

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 23, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

☒ **APPROVED**
10/7/26

MINUTES

Members Present:

Vice Chair Peter Anderson, Stephen Pendleton, Dylan Purington, Amy Mulnix, Chair Peter Rothschild (Zoom)

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Murton Durkee, Daniel Frohling, Doug Welldon, Janis Petzel, Page Clason (5:32)

Others Present via Zoom:

Fred Porter, Jason Hatch, Jennifer West, Elizabeth Dyer, Michael Miller, James Weiss, Ruthann Hewett, Daniel Tutor, Josh Leach, Lindsay.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Peter Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, and a quorum was established.

Members welcomed Amy Mulnix to the Select Board.

Minutes of September 9, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by D. Purington, to approve the minutes of September 9, 2026 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Roll Call. Motion passed, 5 yes, 0 no.

VISITORS COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

No update.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

P. Rothschild stated that the Sea Level Rise Committee had success at the Special Town Meeting, where the bond article passed. We're waiting to hear about the grants.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING PROJECT: UP-ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY GARAGE, & PUBLIC SAFETY RENOVATION UPDATE

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that he reached out to Rod on Monday and again this afternoon. Waiting to hear back for an update on garage doors.

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J. Anderson added that the paving of the pad was done today.

Public Safety Renovation: Murt Durkee reported that the crew is pecking away at mudding the walls. The sprinkler work is still scheduled to be done on October 1st. Later, we'll have the alarm company make updates.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: September 28th, 5:00pm.
- Grindle Point Light Station Committee: September 24th, 4:00pm.
- Airport Committee: September 25th, 4:00pm.
- Energy Committee: October 6, 5:15pm
- Groundwater Protection Committee Presentation: September 29th, 5:30pm

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 9/23/26, Minutes of 9/9/26 Select Board Regular Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 6/10/26, 6/23 & 7/13/26 Municipal Broadband Committee minutes
 - 8/11/26 Energy Committee minutes
 - 8/27/26 Grindle Point Light Station minutes
- Correspondence
 - 9/9/26 Islesboro Public Safety “How to Report an Issue”
 - 9/18/26 email from Frank Start re: Selendy letter of 9/8, LHO duties related to Title 22, MRS § 454-A
- Manager:
 - Welcome Amy!
 - In the future, discussion of ex-officio roles & Select Board training with Kristin Collins.
 - Paving is complete. They paved 9/21 - 9/23, 1.4 miles, \$193,720.
- Warrant #7 – FY27

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 9/9/26 from Islesboro Public Safety, “How to Report an Issue”
 - Fred Porter stated that he wanted to get accurate information out to the public so they know how to report. It has helped so far. People are calling the dispatch number that we listed, and issues are easier to keep track of now.
2. 9/18 Frank Start re: Selendy letter, LHO Duties and Powers, Title 22, MRS §454-A
 - P. Anderson stated this would be discussed under Old Business.

P. Rothschild left the meeting early.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Philippe & Jennifer Selendy Letter to Owen Howell, Local Health Officer, re: “Study of Tick-borne Illnesses Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 454-A.”
2. Emails re: LHO Duties from Atty. Kristin Collins, Heather Sneff, MD, LHO Coordinator, Megan Kelley, Maine CDC Midcoast Field Epidemiologist, and Lindsay O’Hara, Public Health District Liaison.
 - Items 1 and 2 discussed together.
 - P. Anderson stated that we received the letter from Philippe & Jennifer Selendy regarding their belief that we should have Owen Howell tackle our tickborne illness issues, based on their understanding of Maine law. We submitted that to our lawyer. Her response clarifies the roles of the Local Health Officer (LHO), and indicates that he is not obligated to perform the things that they believe he is.
 - J. Anderson confirmed that and added that tickborne illnesses are not human communicable diseases, and so not a public health issue. Owen has spoken with the Selendys, and had a good conversation about the letter and his role.
 - P. Anderson stated that Frank Start’s letter effectively said what our lawyer’s letter did, which is that he believes their understanding of the law to be incorrect. No further action needed.
 - A. Mulnix asked a procedural question about when the Board makes this kind of decision to not respond. Do we respond to Frank with a thank-you?
 - P. Anderson stated that we took it into consideration, and have referred to it in this meeting. The minutes are public, and there isn’t much else we need to do. It’s a conversation that we’ll continue having, about how we respond to citizen requests and submissions.
 - S. Pendleton stated that we’re not responding to these specific items, but that doesn’t mean that if there’s additional comments in the future, we won’t engage in those.
 - Daniel Frohling asked if the Board intends to take up considering whether to establish a Tick Committee.
 - P. Anderson replied that it’s not off the table for discussion in the future.
 - S. Pendleton stated that no one has brought anything to us for this agenda, so we have nothing to take up.
3. Look into Forming a Fire Risk Committee to Evaluate Fire Risks in Town
 - Doug Welldon referred to a Working Waterfront article regarding the Blue Hill Peninsula and how the community is preparing for wildfires. They are trying to get a comprehensive plan in place. There is also an article about drought, groundwater, and related issues. The fire danger is still here. There are a lot of blowdowns all over the island. There needs to be a plan. At a previous meeting, we talked about establishing a Wildfire Committee. Three people would be enough to ferret out the information. A radio program had

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the head of the Forestry Service on recently, talking about grants to do some work for wildfire prevention. Doug is hoping the Board will have a motion.

