

8/30/23

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Shey Conover, Vice Chair Lauren Bruce, Phil Seymour, Melissa Burns, and Peter Anderson

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, John King, Dick DeGrasse, and Valerie Maleport

Via Zoom: Jim Mitchell, Jennifer West, Maggy Willcox, Peter Willcox, and Fred Porter

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

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by M. Burns, to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

Dick DeGrasse requested to be placed on the next agenda and distributed material regarding his proposal to establish Municipal Electric Power on Islesboro. S. Conover stated this topic can be on the agenda in two weeks (August 30). M. Burns asked Dick to clarify whether he was here as a representative of the Energy Committee. He stated he is not representing the Energy Committee on this issue.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

John King reported on MSFS updates.

- After the last Select Board meeting, J. King sent an email to Bill Pulver, COO of Maine DOT, summarizing the Select Board discussion on the Tariff issues. Bill Pulver sent a thank-you note back.
- J. King provided the Board with a spreadsheet illustrating DOT's estimate of possible tariff increase scenarios if the bulk is implemented in the peak season instead of having an 18% increase across the board.
 - Rates if 100% of the increase in the peak season
 - Rates if 75% of the increase in the peak season
 - Rates if 60% of the increase in the peak season
- We need to improve communication issues. We have no coherent framework right now; the 511 system isn't working well. The most effective communication currently is Facebook, which is not reliable. Maybe loop Fred in. John sent an email to Bill Geary asking about the 511 system glitches, and he's investigating.
- Article in Maine Beacon 8/14: ferry service system possible collapse because of wage issues. Morale of the captains and crew not high.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

- It might be helpful to have some kind of Thank you to the Ferry crew from the Town for past two years, possibly a potluck, or a proclamation. L. Bruce requested that we put on future agenda to brainstorm ideas. Maggy Willcox suggested “Be Nice to Ferry Crew Week,” when folks can inundate them with baked goods and warm thoughts. Crew changes Mondays.
- Discussion about Tariff chart scenarios.
- P. Seymour asked about ridership statistics in terms of what the impact would be if any of these scenarios is applied. J. King answered that this concept is to try to maximize revenue when demand is highest, while minimizing demand destruction, which is what happened with Tariff 8, when ridership fell off dramatically, but it’s never been done, so it’s difficult to predict the impact.
- We’re also asking for consideration of a resident tariff.
- M. Burns asked if there was a noticeable decrease in summer visitors during Tariff 8. J. King stated the ridership was mostly affected during the off season.
- L. Bruce suggested that there may not be demand destruction if the peak-season increase were combined with a resident discount.
- S. Conover stated she felt that a 100% increase in the peak season would create demand destruction, but felt more comfortable with the 60% or 75% scenarios. She advocated for recognition of a more consumer-friendly system (commuter-friendly, senior citizen rates, resident rates).
- M. Burns asked if there was any more discussion about the reservation rates. J. King answered that we are probably the only island that drives revenue with reservations; it’s not a big item for revenue. Each island does it differently.
- L. Bruce requested to put on future agenda the Unfunded Retirement Liability Fund issue for discussion.
- J. King stated he will send something to Bill Pulver stating the Select Board is interested in making sure that island residents, particularly senior island residents, are fairly dealt with, which can be done with a resident rate, a senior discount, and/or a reasonable commuter pass, and that those concerns can be alleviated by putting additional revenue into the peak season, between 60-75%. L. Bruce and S. Conover responded that the priority is residents and commuters. We want to prioritize this being a place where year-round families can afford to live.
- J. King will draft something for the ferry service.
- S. Conover stated the communication issue is worth further discussion.
- Send note of Thanks for quick repair of the Lincolnville ramp to Bill Geary.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover reported that the committee is continuing the small group discussions. We will have a draft engineering RFQ out in the next few weeks.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
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MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce reported that the Islesboro Health Center application should be approved this coming Monday at the Planning Board meeting. Gartley & Dorsky sent an updated plan for the Up-Island Public Safety Garage.

P. Anderson asked about housing for construction workers, and to what extent that's being provided. How much money are we spending on this? L. Bruce answered that H.E. Callahan, the construction manager, is making the arrangements. There will be a cost to us, but there will actually be savings, because we'll be saving on travel expenses. M. Burns asked if this will be listed as a line-item, and when we will be getting a line-item budget. L. Bruce answered that they are talking about guaranteeing a maximum price around September 28th.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: August 21st – 5pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 8/16/23 and Minutes of 8/2/23 Regular Meeting
- Minutes of the 7/13 Lighthouse Restoration Committee meeting.
- Minutes of the 6/13 IESC meeting.
- July Bar Harbor CAP RES sub-accounting statement
- 8/14/23 letter from Sen. Angus King regarding our request for Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS). Final determination will be in late Dec. 2023.
- Maine Municipal Association 8/14 sent us \$2,505 dividend check because of our good performance and loss prevention programs.
- 8/8/23 email from John King to William Pulver regarding Tariff issues.
- Old Business: Carole Nichter not attending tonight. Maybe someone can deliver her recognition.
- Letter from Gartley & Dorsky sent to abutters of the municipal property regarding notification of the Health Center project and request for comment.
- East Shore Drive: 8/9, cracks opened up on the easterly side of the road beyond Lars Nelson's driveway—coned off and closed the travel way. Contacted the Boardman family (big Thank You to them!) to see if we could use their road on an emergency basis, and opened the East Shore Drive gate for homeowners' access. Photo 8/16, road continues to drop. J. Anderson has been in touch with Will Gartley of Garley & Dorsky since 8/11. They are looking into possible solutions and someone who could do this. We monitor the road daily and have been filling potholes in Boardman Road.
- 8/14 afternoon, the Lincolnville ferry ramp broke, passengers got off and the MCS went to Rockland to unload cars and bring back cars. This went on until midday on the 15th. Thank you, DOT.

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, August 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

- Warrant FY24 #4
- Waldo County Budget Committee official ballot. J. Anderson will send back saying not at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

8/14/23 Senator Angus King, Congressionally Directed Spending Update.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Recognition of Carole Nichter for Years Served on Cemetery Committee.
 - Carole couldn't be here.

NEW BUSINESS

1. None

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None

APPROVE WARRANTS: FY24 #4

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY24 #4. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

APPOINTMENTS:

Islesboro Economic Sustainability Corporation: Lauren Bruce

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by M. Burns, to appoint Lauren Bruce as Member of the Islesboro Economic Sustainability Corporation. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

CHAIR COMMENTS

S. Conover had no comment.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

L. Bruce had no comment.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

P. Anderson had no comment.

P. Seymour stated today is his 60th Wedding Anniversary.

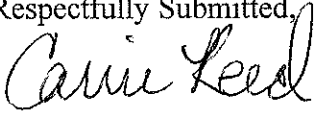
M. Burns said Congratulations to Donna & Phil! School starts August 31st.

Islesboro Select Board
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J. Anderson stated the Reval meetings are happening. We have to get the tax bills before the end of the month. 2005 was the last full revaluation. S. Conover stated we need to do a better job of communicating about the reval process to the community. L. Bruce suggested we find a way to get info out to the general public apart from the individual meetings. S. Conover requested we wait until Aug. 31 to send out the tax bills.

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by M. Burns, to Adjourn Meeting at 7:16 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary

