs to be done, it's just that there's an excessive level of work. Jordy asked when there was last an island-wide roadside cut. It's going to take time, money, and people. Jordy hasn't been able to keep up with mandatory trainings or take vacation time. He works tirelessly when it snows and works overtime.

S. Conover stated that, at this time of year, we talk about where we want to put our resources to make sure we are maintaining the town infrastructure. Throughout the year, we may need to change our priorities. We recognize that the list is long and it's not getting shorter. Our responsibility as we hear from the community about issues is determining how to prioritize our resources. We listen to feedback from the Town Manager and different departments. Keeping the roads safe is one of the major items.

J. Anderson added that she's given Dave the job of prioritizing the list. Silas has done some work. He finished cleaning up Town Beach.

Jordy stated that if you go north past Otter Lane, you'll see all the trees encroaching on the road. That's a long stretch. We're going to have to hire a tree crew to come in at some point. We don't have access to a bucket truck. We will manage the best we can with what we have, but we will need a tree crew for the bulkier and higher branches.

P. Anderson asked about the cost of a tree crew. They could possibly assist Public Works. If we figure out how much that costs and how frequently we need to utilize outside assistance, is it worth the Select Board discussing the idea of purchasing a small piece of equipment, like an excavator or skid steer? If we can get a used machine, that would allow Public Works to do that work.

Jordy agreed. He would suggest an excavator or a loader with a backhoe attachment. We could do a lot of stuff in addition to tree work. It would help compact things at the transfer station, saving some money there. Attachments like Trevor has can be purchased for a smaller unit. You can get a lot done with those.

P. Anderson thinks it would be worth it to think about this. We're paying a Public Works crew and also paying others in town to assist. The gap seems to be a lack of equipment, and possibly a part-time flagger. He would like to compare cost of a tree crew and frequency vs. a piece of equipment.

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M. Burns asked how many seasonal employees we hire. Jordy answered that we currently don't have any. Janet answered that we're budgeted for one for the summer.

Jordy stated that the more this town continues to grow, the Public Works department should be growing to suit its needs. There have been a lot of contractors, and it must be pricey compared to having a larger crew. There are also some projects that should be contracted out that have been tossed to the Public Works department, such as the roadside cutback. Selective cutback will be expensive in the long run. If we do a good cutback to our jurisdiction line, and make a plan that every so many years we do this, we can be left to do the trees that fall down.

S. Conover recommended that we have a Public Works update once a month. Jordy stated he's not available on May 7th, but is all for regular updates to help drive this department to the next level. M. Burns stated it could be the second meeting of each month. The next one would be March 26th.

S. Pendleton suggested it would be helpful to see Dave's list with these updates. S. Conover added that seeing the list will help us determine what we need to contract out. Jordy explained that he and Dave are working together to compile that list.

Back to order of Agenda.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported that bid for the proposed new ferry, the George Mitchell, came in at twice what they were expecting. The project has been cancelled. We're still moving ahead with the Emergency Ferry Task Force.

ISLESBORO EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the EFTF met last week. The discussion was primarily around both making sure that the ferry stays on island, and that we prioritize getting stronger language for how the ferry can support emergency services. There was a lot of discussion around the best strategy for that, and Genevieve is talking with legislators to understand what some of the language is in the bills. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 4:30. Genevieve is planning to be in attendance. We saw the energy information that Scott de Grasse circulated. That is also likely on hold indefinitely. The ferry berthing in Lincolnville remains a separate issue.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that the Army Corps of Engineers had a representative come out last week to look at the Narrows. The permitting agencies are now compiling their feedback to inform what the changes in the design will be to get us from the 30% design we currently have to the 60% design we have grant funding to accomplish and we hope to have done by this spring. The next SLR meeting is March 13th at 4:30.

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MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

L. Bruce reported that everything is on schedule for the Health Center. The likely date people can begin moving things into the building might be as early as May.

Frank Start asked about the CDS grant. Are there any anticipated delays? L. Bruce answered that we haven't heard any negative news. We're putting in invoices as quickly as we can to get paid. We have the receipt of funding from that grant.

S. Conover clarified that it is a reimbursable grant and as we've submitted invoices, we've been getting paid. L. Bruce stated that is correct.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

Covered in the UIPSG Info Meeting prior to the Select Board meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: March 10th, 5:00pm.
- Lighthouse Committee: February 27th
- Energy Committee: March 11th
- Board of Appeals Hearing: April 2nd

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 2/26/25 and Minutes of 2/12/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 2/20 Board of Appeals Agenda & Correspondence pertaining to the appeal.
- Correspondence
 - 2/13 Letter from Waldo County Court of Commissioners with our 2025 County tax: \$1,038,652.82, an increase of \$107,544.82 from FY25.
 - S. Conover asked what the total Waldo County budget is.
 - J. Anderson will look into this.
 - 2/12 email from Scott de Grasse re: electric ferry power info.
 - 2/25 copy of letter from Lincolnville Select Board to MDOT Mackenzie Kersbergen, Senior Project Manager, re: receiving the 60% Lincolnville Ferry Terminal Project plans and their ongoing concerns.
 - 2/24 Tina sent out notice about late broadband fees and a March 1st termination date.
 - 2/26 Maine Community Foundation Health Center Endowment Fund 2024 statement.

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- 2/26 email from William Geary—MCS due back in April. Included photos of work on the vessel.
- 2/26 email from John Appelquist, start date on East Shore Drive: March 6th.
 - Janet is sending notice to residents on that road.
 - Mike Clayton asked if he can start even if the road is closed.
 - J. Anderson stated that as part of the permit, he has an escrow for road damage.
 - Mike asked if it will cost the town more if there is damage.
 - Frank Start asked who is liable for damage when the road is posted. Can we get an answer on this soon?
 - J. Anderson answered that the Town is responsible for Cemetery Road. We will repair that if anything happens.
 - When Farley was there last year, work went into April. He repaired someone's culvert.
 - S. Conover asked what the timeframe was supposed to be. J. Anderson replied that he was supposed to start in February, but the snow storms delayed work.
 - J. Anderson will check with John if he will make sure to take care of the road. He won't be using the Cemetery Road.
 - S. Conover stated that this is something to be aware of. The roads are posted and we are reducing the use of the road for everyone else. We need to make sure he understands the impact to ESD.
- Manager
 - Working on budget.
- Warrant FY25 #18

L. Bruce left the meeting early.

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in Town Manager's report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2/5/25 email from James Kossuth, Northport Administrator regarding Waldo County Budget Committee Amendment.
 - M. Burns explained that James Kossuth is making a push to representatives to allow for some members to not be required to be Select Board members or officials of the town. He is asking if Islesboro would support Northport, and if we are in agreement, to please send an email to our representatives.

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MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by M. Burns, to have the Islesboro Select Board support the proposal from Northport to try to broaden participation in the Waldo County Budget process. M. Burns will draft a letter for J. Anderson to send to our elected officials. Discussion about J. Anderson signing the email. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #18

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Conover, to approve Warrant FY25 #18. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: Absent.

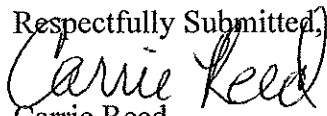
INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard on our committees, especially the UIPSG. Keep warm thoughts in mind for an Islesboro kid who is currently going to New Englands for college, representing us at the new track in Boston.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Anderson: No comments.

Motion by S. Conover, seconded by M. Burns, to adjourn meeting at 7:04 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed
Secretary