

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED

7/2/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Fred Porter

Others Present via Zoom:

Dan Tutor, Josh Leach, Ben Smith

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

Minutes of June 4, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve the minutes of June 4, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. M. Burns abstained.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE & EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE

Peter Willcox was not present. S. Conover reported on ferry legislation.

- LD 1231 was passed by the House and the Senate, and signed by Governor Mills. It would require legislative action to change where the ferries are berthed overnight in the future. This is a huge win, and we should celebrate.
- LD 1731, to give the Ferry Service Advisory Board more power, passed the House and the Senate. It looks like it will move forward.
- LD 841, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities, is also moving forward.

A big thank you to Genevieve McDonald, who did an excellent job representing us. S. Conover will draft a letter of appreciation.

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SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

S. Conover stated she had no update.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE

S. Pendleton stated he had tried to get final numbers by today. There were some discussions that occurred between MBPC members, Mark Ouelette, and Northport Builders. There might be some additional funds available that have not been spent on the Health Center. We agreed that we would not allow any additional changes until the contract is signed, and we would then do change orders on those. If we want to put in water and a septic system, that would be a change order. It's been difficult to get the final numbers. All of the subcontractors have been notified for final numbers, but they have not come in yet. However, everything is going well.

P. Rothschild asked about plans for septic and why we might need that. S. Pendleton explained that originally the plans had included a full bathroom with showers for team members, the ability to pump water into the fire trucks, and other things of that nature. There's still a desire by some people to add back some of this functionality. We may want to hold back for six to eight months.

S. Pendleton added that he's asked the committee to look into any fallout date that funds are not allowed to be used or need to be returned to whomever made the grant or donation.

PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE

S. Pendleton reported that the Grand Opening for the Health Center is tomorrow morning.

S. Pendleton stated he talked with Lauren and Pete on Monday for a debrief.

J. Anderson stated that architects Laura Staines Giardino and Michael Giardino are helping with the renovation. We're going to do this in three phases. Fred Porter added that the first phase is going to include painting and carpeting the offices and some parts of the facility that we will use right away. The Health Center will keep some of their stuff in the current trauma room for now. One of the later phases will involve enlarging the training room. Since Michael and Laura got involved, it's moving along nicely.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Select Board Special Meeting/Public Hearing: June 20th, 11:00am.
- Planning Board: June 30th, 5:00pm.
- IMB: June 24th
- Lighthouse Committee: June 26th

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 6/18/25 and Minutes of 6/4/25 Select Board Regular Meeting
- Agenda for Special SB Meeting 6/20/25: Public Hearing for State of Maine CDBG Public Service Grant for Boardman Cottage, submitted by Reed Silvers of Midcoast Council of Governments.
- Minutes of 3/27/25 Housing Committee meeting.
- Minutes of 5/29/25 Lighthouse Committee meeting.
- Minutes of the 4/16/25 IMB Quarterly meeting.
- Correspondence
 - Reminder: Health Center Open House Thursday, June 19th, 10am
 - Murt's Fourth of July weekend events.
 - 6/12/25 notice of our new traffic flow in the parking lot.
 - Health Center moving day: ICH will be closed 6/25 and 6/26.
 - John Apelquist moved the metal shelter to Maddie Dodge Field for the Recreation Department to use. He donated his time and equipment to support the Town.
 - Bar Harbor Wealth Management Capital Reserve sub-accounting for period ending May 31, 2025.
 - Invitation to Bid "Town Septic Field Replacement" went out today. Due back June 30th. Open bids at July 2nd SB meeting. (*Notice says July 3rd—needs to be corrected.*)
- Warrant FY25 #26

CORRESPONDENCE

M. Burns reported that she has received a question from a citizen asking if there is a committee or any action being taken with the new MSFS Tariff and ferry rates. This person had to buy tickets for four medical appointments, costing over \$100. It's becoming apparent that this is not sustainable for many people.

S. Conover stated that this Board has talked in the past about the possibility of setting up some kind of Town assistance. We discussed that there are already a number of things in place. We should advertise the help that is potentially available for people who need it. Perhaps it also makes sense to revisit the conversation to discuss adding assistance through the Town, as some kind of ferry subsidy.

