

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, August 30, 2023 @ 6:00 PM

MINUTES

APPROVED

9/13/23

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Dick DeGrasse, and Jan Harmen

Via Zoom: Christine Robb, Dick Cavanaugh, Maggy Willcox, Peter Willcox, Fred Porter, Elizabeth Hayden, Scott Reeves, and Beth Reeves

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 L. Bruce, to approve the minutes of August 16, 2023 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITOR COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

S. Conover stated she has not heard anything specific from John King, and he was not present to provide an update.

P. Seymour stated the rescue was quite an event.

SEA LEVEL RISE

S. Conover reported that the committee is working to organize events and working to get an engineering RFQ released, which is another week or two out.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT

L. Bruce stated there was no update for the MBPC. P. Seymour asked how it's going finding housing for the workers. L. Bruce stated it's going well, but doesn't have an update on it. P. Seymour asked if the cost of the housing will be part of the contract. L. Bruce said she thinks it will.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: September 11th – 5pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

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- Packet included Agenda for 8/30/23 and Minutes of 8/16/23 Regular Meeting
- 8/25 Pen Bay Pilot article, “Margaret Chase Smith Rescues Kayaker in Distress off Islesboro”
- Two handouts from Dick DeGrasse on “Islesboro Electric Power,” 8/16, and Maine Power Options, 8/28.
- 2023/2024 Committee listing and Town employees
 - L. Bruce made corrections. She is no longer ex officio on the Library, Peter Anderson is. Janis Petzel is no longer on the Energy Committee.
 - M. Burns asked who is ex officio for the Cemetery Committee. J. Anderson stated that there isn’t one.
- Warrant #5
- Manager Report
 - 8/19 Security Cameras installed at Transfer Station, inside & outside
 - 8/20 Off-island contractor fell into demo bin while unloading his truck
 - 8/29 Jersey barriers installed at Transfer Station to keep people from backing up to the demo bins too far.
 - 8/21 New police cruiser arrived. Old cruiser has been decommissioned and will be picked up this week and put into service as a Town car.
 - 8/22 Bill Lane of Gartley & Dorsky and Tom Farley of Farley Landscaping came out to inspect East Shore Drive washout. They also evaluated the pile of stones on the Town land up island, it may be about 5 loads. J. Anderson spoke with Mr. Casner, who owns property across the street from the washout. As soon as she hears anything about the plan, she will let everyone know. Permitting isn’t needed because it’s considered an emergency. We will continue to use and maintain Boardman Rd. We don’t have a timeframe yet. We may have to put this out to bid. The year-round residents may have to use the cemetery in the winter. Road construction funds in the reserve account, about \$450,000 + \$100,000 from this year’s budget. S. Conover stated that in order to get that project moving, we may need to set up an emergency meeting.
 - Zeb from RJD Assessing will be here tomorrow to talk with 4-5 people about their assessments. P. Seymour asked if after an interview they will send a response letter. J. Anderson will find out.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Ferry Crew Thank You
 - Some ideas are: Pot luck, Plaque, Proclamation

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- L. Bruce suggested a combination if possible.
- P. Anderson suggested a potluck in the evening of the shift change and possibly offer housing (the housing that the construction crew will have), or possibly the Quicksilver.
- S. Conover to talk with Don Shand and Rod Johnstone.
- P. Anderson will talk with Sara about using the ICC.
- P. Seymour to write Proclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Islesboro Electric Power & Maine Power Options – Dick DeGrasse
 - Dick DeGrasse spoke about his strategy for reduced electric rates for Islesboro.
 - He pointed out that in the article in the IIN, the CMP rate of 25 cents/kWh is misleading. There are two separate items that total that amount: one for supply and one for delivery. In 2000, the Maine legislature voted to take generation away from Bangor Hydro and CMP, and Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Wiscasset was decommissioned. CMP is carrying debt from that now. Maine Power Options was created then. They sell power to municipalities and other tax-free entities for about 10 cents/kWh. (17.6 cents/kWh is the Standard Offer through CMP.)
 - There are only two suppliers in Maine: New Brunswick Power, and NextEra. New Brunswick Power supplies about 67% of the power to Islesboro.
 - Madison Electric in Maine buys power from NextEra at wholesale, about 8 or 9 cents/kWh. They own their own distribution. North Haven has a co-op and also owns their distribution.
 - New Brunswick Power is listed with the Maine Utilities Commission as a utility able to serve individual residential CMP customers. We can choose them for wholesale power. We just have to send them our CMP account numbers and a desire for their service.
 - Dick is proposing that each individual customer on this island contact New Brunswick Power and asked to be served by them.
 - P. Anderson asked how many CMP accounts exist on Islesboro. Dick thinks about 230 – 300 meters.
 - P. Anderson asked Dick what he meant by “we” when talking with other entities about his idea, and if he was speaking on behalf of Islesboro. Dick stated he has no authority. S. Conover clarified that the Select Board gave Dick permission to have informal conversations with these entities about a year ago.
 - S. Conover noted the strategy to purchase wholesale power may be changing, from forming an aggregate to a more educational approach for individuals.
 - P. Seymour asked who to contact and what number to use. Dick answered that one would call New Brunswick Power and use your CMP account number.

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- Maine Power Options is different. It's available today for publicly owned facilities and non-taxable entities: municipalities and some non-profits.
 - S. Conover stated that Dick should continue to work with the Energy Committee on this proposal, and have the Energy Committee come back to the Select Board with a formalized plan and proposal.
2. Road Improvements – Peter Anderson
- P. Anderson stated that he's noticed as the cars get newer, the headlights get blindingly brighter. With the state that our roads are in currently, with fading paint lines and minimal streetlights, on a wet day, those lines disappear. Can we invest in the paint with glass beads, which reflects light back?
 - J. Anderson will call the painting person tomorrow and ask about paint options.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None

APPROVE WARRANTS: FY24 #5

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

APPOINTMENTS:

Annual Slate of Committee Appointments

- With changes as noted earlier.
- M. Burns volunteered to be ex officio for the Cemetery Committee.
- P. Anderson noted he should be listed on the Harbor Committee.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to approve the Slate of Committee Appointments, as amended. 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: "May whatever deity you choose have mercy on whosever souls go back to school tomorrow."

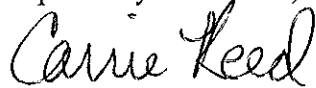
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M. Burns: "School starts tomorrow. Get appetites ready, home soccer season kicks off on the 6th. Junior class is doing concessions. Come out and support your Eagles. Drive carefully and watch out for the school bus.

MOTION BY M. Burns, seconded by L. Bruce, to Adjourn Meeting at 7:10 PM. No Discussion. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary

