

Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Minutes

Call to Order and Preliminary Items

1. **Quorum & Meeting Attendance** – E. Best (chair), J. Dow, S. Miller, B. Smythe, S. Dooley, M. Rockwell (Treasurer), B. Adams (Road Commissioner).
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes of August 28th and 29th** – S. Miller moved to accept the minutes for the August 28th & 29th meetings; J. Dow seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.
3. **Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

Business

1. **Discussion – Alternatives for Investments of Town Funds** – S. Miller discussed investment options for the Town. The First currently has Certificate of Deposits (CDs) that are 100 basis points lower than Treasury Bills. We could purchase Treasury Bills from them for 75 basis points or we could purchase them on our own at a rate of 5.4% currently. They are liquid and the per transaction fees are low. He asked the Board how they felt about opening our own brokerage account. S. Miller will review the rules of investing and get back to the Board with a proposal.
2. **Discussion – Memorial Bench** – K. Woodsie would like to install a memorial bench for her mother in the Town. Her mother (E. Woodie-Millay) worked for GSA before her passing. The Board discussed where it might go, and E. Best will find out which vendor we have utilized in the past for other benches and reach out to Ms. Woodie.
3. **Road Commissioner (Ben Adams) – Salt/Sand bids** – Ben Adams and Gary Runnells discussed plowing contracts with the Board. Ben Astbury’s contract is being amended to reflect a shift in road assignments and Gary Runnells would take over for Mike Cook’s contract. Gary will email the proposed contract to the Board. He used Mike Cook’s routes to figure the dollar amount. S. Miller would like to see the number of gallons used refined a bit. Ben Adams believes the numbers are on par with general billing rates.

Harcross has agreed to provide salt again for the Town.

4. **Recreation Program Director (Sawyer Houghton) – Summer camp report** – Sawyer Houghton (Recreation Department Director) was asked by the Board how the summer camp went. Sawyer said he thought it was “wildly successful.” They had 99 registrations; 25 kids did all 8-weeks. Attendance averaged in the mid-30’s each day, with the highest being in the low 40’s. He felt the day-to-day went smoothly. They had systems in place to track behavior; contacted parents whenever there was an incident and were well received by the parents. He did state that much of his staff was on the young side (under 18) with only four, including himself, over 18.

The camp ages were from 5-12, and they broke the camp up in 3 age groups. Sawyer mentioned that some of the campers were too young and that a child graduating from kindergarten would be the ideal starting age.

When asked if there were any major issues, Sawyer mentioned an employee resigning early due to a co-worker. Sawyer tried to put measures in place to fix the issue, but the employee left anyway.

When asked what might be done differently, Sawyer mentioned getting the word out earlier for both staff and attendees, simplifying the registration process and addressing the age issue.

Staff training was conducted over 3 days prior to the start of camp. They walked through the parent and staff handbooks, discussed and workshopped general strategies and classroom management. Four staff received their lifeguard certification during camp as well.

Blue Hill Consolidated worked great for the facility. The group attempted to utilize GSA initially, but found the Consolidated School was a much better fit for the groups. It had playground equipment, large fields, and easier access for the kids. They utilized the YMCA every day with the kids walking each way.

Sawyer informed the Board that they put out a survey to the parents and they had received about 14 responses. There were no negative comments. He will forward these to the Board.

5. Discussion – Cemetery draft regulations – The Board discussed new regulations for the Town’s cemeteries. They have been working on it and need to combine all the changes. They discussed better signage to advise visitors on these regulations. There was talk concerning the time frame that flowers and trinkets could be placed. The Board felt that these should all be removed between November 15 – May 20th, with further discussion needed to finalize these dates. This would allow Public Works to properly/fully prepare the grounds. They also discussed not allowing any planting. There are large shrubs that take over an area when individuals or families are unable to tend to them anymore.

6. Discussion – YMCA soccer goal proposal – Matt Montgomery from the YMCA discussed purchasing new goals for the soccer fields. He stated the existing goals were good for practices, etc., but wouldn’t work for games. He proposed purchasing them utilizing sponsorship. The Board decided to have the Town pay for these as this was a partnership between the YMCA and the Town. If the cost is over \$550 Matt should contact the Board; otherwise to go ahead and purchase them.

Department Status Reports

S. Miller advised the Board that the Transfer Station Manager has submitted his 2-week notice.

Other Business

E. Best asked for the assessor's abatements and supplementals be distributed to the Board via email so that they could review them for the next meeting.

Meeting Updates/Reminders

1. Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting – Thursday, September 7th @ 4:00pm
Town Hall

2. Water & Waterfront Comprehensive Plan Meeting – Thursday, September 7th @
6:00pm Library (Howard Room)

3. Select Board Meeting – Monday, September 11th @ 5:30pm

Sign Disbursement Warrants

Adjourn

E. Best motioned to adjourn, S. Dooley seconded. Vote: 5/0. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.