J. Anderson stated that the Town has General Assistance. People need to qualify, and that means filling out an application, which many don't like to do. If it was an emergency, we certainly would. The Health Center probably has tickets that they can help patients with. The ferry rates are shocking.

M. Burns stated that even those who don't qualify for assistance can't afford the tickets for multiple people to go off in a vehicle on a regular basis. It's too much of a strain. Is

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it time to have more conversations, or open suggestions to the increased tariffs? A lot of people are selling their properties because they can't afford to stay here. It's not just the ferry, but if we want people living here year-round, is there any kind of recourse we can take to keep Islesboro viable?

S. Conover requested that this topic be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Peter Willcox could join us for this discussion.

P. Rothschild explained some of the history of how this island is subsidizing the ferries for the other islands. They also eliminated the preferential fare for islanders. Perhaps with the Ferry Service Advisory Board (FSAB) having more of a say, some of this can be renegotiated, at least for the off season.

S. Conover added that all of the definitions are driven by the tariffs. The MSFS Public Hearing for the tariff was not well attended. They also changed some of the language and definitions, which was not advertised before the public hearing, which is not following statute for changes. This also needs to be brought forward at the FSAB meeting. It seems like a resident rate is what we need to continue to push for. However, this is long-term work that's not going to address how people are hurting in the near term. We may want to think about having the funds to do some kind of pilot program for a resident rate, for a month or two, that would be administered by the Town Office.

J. Anderson will check with North Haven and Vinalhaven about what they're doing. She will also speak with the providers at the Health Center. They've always been good about helping.

S. Conover stated that it would be good to get a list together of all the sources of assistance that are potentially available so that could be advertised and also part of the information we consider when we talk about this at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Select Board Ex-Officio Assignments

The Board reviewed the list of assignments to committees and made updates.

- Library Trustees: P. Anderson & Town Manager
- Cemetery: M. Burns
- Emergency Ferry Task Force: S. Conover
- Groundwater Protection: S. Conover
- Harbor: P. Anderson & Town Manager
- Lighthouse/Museum: M. Burns
- Recreation: M. Burns
- Energy: P. Rothschild
- Municipal Broadband: S. Pendleton
- Pesticide Safety: S. Pendleton

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- IESC: P. Rothschild & Town Manager
- Housing: P. Rothschild
- Municipal Building Committee: S. Pendleton
- Sea Level Rise: S. Conover

2. Town Manager's Contract

- Janet Anderson's employment agreement is for two years. The only things that changed are in bold, otherwise it's the same as the last contract.
- J. Anderson stated that the Town doesn't pay for sick leave that accrues, so she scratched that out.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the Town Manager's Employment Agreement. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

3. Islesboro Law Enforcement Immigration Enforcement Policy

- S. Conover stated that we talked about this conceptually at our last meeting, but didn't have the language that Fred Porter and Attorney Kristin Collins had been working on together. That language is now in the packet.
- Kristin Collins thinks this does a good job of addressing concerns and providing clarity without raising some of the concerns that Fred had voiced.
- S. Conover thanked Fred for his willingness to work on this for his manual. The Select Board doesn't take action to approve items for the manual.
- Fred stated that all of the operating guidelines within the Maine Chiefs of Police policy manuals are consistent across the board, and this new language is consistent with what most of the chiefs have done across the state. Maine Chiefs are considering looking into it a little deeper in the next year.
- Ben Smith thanked Fred for looking into this.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #26

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve Warrant FY25 #26. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

Energy Committee: Ava Schlottman

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MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to appoint Ava Schlottman to the Energy Committee. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Thanks to Fred. Good luck to everyone in the Talent Show tonight.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

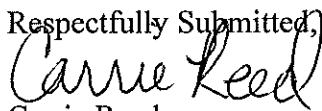
M. Burns: Good luck to everyone at the Talent Show. Hope to see a good turnout Saturday at the Sporting Club. An island-based band of three of our high school students will be opening for Whatsername.

S. Pendleton: We ate Pete's burgers the other day. My daughter thought it was the best burger she's had in forever.

P. Rothschild: Sounds great!

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by S. Conover, to adjourn meeting at 6:42 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary