

Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Minutes

Called the meeting to Order at 4:00pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** - E. Best; S. Miller; J. Dow; B. Adams; J. Wootten; J. Atwell, Town Administrator; B. Emerson, CEO, J. Milliken, J. Reel, R. Boulet.
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes of April 1** – Approval of April 1 minutes is tabled to April 15 meeting. S. Miller moved to approve the minutes from the April 5 meeting. J. Dow seconded. Approved 3-0-2 abstained.
3. **Public Comment** – R. Boulet representing the Blue Hill Public Library asked to have the crosswalk that runs across Parker Point Road from the popsicle stand (Jeanette Candage’s old house) to the library added to the list of crosswalks being painted in town and if the town would allow it to be painted pride colors. The library would pay for the painting of pride colors and would like an estimate on the cost. R. Boulet also asked the Board what he should do regarding people parking on Mill Street when there are ‘No Parking’ signs the length of the road. E. Best said to take pictures of the vehicles and report them to the town office. The Board will also look into the process for enforcing its traffic ordinances more aggressively.

Business

1. **Welcome New Select Board Members** – E. Best welcomed the new Select Board members, Ben Adams and James Wootten.
J. Dow would like to send a letter of thanks to Sean Dooley for his service to the town—he agreed to draft a letter.
2. **Select Board Areas of Focus, Training Requirements, Authorities** – E. Best explained that Maine Municipal Association (MMA) is a great resource for all town officials and with becoming a Select Board member Ben and James will have access to training and legal services along with other benefits MMA provides. New Select Board members are required to take a FOAA training within 120 days of being elected. E. Best explained that being a Select Board member is a team sport and that no one makes individual decisions. Select Board members do not have any more authority than what has been granted by the town. J. Dow explained that he would appreciate sticking to agenda items at these meetings. S. Miller explained that J. Atwell is overseer of the town employees. A Select Board member can ask a town employee to do something, but the town employees have the right to say ‘no’ or discuss it further with Julie. J. Atwell should be the focal point for all information within the town. E. Best explained that all information gathered regarding town business should be shared with all the members and Julie and it will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. **Appoint Chair** – J. Dow nominated E. Best to be Chair. S. Miller seconded. 5-0
4. **Liquor License renewal – Blue Hill Co-Op** – S. Miller moved to hold the public hearing for the Blue Hill Co-Op Liquor License renewal on April 22 at 5:45pm. B. Adams seconded. Approved 5-0.
5. **Penobscot Select Board – Solid Waste Proposal** – The Town of Penobscot is holding a meeting with Peninsula towns to discuss options for municipal solid waste disposal. Since PERC has been shut down, virtually all trash has been hauled to Juniper Ridge which is further away costing more money to the towns for hauling fees. J. Dow will zoom into the meeting and S. Miller may attend in person on Friday April 12.

6. **Bond Bank – Loan Structure Approval** – S. Miller moved to authorize J. Atwell to confirm that the loan terms outlined by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank are consistent with the Town’s expectations. J. Dow seconded. Approved 5-0.
7. **Banking/Investments** – S. Miller explained that the town currently has a lot of cash and suggested we monitor and manage our deposits more carefully. J. Atwell will work on this further and bring a proposal to next week’s meeting.
8. **Appointment of Town Officials**
 - a. **Road Commissioner** – S. Miller moved to appoint Julie Atwell as the road commissioner for a term ending 12/31/2024. B. Adams seconded. Approved 5-0.
 - b. **Harbor Master** – S. Miller moved to appoint Nick Niehoff as the Harbor Master for a term ending 12/31/2024. B. Adams seconded. Approved 5-0.
 - c. **Local Health Officer** –J. Dow moved to appoint Bryce Emerson as the Local Health Officer with a term ending 12/31/2027 and a stipend of \$50.00/month. S. Miller seconded. Approved 5-0.
9. **Fire Station Relocation** – J. Dow received a proposal from the VHB Engineering firm for a range of preliminary design services associated with the possible relocation of the Town’s fire station (topographical survey, concept design/plan, and estimated budget). VHB’s proposal includes services to be provided by an architecture firm (Port City Architects). J. Dow has distributed the proposal to the Select Board and hopes to make a decision on moving forward at next week’s meeting.
10. **Congressional “Earmark” Funds** – Deadlines for projects for this coming year are quickly approaching. S. Miller explained that if the Town has any plans for projects in the near future, we need to move on it now. After some discussion, the Board decided that it has no projects sufficiently well defined to warrant an earmark request. In a recent call with MDOT, they indicated that other towns have found it helpful to bring any large projects on the horizon to the attention of our congressional delegations’ offices—familiarity with projects being considered seems to substantially improve the chances of being awarded earmark funds.
11. **Salt Rates** –_Ben Astbury emailed B. Adams regarding purchasing salt sand for the Town this spring to hopefully acquire some savings and to have it done earlier this year. To get a discounted rate the town will have to agree to this by May 1. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
12. **Thank you letter to BHCS 7th grade class** –J. Dow explained that the BHCS 7th grade class raised \$800.00 of its \$1000.00 goal serving lunch at the Annual Town meeting. J. Dow moved to include a check for \$200.00 with the thank you note to the BHCS 7th grade class with funds coming from the Select Board unanticipated/emergency fund. S. Miller seconded. Approved 5-0.

Other Business

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders

1. Select Board Meeting – 4/15/2024
2. Climate Resilience Committee – 4/17/2024
3. Select Board Meeting – 4/22/2024

Adjourn