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by P. Anderson, to vote at next meeting on whether or not to establish a committee to explore fire risk on Islesboro. Discussion as below.
Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

- A. Mulnix stated it would be good if the committee would identify its charge and scope of work.
- S. Pendleton replied that it's the responsibility of the committee to put together what their charge is.
- A. Mulnix stated that if the Board puts together a tick committee in the future, it would be useful to ask the committee, as it's being put together, to identify what it is hoping to do. Then they develop their scope of work, but the Board has an idea of what we're sending that committee out to do, in writing.
- D. Purington stated it's a good idea to get people together to work on this, but he's not sure if forming a committee might stand in the way of action that could be taken now, such as disseminating information with flyers, etc. He doesn't oppose a committee. It's clear that fire danger exists, but it's not clear what the point of a committee would be.
- Doug Welldon stated that there's money available and help that the Forestry Service can provide to communities. The committee's charge would be to research and gather information, and then make some recommendations, in about five bullet points. The Select Board would vote on any action. Brochures have been out for a long time, but not much has changed.
- D. Purington stated that he understands that a committee would be effective at getting possible grants.
- Doug added that a committee could also act as a clearing house for information.
- P. Anderson requested that Doug Welldon put together a few bullet points for next meeting, for what he envisions the committee doing, what kind of people to tap into, end result, etc., so that when we vote on it, it's clear. Doug agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Page Clason Statement to the Select Board

- Page Clason addressed the Select Board regarding the Special Town Meeting that he moderated last week. He tries to keep the meetings casual in general, and let everyone have a chance to speak. The approach usually works pretty well, but this time, there were some unnecessary discomforts. Page has been uncomfortable about the meeting for two reasons in particular.
- The most pressing reason surrounds how he conducted Article 6, regarding the question of establishing a committee to address tickborne illness. There was a passionate outburst from one speaker that caught Page off guard. He feels he should have terminated that immediately, as it was out of order for several

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different reasons, one being an outburst directed at the Board. It should have been at the moderator. That's the reason we have a moderator. We want calm, objective discussion of the issues.

- Page also feels he should have clarified the scope. We got talking about deer and ticks, but that was not what Article 6 was about. It was asking if the people should contain the Board's powers. Page feels he should have addressed that and kept the discussion there.
- Page feels that he should have made it clear that that's an example of how people are attacked, and people should not be attacked. None of our neighbors should be attacked in any of these meetings. Only on the second outburst did he minimally subdue it, and he felt bad about that. The result was that the Board was attacked, which was unnecessary and incorrect, and happened on his watch.
- Page wants it on the public record that, as moderator, he apologizes, and intends not to let that happen again in the future.
- As a voter, he wants to make it clear that the Board had strong support from the public, and Page also supports the Board for the charitable, honorable, and hard work that's necessary to lead the Town. He was pleased to see the strong community support behind the Board.
- The second concern Page had was the question of whether one of the tellers should be counting when her partner was running for a Select Board seat. Page tried to let the people resolve that, but feels he should have made it clear that there was no issue. The tellers are not responsible. The moderator is responsible, and there are protections in place to make sure that voting is accurate. Page's concern is that a good citizen with unsubstantiated doubts got attacked by the community under his watch. He intends to give her a direct apology.
- Page added that we're fortunate to have a very good and healthy community, with a lot of good people. He left the meeting feeling uncomfortable. He felt that some of the deterioration of democracy in this country is moving into our community. That's something he can't tolerate. He will be thinking about how we might address that.
- Page stated that these things he considers attacks happened on his watch, and he wanted to be here to give his apology in public. He thanked the Board for their time and their service.
- P. Anderson stated that he thinks Page did a fantastic job in the face of what could have become a more heated meeting. He thinks Page handled the heated moment well. He hopes that we can learn from this past one, and that the next one is able to maintain a better level of decorum. He thanked Page for his kind words.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

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APPROVE WARRANT: FY27 #7

MOTION BY A. Mulnix, seconded by D. Purington, to approve Warrant FY27 #7. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. Energy Committee: Elizabeth Dyer and Daniel Frohling.
 - P. Anderson referred to a letter of recommendation for Elizabeth from the Island Institute.
 - Daniel has a letter from Harriet Bering requesting that he be on the committee.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by S. Pendleton, to appoint Elizabeth Dyer and Daniel Frohling to the Energy Committee. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Rothschild: Absent, no comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: Go, Red Sox.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

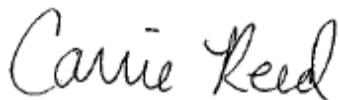
S. Pendleton: Welcome, Amy.

D. Purington: Thank you, Page. Welcome, Amy. For clarity, when we are not addressing certain things, it doesn't mean that we don't ever want to address them or we're trying to get rid of them.

A. Mulnix: Thank you for a very warm welcome. Main Road is nicely paved, and it's fantastic to take a walk there now. Thank you, all!

MOTION BY S. Pendleton, seconded by D. Purington to adjourn meeting at 6:05 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary