

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
August 22, 2022
Minutes**

Called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance:** E. Best; J. Dow; S. Miller; B. Smythe; S. Dooley; N. Nadeau, Town Administrator; L. Dow, Town Clerk; Ann Rioux; Jenn Jackson; Kathleen and Brian Soper; Gavin Riggall; Mary Alice Hurvitt; Wilson King
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 15, 2022:** 5-0 approved.
3. **Public Comment:** Members of the community expressed their growing concern for the excess speeding on Pleasant Street, in light of the recent crash resulting in death of a local man and multiple speed relation motor vehicle incidences. Both Ann Rioux and Jenn Jackson reported on their conversations with Hancock County Sheriff's office and the Maine Department of Transportation and were told to discuss various issues and requests with the town. Ann asked that one of the Town's speed signs be placed on Pleasant St. The Board agreed. Nick will contact Bed Adams and ask him to reach out to the DOT Regional Traffic Engineer to discuss other options. The Board requested that Nick contact the Maine State Police for options for presence here in town.

Old Business:

1. **Road Safety and Noise:** Butler's report followed the public comment portion, to which he did add that there have been complaints of loud trucks and speeding during the afternoon hours and specifically on Pleasant Street. The Board noted that this might be another area for priority State Police enforcement.
2. **Broadband CCI Update-** See update on Butler's report.
3. **Planning Board/Land Use fees-** Members of the planning board presented their proposed fee schedule and to review with the Board. Mary Alice voiced her concern for the lack of support the Planning Board has had over the last couple of years, specifically from the Code Enforcement Officer.

New Business:

1. **USDA Rural Development Grant Application Public Hearing-** A public hearing is scheduled for Monday 08/29 @5:00pm to discuss the Wastewater Treatment Plant grant funding application. Scott moved that repayment of the USDA loan, in the event successfully obtained, would be the town's obligation. Sean seconded. 5-0 approved.
2. **Abatements- Personal Property-** Personal property BETE and real estate homestead exemption both omitted in error from the original commitment. Scott moved that the homestead exemption abatement be granted. __ seconded. 5-0 approved. Scott moved that the BETE abatement be granted. __ seconded. 5-0 approved.

Administrator Business

1. **Town Park signage & lighting**-Both the town park signs and the lighting for the Town Park have been ordered and expected to be delivered this week.
2. **Complaints at Town Park - Water St.**- Nick discussed some complaints that he has been receiving regarding the park and the Monday night event's occurring. He said that it's too late in the summer now to tackle this, but will look at updating and adding ordinances in order to better enforce guidelines at town parks for next year.
3. **Authorize adding N. Nadeau to Town & Transfer Station Bank Accounts**- Scott moved adding Nicholas Nadeau to bank accounts at Bar Harbor Bank as well as the First National. Jim seconded. 5-0 approved.
4. **Town Hall Parking**- Nick met with Ben to discuss the parking space in front of the side entrance of the Town Hall. Ben could easily carve out the spots to make more room and push back the granite blocks. The Board expressed again their hope that Ben be getting quotes from and contracting with other vendors for various projects. Nick agreed and will discuss it with Ben. Nick will also look into the agreement with the state for accelerated repairs of state or state-aid roads (subsequently reimbursed by the state).
5. **Sidewalk – Parker Point**- Nick stated that he and Ben identified Parker Point Rd. as an area to extend the sidewalk. The Board agreed but pointed out that MDOT upgraded portions of the Tenney Hill sidewalk and suggested that that work be completed to a similar standard by the Town. Nick will work with Ben to get the work on Tenney Hill scheduled and completed before considering Parker Point Rd. or other roads for new or improved sidewalks.
6. **GSA Update**- Town notified GSA of new billing and Brock Muir, Director of Finance at GSA, replied that GSA would bill same as previous years without acknowledging current monthly billing. GSA did not separately invoice Town for additional voter-approved monies. Board agreed to invite a GSA rep to next meeting to resolve billing issues so Town and Union 93 can expedite payment of tuition and additional voter-approved monies.

Other Business

1. **Updates/Reminders**
 - a. **Rep. Golden Touring Wastewater Facility: Round table discussion at the library- 12:30 limited attendance. August 24th @ 2:15**
 - b. **Next SB Meeting: August 29th @ 5:30pm**

Scott made a motion to adopt the fee schedule as proposed by the Planning Board with the exception of the driveway opening and residential building inspection being omitted until supporting ordinances were enacted. Butler seconded. 4-0 approved ([Dow] absent).

