

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, August 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM

☒ APPROVED

8/27/25

MINUTES

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Chair Shey Conover

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Peter Willcox

Others Present via Zoom:

Fred Porter, Donna Leone, Amy Mulnix, Lauren Bruce

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

Minutes of July 30, 2025, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Rothschild, to approve the minutes of July 30, 2025 Regular Meeting, as written. Discussion as below. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

P. Rothschild reported on attending the Energy Committee meeting. There was a discussion about how much electricity the Town uses at all of its facilities. P. Anderson advised that Bill Thomas has all the data.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

Peter Willcox reported that the Ferry Service Advisory Board (FSAB) met last Thursday. Bill Pulver, COO of Maine DOT, has requested that someone take the running of the Ferry Service away from Maine DOT. Peter doesn't think we want to contemplate removing Maine DOT as the responsible service until we get the issue of overcrowding figured out.

There is an issue with overcrowding the boat with cars, contrary to Coast Guard regulations, which say you have to be able to open the door and get out of the car. Peter discussed this with Murt this morning. Murt stated that we've decided not to rock the

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boat on this issue. According to John King, they are talking about a new boat design, using the same naval architecture firm again.

Peter Willcox added that if the islands take over the running of the ferries, he would imagine us keeping the staff in Rockland, and working as an oversight committee instead of the Maine DOT. Last year, Commissioner Bruce Van Note said that he wanted to move the boats to berth overnight on the mainland. He said that the islands would have to go along with it, and if they didn't, he'd go to the legislature and remove the 50% subsidy. That's an example of the way Maine DOT operates the ferries. They don't listen to the islands at all. We could do better, but we probably don't want to.

P. Rothschild asked P. Willcox what he means by "doing better." P. Willcox replied that, for one thing, we wouldn't have to spend six months fighting the notion of moving the ferries to shore.

P. Rothschild stated that we solved that. The State is paying millions of dollars to support this. He added that the State created the ferry service 65 years ago, and made a commitment to supply the islands with ferry service. They paid for it entirely for 45 years, and a whole economy developed around this expectation, just like every community in rural Maine, that there would be state constructed and maintained access to this community. This is a state road, and the ferry is a state facility. Before we entertain the idea of letting the State off their responsibility, there would have to be a compelling argument for doing so. How would we support it? Fares? Raise taxes?

Peter Willcox clarified that he's not suggesting we give up the 50% state subsidy. He's suggesting that we come up with a different governing organization.

P. Rothschild stated that in reading Van Note's White Paper, it vaguely states they want to give up their support by encouraging public benefit corporations run by island residents. Unlike roads to rural places that are paid for once, the ferry is an ongoing expense, and that's what's creating the issue for DOT. But we all bought into this, and it needs to be maintained. The State acknowledging their responsibility to financially support this and the governance are intimately connected. Any attempt to separate them could be devastating to the islands.

S. Pendleton stated that one of the items in the Islesboro Looking Ahead document is that the 50% contribution is an arbitrary number. Should that number be looked at, and should our lobbyist explore changing that? The equipment is getting more expensive to maintain.

P. Rothschild stated he supports the idea of the FSAB having more power in negotiating these things.

J. Anderson asked what the other islands said about Bill Pulver's idea. Peter replied that no one responded. They each have their own issues of concern.

P. Anderson asked about access to the ADA restroom in an emergency situation, and if that is that ever mentioned in overcrowding discussions.

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Peter Willcox added that if there's an electric fire on the boat, and someone is caught in their car, somebody's going to pay. The captain and ABs are licensed, and could be liable.

P. Anderson asked about the cost breakdown of the 50/50 contributions and if we are still paying into the Unfunded Pension Liability. This feels like a major point worth pursuing, perhaps with our lobbyist, Genevieve McDonald. Peter Willcox stated that he will discuss it with John King and Gabe Pendleton. Both have asked him to address this with the FSAB, but we just don't get anywhere. P. Anderson suggested we also mention it with Genevieve. J. Anderson added that we'd need to come up with more money for that. S. Pendleton suggested a list of a few items we could ask her opinion on pursuing.

P. Willcox added that we're getting more and more electric vehicles on the ferry. If one catches fire, we have no way to put it out.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

No update.

UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE & PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE

S. Pendleton reported that the renovation is going well. There's been a lot of sanding and prepping for paint. J. Anderson added that Ron Gallant has started. He will renovate the old chart room. Supplies that he ordered are outside.

