

Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, September 18, 2023
Minutes

Called the meeting to Order at 5:30pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** - E. Best, B. Smythe; S. Miller; S. Dooley; J. Dow; K. Herrick, Town Clerk; Jeff Milliken & Henry Elliott, Town Residents; Nick Sichterman & Brock Muir, Zoom.
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes of September 11** - J. Dow moved to approve the Minutes for September 11 , B. Smythe seconded. Vote: 5-0 Approved.
3. **Public Comment** - There were no public comments.

Business

1. Sale of Seaside Cemetery Plot – Town Clerk, K. Herrick provided sale documentation for the right to use a plot at Seaside Cemetery. She explained the Sexton, B. Carter verified the plot was available. S. Miller moved to approve the sale, B. Smythe seconded. Vote: 5-0 Approved.
2. Arborist for Cemetery – A large tree fell in the cemetery during the latest storm. S. Dooley cut up a portion of the tree that was blocking the roadway. The board discussed options on removing the wood. J. Dow will reach out to two firewood banks to see if they are interested in taking the wood. J. Dow will also ask the Tree Warden, P. Norris, to go through the cemetery with him to determine what other trees or branches need to come down.
3. Cemetery Rules and Regulations – E. Best recommended the town put an advertisement in the newspaper reminding people to remove all lot decorations by November 15 to facilitate the fall cleanup of the cemetery and noting that any remaining decorations will be disposed of. J. Dow will draft the advertisement. B. Smythe moved to accept the Cemetery Rules and Regulations as written, S. Miller seconded. Vote: 5-0 Approved.
4. Plowing Contract – S. Miller would like to compare the cost per mile, see the amendments to the plowing routes and review the road plowing budget. He will speak with the Road Commissioner, B. Adams, for clarification on the routes and cost per mile.
5. GSA Sewer Payments – E. Best explained George Stevens Academy has been receiving a sewer bill for 58 High Street. The building was torn down in the past. There was discussion on whether the town was going to abate the prior fees that were received. S. Miller stated they had previously discussed the issue and, at that time, the board agreed to stop further bills from accruing. No action was taken.
6. Abatement/Supplemental Tax Bill for Unknown Properties – The Tax Assessor, M. Caldwell provided the board with a list of tax abatements and supplemental bills to approve. J. Dow motioned to approve the abatement and supplemental bills, S. Miller seconded. Vote: 4-0, E. Best abstained.
7. Solar Array Responsible Party – E. Best received a letter from Wishcamper Holding, LLC stating the revision is approaching the final stages of construction. They will be sending an additional letter likely in October stating the official starting operation date. They would like to know who the point of contact should be, and the board decided it should be the Town Administrator.
8. Town Administrator Goals/Priority of Focus – J. Atwell, the new Town Administrator who will start on September 29, reached out to the board to see what tasks the board feels that she should be focused on and what are the expectations for her first few weeks. Together

the board decided on getting to know the staff and what duties they have, determine any personnel issues to assist staff with being successful and happy, familiarizing herself on where things are, whether it be in the building or places around town. It was agreed that she should have the opportunity to sit down with the board one on one to discuss each member's perspective on the town. The board appreciates her reaching out and looks forward to her starting.

Other Business

1. Transfer Station Update – D. Soper, who works at the Transfer Station, started his new duties as Manager. S. Dooley thinks he is doing well. S. Miller brought up a concern with the phone system and said when calling the Transfer Station, the phone continues to ring followed by a message that says the mailbox was not set up and people are unable to leave a message. S. Dooley will ask D. Soper if he knows how to set up the voicemail.
2. Marine Resources Committee – There is concern over some of the committee members' attendance. The Harbor Ordinance states, "A member of the MRC who misses three (3) meetings of the MRC in any one-year term, without excuse, shall be considered to have resigned his/her office". S. Miller will reach out to these members to see if they have lost interest or to see if these are excused absences.
3. Cemetery Plots – J. Dow stated we should start advertising the sale of 5' x 5' plots on the town website.
4. MDOT Road Closure – The board was notified that the Falls Bridge Road will be closed near Wharf Road on Tuesday, September 26, while MDOT installs new underground piping. The town will notify residents on our webpage.

Upcoming Meetings/Reminders

1. Climate Resilience Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 20 @ 4:00pm Town Hall
2. Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 21 @ 4:00pm Town Hall
3. Town Office Closed for Election Training in Augusta – Thursday, September 21
4. Select Board Meeting – Monday, September 25 @ 5:30pm Town Hall

Executive Session (Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(C) – Real Estate Matter) – J. Dow moved to enter executive session at 6:54pm, S. Miller seconded. Vote: 5-0 Approved. Exited executive session at 7:15pm. S. Miller moved to approve the property tax abatement as requested from a Blue Hill citizen and to authorize E. Best and the Town Clerk to identify the resident if required by statute, E. Best seconded. Vote: 5-0 Approved.

Adjourn - E. Best motioned to adjourn after warrant signing at 7:30pm, S. Miller seconded. Vote 5-0.