

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, March 26, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED
4/9/25

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, Jordy Watson, Scott de Grasse, Murt Durkee, Josh Leach, Janice Leach, Bill Thomas, Owen Howell

Others Present via Zoom:

Maggy Willcox, Dan Tutor, Elizabeth Hayden.

Call to Order: Chair Shey Conover called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM, after the budget workshop, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of March 12, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Jordy Watson reported that Dave Dyer has been compiling a list of areas on roads for Public Works to address, based on his list of recommendations from the public. The Public Works team has done Ryder Cove Road, removing the alders on both sides. They're waiting for Babe Hatch to come out of his project at the end of Billy Shore Drive with his big machine, as he will then pull down a big tree that's been hung up in two trees. This will make it safer for Public Works. Jordy gave a list of areas that have been done: alders near Bruce Frank's house, trees on Main Road at the end of Church Turn, spruce branches near Wendy Hammett's mailbox, both sides of the IME road, around O'Bannon's mailbox and Eric Tierney's shop on the other side of the road, from Gil's to Gorham's, and from the fork to just past Elana Kehoe's. Plan to finish Friday and go as far as Page's new shop driveway. The speed limit sign by Elana's has been moved up about 30 – 40 feet. The Stop sign at the end of Keller Point Rd has also been reinstalled.

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S. Conover asked about priority areas, so the Select Board can be aware in terms of budgeting. Jordy replied that he is concerned about the side of the road on the south end of Bonnet Farm Rd. The beaver dam behind Toby's house busted apart today, which should help facilitate the water moving out of there. He thinks the beaver problem has been eliminated. They got a machine in there and took out the base of the dam so the beavers can't easily rebuild it. There has been a problem with water overflowing from there in the past. Jordy added that a major concern he's had is the road shoulders. In order to keep the pavement from cracking and eroding, we need to keep the water off the pavement. Cutting the shoulders with a roadside grader will help. It would be less expensive if the Town had its own equipment.

Josh Leach asked about the culvert just north of Bonnet Farm. Jordy stated that was replaced two or three years ago. It has sunk down, and there's a hole from an air pocket. Jordy will put some cold patch on it and other holes when the weather warms up.

Jordy will come back for a Public Works update at the end of April. They will soon be busy with spring work, such as picnic table repairs, and cleanup on all properties.

Josh asked if there's been any discussion about Public Works purchasing a tractor. S. Conover replied that it has been discussed preliminarily as part of the budget workshops.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that Peter Willcox attended the Ferry Service Advisory Board (FSAB) meeting last week. The DOT will have a public hearing on April 10th at the Samoset for the new rate structure. S. Conover suggested drafting a Town response letter to submit to the hearing. S. Conover is happy to work with Peter to draft something.

ISLESBORO EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

S. Conover reported that she has a strategy discussion planned with Genevieve and Gabe on Friday. Representative Faulkingham's bill regarding where the ferries dock overnight was just released. The hearing date has not been scheduled yet, though it will likely come fast. The next meeting is Thursday, April 3rd, another possibly sooner.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

No update.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

L. Bruce reported that the clinical cabinetry has been installed in the new Health Center building, along with the plumbing. The installation of exterior siding will begin soon. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of April. The Health Center should be open for business in June.

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Josh Leach stated that construction manager Pete McPherson told him the project is coming in under budget. If that is true, where is said money going to be turned? Does it go to the municipal building renovation, or to the Up-Island Public Safety Garage?

L. Bruce stated that this is a decision for the Select Board. We hope that extra money can go to either of the other projects, but we can't say yet because we don't know if we'll have extra money. S. Conover added that because this is one project with three different components, if one part comes in under budget, we can look to the other two.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

S. Pendleton stated that a significant redo is underway with the architect. The money savings we are seeing may get chewed up with new architect documents and change fees. No final numbers to give everyone tonight. He will have a presentation at the next meeting with the numbers for the changes that were requested recently.

Murt asked how it went with the purchase of the steel building. S. Pendleton replied that Janet ran a check over to the mainland and got it to them on time, which was important, and showed our commitment. Hopefully something is forthcoming with the contractor. Steve stated that the contractor seemed very excited to get going with us.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: April 7th, 5:00pm.
- Budget Workshop: April 3rd, 5:30pm
- Budget Review: April 9th, 5:00pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 3/26/25 and Minutes of 3/12/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 3/6 Emergency Ferry Task Force minutes
- Correspondence
 - 3/25 email from Michael Nelson via Janis Petzel with a summary of recent Maine Islands Coalition meeting.
 - 3/18 Revised assessment from Waldo County Budget Committee reducing our tax by \$45,848, to \$976,946.53
 - 3/12 email from lobbyist Genevieve McDonald regarding MSFS, where Commissioner Van Note is no longer proposing all ferries overnight on the mainland, just Islesboro.
 - 3/19 email from Peter Willcox re: Finance Subcommittee minutes.
 - 3/19 email from DOT re: Rules Relating to Maine State Ferry Service tolls/fare increases.
- Warrant FY25 #20

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CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in Town Manager's report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #20

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #20. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

M. Burns: No comments.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Anderson: Condolences to friends and family of Andrew Coombs. He was an island legend and a big driver of why I'm sitting here today. I hope we can all navigate the rough seas together, as he would hope we would.

Motion by M. Burns to adjourn meeting at 6:36 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carrie Reed
Secretary -

