

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 8, 2024**

Called meeting to Order at 5:00pm

Quorum and meeting attendance - Board Members: E. Best, J. Dow, S. Miller & S. Dooley; Town Clerk: K. Herrick; Residents: James Wootten, Amanda Woog & Elise Schellhase; Weekly Packet: Michael Dickerson.

Executive Session

1 M.R.S. §405(6)(E)—Legal Consultation.

Called the public portion of the meeting to Order at 5:45pm

Preliminary Items

1. Approve Select Board Meeting Minutes for January 3, 2024 - J. Dow moved to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2024, meeting, S. Miller seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 Approved.
2. Public Comment: Residents A. Woog & E. Schellhase thanked the board for giving families the opportunity to attend a new summer camp. In addition, they praised N. Nadeau and S. Houghton for coordinating the program. The parents stated it was extremely convenient since their kids were right in town. The camp was affordable compared to the others being offered and the kids really enjoyed all the different activities the town provided. They asked the board to begin working on the possibility of the town offering another summer camp. They stated their urgency is due to other local camps having begun the registration process. They are worried if parents wait too long for the board's decision, due to the lack of available childcare the other camps will be filled up. E. Best stated her concerns are who is going to run it as the prior Town Administrator N. Nadeau organized the program as well as staffing, where is the camp going to be based and stated the town lost money due to coming in over budget. J. Dow agreed it is difficult for a town to run a camp for kids and stated there may be an option for the YMCA to run or assist the program as they have taken over many town recreation activities. He also said the feedback received was 99 percent positive, which is great. S. Miller stated he understood the urgency to move this topic up the priority list so they are able to give parents confirmation on whether the camp will be offered again and what changes will be made. S. Dooley stated last year was the first year of the camp and there were some bumps, but he understands the value of the camp and the board will look into how they can make it work. S. Miller said he believes the first step is to see who will be running the program. A. Woog & E. Schellhase stated they believed Sawyer Houghton, last summer's Recreation Director as well as all the other staff did a great job and J. Dow said he will try to get in contact with him to see if he is interested in returning. The board agreed there is a need for affordable childcare and they will discuss providing another camp this summer when they meet to discuss the upcoming budget.

Business

1. GSA Land Offer – E. Best stated the last update she received from the school was that they were going to review the town’s offer after the new year. There has been no update since on whether the school will accept the town’s offer. E. Best will reach out to them.
2. Town Report – E. Best wanted to ensure Town Administrator, J. Atwell, has been filled in on the process of creating the town report as well as what documents and reports are required. J. Atwell was unable to attend the meeting, so Town Clerk, K. Herrick informed the board she and J. Atwell have been discussing the town report and have started compiling the letters and reports that are required. E. Best asked K. Herrick to compile a list of all the organizations and documents that will need to go into the town report. S. Miller stated E. Best previously asked what they could do to help. He said he thought the board could assist with following up with committees if there is a delay in getting the information J. Atwell requested. In addition, he mentioned the artwork for the book could be something the board helps with. J. Dow stated he previously spoke with J. Atwell about the pictures, and he agreed to work on compiling artwork as well as photos of historical significance which the board feels the residents enjoy. S. Miller mentioned the board needs to begin working on the town warrant which also appears in the town report and determine what articles other boards would like to have the residents vote on. He stated they also need to figure out what non budget warrant articles are needed for example ordinance amendments.
3. Floats/Possible Grant Options – J. Dow will research what grant options might be available for building and repairing He said it is possible for the town to apply for a 2025 grant through SHIP (Small Harbor Improvement Program) grants, but he will do more research. He explained the available funds for 2024 has been allocated so the board would need to wait an additional year to apply. S. Miller recommended J. Dow research the BIG (Boating Infrastructure Grant). J. Dow will report back once he compiles the information.

Department Status Reports (Sound Bites)

None.

Other Business

S. Miller confirmed the board will be holding a working session this Sunday, January 14th, 10:00am, to discuss the upcoming 2024 Municipal Budget. The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the Town Office.

Meeting Updates/Reminders (details on website)

- 01/09/2024 Marine Resource Committee Meeting
- 01/10/2024 Planning Board Meeting
- 01/15/2024 CLOSED
- 01/16/2024 Select Board Meeting
- 01/17/2024 Climate Resilience Committee

Executive Session

1. 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matter – Postponed until after the January 14th scheduled budget working session.

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