S. Pendleton did a walk-through with Mark Ouellette, Pete Anderson, and Lauren Bruce at the Health Center to review the punch-list of final items. The HVAC company is coming tomorrow to balance the air conditioning.

For the Up-Island Public Safety Garage, S. Pendleton stated he sent a request to Rod at Northport Builders for the contract and deliverables. We need it within a week. There's no changing what we're doing now. Additional items will be a change order. We are pushing for a start date, and hope to have a draft of the contract by next meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: August 25th, 5:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 8/13/25 and Minutes of 7/30/25 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Minutes of 6/26/25 Lighthouse Committee meeting.
- Correspondence

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- Amy Mulnix sent information on “State and Local Governments AI Guide”, plus info from Kristin Collins on adopting a simple AI policy or guide for employees.
 - Thanks to Amy for bringing this up.
 - Amy Mulnix stated that this is an interest, and she subscribes to the National Academies Press, which came up with the guide. She thought it would be useful for people who will be doing grant writing in the future.
- Old Business
 - None
- New Business
 - Airport crack sealing bids.
- Handouts
 - July 2025 Maine Community Foundation Health Center Endowment at \$1,677,057. We will be able to withdraw about \$60,000 next February for revenue towards the Health Center budget.
 - Public Hearing Notice for 8/27/25 on the CDBG Grant for Boardman Cottage. Reed Silvers will be running the Public Hearing. They’ve received the funds, and they need to have a Public Hearing to inform the community about what they’re doing with the money.
 - Bar Harbor Wealth Management 7/31/25 sub-accounting statement.
 - Committee Vacancies
 - MDOT Info on Lincolnville/Islesboro Ferry Terminal Parking Improvements Public Hearing 9/3/25.
 - They plan to install a new guardrail near the museum, and more riprap across from the parking lot area.
 - Janet asked them if they could consider putting a walkway for passengers on the other side of the current guardrail, so people don’t have to walk in the vehicle travel lane.
- Manager
 - Dustin Reidy will trim back brush on West Shore Drive after Labor Day when traffic slows down.
 - Renovation: painting, and Ron Gallant has begun construction, opening the doorway and closing off the sliding glass window.
- Warrant #4

CORRESPONDENCE

Covered in Town Manager’s report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. None

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Open Bids on Crack Sealing Services at the Airport.
 - One bid from 180 Sealcoating, Inc.: 2,400 feet of asphalt rubber crack seal for \$51,061.00, to include all major cracks on the entirety of the runway.
 - They found some of the cracks have been reopened and are approximately three inches deep in many areas.
 - They estimate the job will take about five days to complete.
 - They did this job in 2018, and at that time, they underestimated the amount of product they would need. There are now additional new cracks. The scope of the work has broadened quite a bit.
 - J. Anderson stated that they sent a proposal last year, but we didn't have the money. Stan Makara said it wasn't emergent then. However, we can't put it off any longer.
 - They provided a certificate of liability insurance.
 - We've budgeted about \$50,000, and we can pull the rest out of the airport budget.
 - P. Rothschild asked if people pay to land and take off. There are landing fees at other airports.
 - J. Anderson replied that some frequent users have made donations in the past.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by M. Burns, to accept the bid from 180 Sealcoating, Inc. No further discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

P. Anderson stated he'd like to revisit the idea of a fee structure at the airport.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY26 #4

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve Warrant FY26 #4. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover: Absent. No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Thank you to the Islesboro Police Department for posting the Activity Report in their efforts to increase transparency. Great to see it again.

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INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

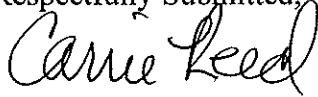
M. Burns: School is starting soon. Slow down, and watch for the bus.

S. Pendleton: No comments.

P. Rothschild: I have been behind the scenes working to regularize parking along Ferry Road. I have a proposal for a guardrail and shrubbery that would establish where the adjoining property ends. Met with the new Ferry Service Director EJ Dupont. Kristin Collins has verified that we have the right to have an ordinance that puts parking on Ferry Rd. under the Town's jurisdiction. I hope to have a proposed ordinance at the next meeting. When I went to the Energy Committee meeting yesterday, I realized I know nothing about the future of energy at municipal facilities and whether or not it makes sense to visit the question of how much we want to invest in sustainable energy in the future.

Motion by M. Burns, seconded by S. Pendleton, to adjourn meeting at 6:50 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary