

Islesboro Select Board  
Regular Meeting  
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom  
Wednesday, June 4, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED  
6/18/25

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Chair Shey Conover, Stephen Pendleton, Peter Rothschild, Peter Anderson (6:07)

**Members Absent:**

Melissa Burns

**Others Present:**

Murt Durkee

**Others Present via Zoom:**

Peter Willcox, Dan Tutor, Ben Smith

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

**Minutes of May 21, 2025, Regular Meeting.**

**MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the minutes of May 21, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.**

**VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

None.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR VICTUALER RENEWAL**

**MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by P. Rothschild, to enter into Public Hearing for the Victualer Renewal. No discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no.**

Victualer Renewal:

- Big Island Grille

The Big Island Grille application is complete. The Board had no questions.

**Exit Public Hearing.**

**MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the request for a Victualer License for Big Island Grille. No discussion. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no. P. Anderson was not in attendance for the vote.**

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**FERRY SERVICE UPDATE**

Peter Willcox stated he had no updates.

P. Rothschild stated he wrote a letter, reviewed by some of the members of the Emergency Ferry Task Force, supporting our communal efforts. It will be published in the Islesboro Island News.

**EMERGENCY FERRY TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Peter Willcox reported that the wave buoy was deployed this morning. It's just south of the Lincolnville ferry pen. Peter will send the link for the website where real-time data can be downloaded every 30 minutes. We will give the information to the people who need to see it, so a report can be generated in about a year.

**SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE**

S. Conover reported that surveyors have been on the island for the past two days, doing boundary and topographic surveys around the project area, designed to make sure we understand any potential impact on private property. We anticipate getting a 60% engineering design for the project in August.

**UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE UPDATE**

S. Pendleton showed a slide with updates. He had a call with Northport Builders on Monday. Rod has sent out all the requirements to his subcontractors to make sure they align with their initial quotes, or to revise them if needed. For instance, the cement will be different because we determined that we're going to put in a water tank, and there's supposed to be a thicker slab. Overall, he wanted to get final approval on each one so he can provide a final number. He expects all those back next week, and he will send the final quote to us by the end of the week. We can then work on an expected start date, which will probably be mid-July to early August. The final drawings from Stephen Blatt all came through.

**PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE**

S. Pendleton reported that he talked with Laura Staines Giardino today. She said that everything is set for the ribbon cutting. No news on any changes.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Planning Board: June 16<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm.
- Housing Committee: June 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm.
- Energy Committee: June 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:15pm.

**TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

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- Packet included Agenda for 6/4/25 and Minutes of 5/21/25 Select Board Regular Meeting
- Victualer Application
- Town Manager Employment Agreement
- Correspondence
  - 5/22/25 letter from MDOT re: maintenance & repairs at ferry terminals.
- New Business
  - Select Board Ex-Officio assignments.
- Handouts
  - Revised Select Board calendar
- Manager
  - J. Anderson was absent. No report.
- Warrant FY25 #25

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Fred Porter sent an email requesting the Parking Committee meet to address pedestrian traffic concerns at Grindle Point. Janet provided a note clarifying that the Grindle Point Parking Ordinance does not cover pedestrians, just parking. Fred noted in his email that he investigated a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian incident.

P. Anderson asked where this took place. C. Reed explained that it was along the road as traffic was flowing away from the ferry, and pedestrians were walking with traffic.

S. Conover stated that Janet's recommendation is to try to get DOT involved rather than bring this to the Parking Committee. It seems like it may be a signage issue. We may want to add something to the ordinance at some point, but based on the language, perhaps we could ask Janet to reach out to DOT to start the conversation with Fred as appropriate.

P. Anderson requested that we get clarification on the Lincolnville side as well, because that area is also confusing for pedestrians. If they could clarify and provide good striping and signage, that would help.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Immigration Enforcement Update**

- S. Conover reported that Fred Porter has taken some of the language from Ben Smith's proposed policy and modified it to fit within his employee operations handbook. His draft has been sent to our Town attorney, Kristin Collins.
- We are waiting to hear back from Attorney Collins for her feedback. S. Conover proposes to wait until we have her comments, and confirm that we have language that Fred feels comfortable with before taking any further action, either with an official policy, or with an Ordinance, which would be a lengthy process.

