

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
Town Office Meeting Room & via Zoom
Wednesday, September 9, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

☒ APPROVED
9/23/26

MINUTES

Members Present:

Chair Peter Rothschild, Vice Chair Peter Anderson, Stephen Pendleton, Dylan Purington

Others Present:

Town Manager Janet Anderson, Lauren Bruce, Cressica Brazier, Frank Start, Kara Masters Siekman, Haley Currie-Nelson, Murton Durkee, Daniel Frohling, Page Clason, John King, Doug Welldon

Others Present via Zoom:

James Cowan, Bob Kochan, Scott de Grasse, Andrew (Pete) Anderson, Jennifer West, Julie Reidy, Janis Petzel, Daniel Tutor, John-Michael Speranza, Sherry Conover, Amy Mulnix, Michael Miller, Taz, Ted Pendleton, Josh Leach, Steve Miller, Fred Porter, Sue Stafford, iPad,

Call to Order: Chair Peter Rothschild called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM, and a quorum was established.

Minutes of August 26, 2026, Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by S. Pendleton, to approve the minutes of August 26, 2026 Regular Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

Minutes of September 2, 2026, Special Meeting.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by D. Purington, to approve the minutes of September 2, 2026 Special Meeting, as written. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no.

VISITORS COMMENTS/PETITIONS

J. Anderson spoke about the Citizen Request that was submitted to the Select Board, signed by 32 residents of the area from approximately 269 Pendleton Point Rd to 408 Pendleton Point Rd. They are asking the Select Board to request that the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) lower the speed limit on this ~.74-mile stretch of Pendleton Point Rd, from 40 mph to 30 or 35 mph.

- J. Anderson stated that she sent an email to Darryl Belz, PE, Midcoast Region Traffic Engineer at DOT, and he sent back a list of things that we will have to do before they will come out to do the survey to study it. In the past, they have said that they will do a speed test, and if most drivers are going 40, they're not going to lower it, unless there have been any incidents. She will check with Fred.

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- Fred Porter asked if we can monitor speeds with the electronic sign. It will record the data, but no one has taken the time to learn how to run it like Dave Petzel did. If we find someone to take that on, we can set that sign up and start running data.
- Frank Start stated he is in favor of lowering the speed limit there and in many other places on the island. He is questioning the petition only having 32 signatures. J. Anderson replied that it's not a petition, just a request.
- John King stated he is behind the request. He looked into because he's worked with some DOT people in the past. He learned that if you want to change the speed limit, they need to have a request from the municipal authority. He is making this request to the municipal authority to ask the DOT to review it. 32 people signed it, representing about 90% of the residents in that area along the road. It also represents additional people on the south side, in the 25-mph area. Many of those people are irritated because vehicles don't slow down to 25 mph. John added that he also talked with Daryl. John's understanding is that DOT is going to do the speed analysis anyway. There's no cost, and John is happy to help in any way he can. The request contains some of the criteria.
- D. Purington stated it seems there's sufficient interest to move forward with the request.

MOTION BY P. Rothschild, seconded by D. Purington, to request that the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) review the speed limit criteria in regard to Pendleton Point Road, and if deemed appropriate, approve a reduction in the current speed limit. Discussion as below. Motion passed, 3 yes, 1 no (S. Pendleton).

- Kara Masters Siekman stated there are other areas that she feels need a lower speed limit, and asked the Board to evaluate other neighborhoods. She stated there are many terrified families.
- D. Purington asked Kara to provide the data. Is there an increase in incidents?
- S. Pendleton stated he lives on Main Rd. and sees traffic flying by. However, he doesn't agree with trying to single out one area for speed reduction. He would not support this effort. When we buy property, we know the speed limits.
- J. King stated that the DOT will do the work. There are other areas on the island, but he can't do the whole island. This neighborhood is not happy about the 40-mph limit. Things change. There are more kids around now.
- Frank Start stated that he thinks it's worth looking at. One risk is that, if they go by the average of people and how fast they're travelling, a review could lead to an increased speed limit.
- Julie Reidy stated she agrees with the need for this conversation. However, in some cases, the speed doesn't matter. There are safety issues with people walking and biking. There are areas where you can't walk safely because of stuff growing out into the roads. There has to be a balance.
- Amy Mulnix stated that this feels like the tick situation. We're hearing from people that this is a concern. Let's get data, and then have a conversation.

