

Islesboro Select Board
Regular Meeting
August 6, 2020 @ 5:30 PM
Town Office Meeting Room

MINUTES

Members Present in person: Chair Gabriel Pendleton, Shey Conover, Phil Seymour, Archibald Gillies, and Lauren Bruce

Others Present in Person: Town Manager Janet Anderson and Michael Hutcherson

Others present via Dial-in/Teleconference or Zoom: Dorie Henning

Call to order: Chair Gabe Pendleton called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and a quorum was established.

MOTION BY S. Conover, seconded by Phil Seymour, to approve the minutes of July 23, 2020 as written. Motion passed 5-0.

COVID 19 UPDATE:

Dorie Henning reported there is no known Covid on the island at this time. The surveillance program is now in its second week. Dorie reports the number of people tested is not the numbers that they hoped for with only 35 last week and 25 this week. The goal is 40 per week. She said they are trying to actively recruit volunteers. People interested in participating should contact Beth O'Mara a 207-200-4116 or ihccovidtest@gmail.com. Dorie said Beth O'Mara is doing a wonderful job. They are using a less intrusive swabbing technique. She said that the testers are now using a state of the art respirator called a PAPR, which is one of the best types of protection against airborne particles and is more comfortable for the tester and provides them with a full visual field. Dorie said she is surprised that more people are not volunteering to be tested and said that one reason may be that people are worried that they may lose income if they are tested positive. Finally, Dorie mentioned that an article written by Sara Reynolds was just published in the Village Soup about Islesboro's testing surveillance program. Shey Conover asked if they are getting a good cross section of people being tested. Dorie said there is lack of representation in the health care and outlying business sectors. She would like to see the ferry crew tested, but notes it is difficult to coordinate with their time availability. Gabe Pendleton asked if they need help recruiting people for the testing. Dorie said the person to talk to is Beth O'Mara, and did note that Beth would be sending out more information to clarify any misunderstandings about the testing.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Planning Board meeting August 10, 2020 at 5 PM.

TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Scanned Items:

Select Board Agenda 8/6/2020

Select Board Minutes 7/23/2020

Warrant FY 21 #3 and Warrant Recap

Warrant FY20-#28

2019/2020 Committee Appointment List

Janet Anderson reported that Mark Higgins of the MSFS emailed her with ferry ridership stats. He reported that ferry ridership is down 13.3% for vehicles and 34.7% for people in July. June numbers were down as well, 15.9% lower for vehicles and 38.6 % for passengers. It is unknown if they took into consideration the fewer number of trips.

WARRANTS FY 21 #3

MOTION by S. Conover, seconded by L. Bruce to approve Warrant #3 for FY 21 in the amount of \$204,185.24. Motion passed 5-0.

APPOINTMENTS

MOTION by L. Bruce, seconded by Phil Seymour, to approve the Committee Appointments as written for 2019/2020. Motion passed 5-0. *See appointment sheet attached.*

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Pendleton said that in his absence, the Waldo County Budget Committee appointed him a member at their last meeting. He said he is willing to accept the appointment unless another Select Board member wishes to do it. Arch Gillies said he appreciated Gabe fulfilling this position and added there is a lot happening in Belfast at this time with increased real estate sales, energy initiatives, boat yard expansions, etc.

Phil Seymour expressed his continued concern with increasing ferry rates and feels this issue is as important as rising tides. He said prices will continue to go up. He would like to see the State help in subsidizing more of the cost and would like to see the implementation of residential fares. Gabe Pendleton said he has brought this up at the MSFS Advisory Board meetings and strongly feels that all islands need to come together to speak as one voice. The Select Board discussed the proposal of a private vs state run passenger boat to Belfast and what that might do to the ferry revenue and its effect on ferry fares. Phil said this could hurt the ferry and therefore prices may increase. Gabe said that the MSFS has been involved in the conversation about the commuter boat to Belfast and essentially said "show us how it saves us money and we are on board". Gabe said that a RFP for an e-ticketing system recently went out. He also said that John King is

looking into the unfunded pension liability. The question is whether it is fair for ferry users to be paying for this as opposed to the entire State of Maine, similar to that of teacher's pensions. Gabe said that the unfunded pension liability is on the MSFS Board's "radar". Lauren Bruce expressed her concern that Islesboro is subsidizing a lot of the ferry runs and states "it seems so arbitrary". Arch commented that the "political angle should be pursued all the time" and feels the Governor should get involved.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY P. Seymour, seconded by L. Bruce, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Pike

Secretary to the Select Board