Warrant signatures- Warrants were signed

Adjourn- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Select Board Areas of Responsibility Report – Butler Smythe

Roads/Public Safety

1. Truck Noise: I have recently been made aware of some in-village “noise” issues that have been clarified based on a recent call and specific questions from myself, that had not been previously made available. This is not specific to speeding cars or loud and sometimes fast trucks going up Tenny Hill as they try to make the grade... or those going down and failing to come close to the speed limit on any road leading into the village. This is about pickups - speed, noise and behavior that may have a broader relevance.

Issue

- a. Excessive noise and speed caused by pickup trucks going UP Pleasant St. between approximately 3:30-5:00pm.
 - i. Speed limit is 25 going uphill until just after Baptist Church, where it changes to 35.
- b. Other locations may have similar issues but I have not heard of those similar specifics.
- c. A comment was made to me that this is related to political commentary from the drivers, and I researched that and there is potentially some validity.
- d. I made a point of stating that those with issues need to document the problem’s specifics and present it in writing and even better – express it in one of our weekly Select Board meetings where everyone can hear it. All details in #1 came from someone that doesn’t live on Pleasant St. but has had conversations with those that do. There is no documentation from prior complaints – or details.

Of note:

- 1) We can request that the Hancock County Sheriff takes this issue on, but specific patrolling requests would be a part of overtime that a deputy would have to volunteer to take on after the request is posted on their in-house request board. There is no guarantee anyone will volunteer - as has happened in the past! We cannot promise that someone will show up.
 - 2) Costs would be borne by the town with no reimbursement from speeding tickets or otherwise – at least that is how it is assumed to work and will investigate those details.
 - 3) Speed signs do not work in this case and \$ for electronic speed signs do not work either.
2. Delivery Truck Parking: Mill St and Main St. both have specific delivery truck unloading issues with Mill St. being completely blocked off at Sandy’s as noted by several residents attempting to use the road or get out of parking spots.

Broadband

1. Met with CCI via ZOOM with ALL Peninsula towns represented – including Castine. Discussed and obtained further insight into Fidium fiber build. A brief summary/overview follows and the PUB site is updated.
 - a. Waiting for federal NEPA approval, but CCI will start build sooner with RDOF (FCC awarded) funding.
 - b. Start August 2022 and Complete Dec 2022
 - c. Those Pre-Ordered on the Fidium site will get 45-day notice via email that they can subscribe for service.
 - d. CCI would like to get copper phone line use changed over to Fiber (via VOIP) and encourage that with price, better service and support for battery backup...

Town Park

1. Camping is via Vans and other vehicles – not tents. Noted two vehicles after the fact from Quebec.

Select Board Report

Scott Miller

For the August 22, 2022 Meeting

Marine Resources

<nothing noteworthy>

Land Use/Planning

SolAmerica Solar Panel Permit Appeal. At the end of the August 18 public hearing, the Appeals Board scheduled a further meeting on September 1, 6:30pm for deliberation on the appeal.

Fees. We'll discuss the proposed fees at our meeting. My biggest issue, as already noted, is the lack of an ordinance basis for several of them (like residential building permits).

Transfer Station

Operating Agreement. Continue to work on a draft of the agreement; I expect we will distribute something this coming week.

Finance/Administration

Grant Opportunity. MDOT has established a grant program to help municipalities pay for replacing or upgrading culverts and stream crossings—I have forwarded the information to Ben A. and Butler S.

School Union Fiscal Agency Costs. Becky has estimated that she spends 1.5 hrs/week on school warrants and cash receipting school funds (of which I think very little can be attributed to the School Union), and 1.25 hrs/month on reconciliation of the school checking account. I think the amount of any fiscal agency fee would be very small, but I nonetheless think it should be part of any fiscal agency agreement to establish the precedent that the service does involve extra work for the Town and is not free. This will be especially important if the amount of work increases substantially in the future or we identify other Town costs appropriately allocated to the School Union.

Plowing; Salt/Sand. I have reviewed the plowing contracts and marked some changes as discussed last week. At this point, awaiting the cost figures that build up to the \$65,000 2022-23 cost we discussed at the meeting.

Technology

Old Website. The old website has been decommissioned, and the old URL is redirected to the new site (<https://bluehillme.gov>).