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- Ted Pendleton stated that what's changed is we're beginning to look for solutions from the government to solve common-sense problems. There are people walking in the middle of the road, thinking this is a place where you can do that. If we keep asking for government help, we're going to become a tightly controlled island. Do we want this island to be like the mainland?
- John-Michael Speranza asked why the Town doesn't have any signs that say, "No Pedestrian Crossings." Pedestrians not in a crosswalk have to yield to cars. There's no signage that says, "It's not safe; don't walk here."
- Kara Masters Siekman suggested that if we go forward with a lower speed limit, we put a time frame out to other neighborhoods, so they can get in on the evaluative process.

Frank Start requested that an agreement be put in place regarding amendments to the Select Board agenda and how much time for notice is given. Same-day revisions don't give people time if something is added that they want to speak on.

- P. Rothschild stated that this is a reasonable request. We should redouble our efforts to get the agenda out by the Friday before the Wednesday meeting.
- Dan Frohling added that there's a town ordinance that states agenda items can be added by close of the business the day before the meeting. He doesn't recall which ordinance that is.
- P. Anderson agreed that this seems tight. It sounds like we should consider an ordinance change process if this is correct.
- P. Rothschild suggested agreeing amongst the Board to a Friday deadline. All members and J. Anderson agreed.

FERRY SERVICE UPDATE

No update.

SEA LEVEL RISE UPDATE

P. Rothschild stated that we had a discussion about the Narrows project at the Public Info Meeting prior to this meeting. There's a Sea Level Rise Committee meeting tomorrow.

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

Up-Island Public Safety Garage: S. Pendleton reported that he had a call with the contractor, who stated that he won't finish on time. We're going to look at making an addendum to contract. The electrician is coming on the 14th and will finish his work. The rolling doors have been ordered and are expected mid-October. We were concerned about the contractor, but he's not abandoning the project. The logistics of working on an island were more difficult than he expected. With the doors and the electrical work, the project is almost done. We can tough it out for the next 60 days.

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Public Safety Renovation: S. Pendleton reported that the contractors were working in there today.

Murt Durkee added that they are mudding sheetrock in the training room. They've also been doing underlayment for the floors. The electrician has been in to do some lighting. Additional sprinkler heads will be installed on October 2nd. He will invite the alarm company add some detectors. He stated that for the Up-Island Station, Paul Grindle has the apron (the vehicle entry) graded and prepped for paving. Murt is coordinating with JT Zlotkowski to put the line in for the well before it freezes. Somebody has to put in the air compressor system for the trucks. He'd like to move in before the snow flies.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Planning Board: September 14th, 5:00pm.
- Special Town Meeting: September 16th, 6:00pm.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- Packet included Agenda for 9/9/26, Minutes of 8/26/26 Select Board Regular Meeting and Minutes of 9/2/26 Select Board Special Meeting.
- Committee Minutes
 - 6/18/26 & 7/22/26 Harbor Committee minutes
 - 7/23/26 Light Station Committee minutes
- Correspondence
 - 9/8/26 letter from Philippe & Jennifer Selendy to Owen Howell, Local Health Officer, re: "Study of Tick-borne Illnesses Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 454-A."
- Handouts:
 - 8/31/26 Bar Harbor Capital Reserve Sub-accounting.
- Manager:
 - As of.
 - P. Rothschild.
- Warrant #6 – FY27

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 9/8/26 letter from Philippe & Jennifer Selendy to Owen Howell, Local Health Officer, re: "Study of Tick-borne Illnesses Pursuant to 22 M.R.S. § 454-A."
 - P. Rothschild requested to defer discussion until after Town Meeting.
 - S. Pendleton stated that there is a sentence in the letter referring to political opposition to the formation of a committee by the Select Board to study this issue. While that sentence could be interpreted in a couple of different ways, he would like people to understand that the Select Board is not opposed and did not deny the request for a committee.