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- P. Anderson stated he has heard concern that the actions of immigration are getting closer to us. If we get approval back from Kristin Collins, can we do something soon rather than wait for the next Select Board meeting?
- S. Conover stated that the Select Board does not approve the Law Enforcement operations manual. If it's something that Fred approves and Kristin agrees fits within the letter of the law, it would be enacted. The question will be whether or not there's further work. Does the Board feel like that addresses the concerns that have been brought forward to us?
- P. Anderson stated he's not concerned if it's an ordinance or an operating policy. He would love the Town to take a stand either way.
- S. Conover stated this is very important for us to discuss. It brought forward better understanding about how we're currently operating. It's encouraging to hear that the way we're operating is in line with the discussion. It feels most important to codify that in a way so that if Fred is not the person working on island, it is clear what the expectations are for law enforcement.
- P. Rothschild stated he would like a summary of what is being proposed and what the issues are.
- S. Pendleton recommended going back and reviewing the letter that Ben read.
- Ben Smith thanked the Board for bringing this up and sticking with it. This feels beyond a trend issue, and is really important. He asked if there's a way for the public to see what language Fred is considering.
- S. Conover stated that it's a working document. She will be happy to share the language when it feels more final.
- Ben added that there are two bills working their way through the state legislature to address this. Has anyone had communication with county representatives? It's probably more of a county issue, if not a statewide issue.
- S. Conover stated she is not aware of any direct communication with the county, other than Fred. In doing his research, Fred has been in touch with folks at the county level.
- Ben stated he would like to go to county officials and try to find out where things are.
- S. Conover stated it's helpful and healthy to have these conversations as a community. She appreciates Ben bringing it up and following up. We will make sure that the language is available as quickly as possible.

2. Town Manager's Contract

- Janet Anderson's employment agreement expires at the end of June. It has not been changed to reflect new language.
- S. Conover stated her understanding is that J. Anderson is interested in a two-year contract, but may be amenable to one year.
- S. Conover asked the Board to provide input for anything that is missing or should be reviewed. It would be helpful to have a version at our next meeting that will be ready to execute.

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- S. Conover stated that this is something that can go into Executive Session.
- S. Conover will get the highlighted items changed.
- S. Pendleton asked if there is an escalation clause for base salary. S. Conover answered that there is information in there about cost-of-living increases.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Select Board Ex-Officio Assignments

**Tabled for next meeting when we have a full house.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Taylor Watts Property.
  - S. Conover stated that Taylor Watts is looking to sell his lot on Grindle Point. We have done a little bit of research. It would be helpful for us as a town to have the potential to purchase thoroughly vetted.
  - S. Conover proposes an ad-hoc committee to look at the potential options and come back to the Select Board with a recommendation.
  - Murt Durkee added that this site has been used for years to shoot off fireworks. It's an ideal spot, as it's strategically nice. He suggested that the committee set the boundaries for any parking area. If that continues to be the site for fireworks, we need to keep people away from the work area.
  - S. Conover added that if the property can have multiple uses, that makes it more compelling.

**MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by S. Pendleton, to create an ad-hoc committee to explore the potential of this property, with Peter Rothschild as Chair. Discussion as below. Motion passed, 3 yes, 0 no. P. Rothschild abstained.**

- P. Rothschild stated he has asked three people to consult with us: Stephen Phillips, John Rex-Waller, and Bruce Claflin. He also spoke with Janet about the zoning of the property. To put anything other than a single-family house on that property requires the approval of the adjoining property owners. Janet is researching who those people are.
- P. Rothschild is open to other suggestions. The question of a town park is also a consideration.
- The property is listed at \$750,000. That seems like a lot of money for a parking lot and fireworks, but we need to get a sense of what the Town is willing to do.
- We developed a plan with a local engineering firm with a layout for about 50 parking spaces. This could possibly be integrated with a park.
- Currently, 30 or 40 vehicles, primarily of contractors, park along the side of Ferry Road. They are not paying to use those parking spaces. A serious question is whether or not it is within the rights of the property owner to

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disallow parking along the road. If the parking is eliminated on Ferry Road without alternatives, it would have an enormous impact.

- There may be a possibility to do fundraising to support this development, if the majority of people employing these off-island contractors realize they may not have them anymore.
- Implementing a fee for parking will generate revenue.
- S. Conover added that we may need to call a special town meeting if we end up being serious about purchasing the property.

**APPROVE WARRANT: FY25 #25**

**MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY25 #25. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.**

**APPOINTMENTS:**

None

**CHAIR COMMENTS**

S. Conover: No comments.

**VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS**

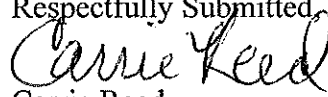
P. Anderson: No comments.

**INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

S. Pendleton: Aren't you glad we bought the steel building a couple months ago?

P. Rothschild: No comments.

**Motion by P. Rothschild, seconded by S. Conover, to adjourn meeting at 6:47 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.**

Respectfully Submitted  
  
Carrie Reed  
Secretary