

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

Called the meeting to Order at 5:30pm

1. **Quorum and meeting attendance** – Board Members: E. Best, J. Dow, S. Miller & S. Dooley; Town Administrator: J. Atwell; Town Clerk: K. Herrick; SeaLoft Owner: Amy Houghton; Climate Resilience Consultant: Allen Kratz; Resident: Jeff Milliken.
2. **Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes for December 20 and December 27, 2023** - S. Miller moved to approve the minutes from the December 20 and December 27, 2023, meeting, S. Dooley seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
3. **Public Comment:** No comments.

Business

1. SeaLoft Update – A. Houghton owner of SeaLoft attended the meeting looking for an update on the status of the building located at 28 Water Street. The lease she signed ran out at the end of 2023. The business is closed for the season with an anticipated open date in May. The building needs repairs at this time and the board does not know to what extent. E. Best has reached out to a contractor to have him inspect the building and give the board an idea of what those repairs will cost before they draft a new lease. At this time, the board is waiting for the contractor to schedule a time to inspect the building. Item was tabled.
2. Section 125 Plan Update – J. Atwell informed the board the plan has been updated, which would allow us to have pretax deductions for medical, dental and vision. S. Miller moved to approve the cafeteria plan based on J. Atwell's and E. Best's have review; J. Dow seconded. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
3. 2024 Goals/Jim Dow – J. Dow suggests the board put together a list of goals/projects they want to accomplish. J. Dow said his number one project is the fire station. He stated the board should first decide if the land they have in mind is actually sufficient to build on. This would include surveys and engineering services. The design as well as the actual placement of the building will need to be decided on. Grant options need to be looked into. The ambulance service also has a bay at the current station. Does the board and town feel like having a Public Safety Building is needed where multiple organizations could be housed? He feels this is something the board should start working on as the idea is to have a new fire station in place within the next five years. S. Miller stated he agreed with J. Dow and the board should begin to budget this year to get the project started with the professional services that are needed. The board agreed the first step is determining what land and location would be adequate for a fire station. S. Miller added his goal was for the town to do all the little things that towns should be doing. His number one example is records management. He also stated he does not feel the board and town is running as smoothly as it could. J. Dow agreed and said due to the turnover of board members, staff, etc. these goals are discussed but never accomplished. S. Miller said he feels the Select Board discusses a lot of ideas but then many things seem to fizzle out. He said he feels that things have been getting better but feels the board needs to finish what

they start or make the decision not to move forward on the specific project. J. Atwell stated if the board found it helpful, she could implement a formal process by producing a list of action items that needs to be review so things don't fall through the cracks. No action taken.

4. Bragdon Brook Engineering/Jim Dow – J. Dow stated the board received an engineering proposal for approximately \$30,000 for the crossing. E. Best stated it is difficult for her to agree to spend that much money on something that may not come to fruition as well as not having confirmation the town would receive a grant to help cover costs. A. Kratz stated numerous grants should become available soon that the town could apply for. After discussion, J. Dow recommended the board table the issue until they start discussing the budget.

Department Status Reports (Sound Bites)

Other Business

1. S. Miller motioned to adopt the amended restated policy regarding town meeting funding requests from non-profit organizations noting a revised application deadline of January 31, 2024, for this year only; S. Dooley seconded. Vote: 4-0 Approved.

Meeting Updates/Reminders (details on website)

- 01/08/2024 Select Board Meeting
- 01/09/2024 Marine Resource Committee Meeting
- 01/10/2024 Planning Board Meeting
- 01/15/2024 CLOSED – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn after warrant signing. Vote 4-0 Approved.