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Look into Forming a Fire Risk Committee to Evaluate Fire Risks in Town and Evaluate a Course of Action.
 - J. Anderson stated that Bob Kochan was interested in being on such a committee.
 - S. Pendleton suggested pushing this topic to the next meeting to give the community a couple of weeks to provide input. At the next meeting we will determine if we will create a committee.
2. Rod Pendleton to Talk about Groundwater Conditions on Islesboro.
 - P. Rothschild requested moving this talk to a future meeting, as Rod is not on island today. Rod will also present at the Islesboro Community Center.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Energy Committee Proposal for a Ground-Mounted Solar Array
 - Cressica Brazier shared her presentation on behalf of the Energy Committee. The committee is proposing a ground-mounted solar array be installed at the north-east edge of the town-owned field behind the Transfer Station.
 - This solar array is enabled by the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) grant that the Town received as part of the funding for the new Health Center. Almost \$250,000 of it would be coming from the grant, and the remaining cost would be coming from the Energy Committee's budget that was approved at the last Town Meeting. Basically, it's only a \$75,000 investment by the Town.
 - With this array, we would be able to cover all of the current electricity used by the Town with solar credits. The Town uses about 250,000 kilowatts per year, and from the four existing arrays, we generate 116,000, and still need 134,000 to cover all of the Town accounts, not including the school.
 - Over time, we will be able to save over \$950,000. That's a low estimate. We will likely save significantly more. (In current dollars, not future dollars.) This includes an estimate of insurance and maintenance costs.
 - If we move forward as soon as possible, we might also get \$96,000 back from the federal government if we're lucky and they move forward with direct payments back to towns. We haven't received ours from the last solar array.
 - We had been trying to explore the site behind the Health Center, but the federal government won't provide permits for that site right now. We would like to look elsewhere while we still have the chance to get the federal \$100,000 credit back, meaning this would have to be built before the end of next year. We should start now. The committee is looking for the Select Board's input on potential sites up-island. The most promising site is the

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northeastern edge of the field above the capped landfill. This would provide us the best solar access and get the full benefit from that investment.

- If it's acceptable to continue exploring this site and other alternative sites, we would discuss it with Janet and other Town officials. Then we would proceed to put in a permit request to the Planning Board. There shouldn't be any encumbrances on this land. It's not a wetland.
- Murt asked about a rough estimate of energy output for the preferred site.
- Cressica stated that they will size it so that it will cover the entire need, which is 134,000 kilowatt hours per year.
- Frank Start asked if there are any costs or anything that needs to change with that size of array, to tie into the single-phase grid.
- Cressica replied that they are in communication with CMP about that, and exploring any required upgrades in advance to budget for that. We have a range in the budget to accommodate any potential grid upgrades, but they do allow up to 120 kilowatts for a single array to attach to single-phase. We are hoping they will allow us to move forward with this.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. None.

APPROVE WARRANT: FY27 #6

MOTION BY D. Purington, seconded by P. Anderson, to approve Warrant FY27 #6. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS:

1. None.

CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Rothschild: No comments.

VICE-CHAIR COMMENTS

P. Anderson: No comments.

INDIVIDUAL SELECT BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

D. Purington: No comments.

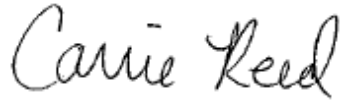
S. Pendleton: I want to remember Holly. I was not able to attend the service because I was out of town. She served a short term, but was a ray of sunshine all the way through. She was a great person, and we'll miss her.

MOTION BY P. Anderson, seconded by D. Purington to adjourn meeting at 7:02 PM. No discussion. Motion passed, 4 yes, 0 no. Unanimous.

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Respectfully Submitted,



Carrie Reed
Secretary