

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Sunday, February 18, 2024**

Called the meeting to Order at 10:00am

- 1. Quorum and meeting attendance** – E. Best (Chair), J. Dow, S. Miller, S. Dooley, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), C. Mor (Budget Committee), A. Lawrence (Budget Committee), J. Richardson (Budget Committee), M. Rockwell (Treasurer), J. Chapman (Acting Fire Chief).

Executive Session

The Board went into executive session per 1.M.R.S. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matter - from 10:00am to 11:45am. No decisions were made.

Business

- 1. Budget Work Session** – John Chapman, the acting fire chief, addressed the Board concerning the Fire Department budget for 2024. He apologized for going over budget in 2023 and stating it was in most part due to the rise in costs of materials. Specifically due to the purchase of gear and equipment.
He talked with the Board about the pending move for the Fire Station and how that affects local insurance premiums. Rates are lower the closer a resident is to the fire station. He discussed the rate of pay for volunteer firefighters (\$15/hour, paid in half hour increments). He mentioned the stipend has typically been paid out in December and this seems to be good practice for all involved. The new fire truck payment is due to the vendor in May 2025 at a cost of \$340,000. J. Chapman stated that fire vehicles are typically good for about 30 years, we have a 2002 tanker and a 2008 mini pumper that will need to be replaced in approximately 8 and 14 years. He felt that they probably would replace the mini pumper with another tanker (at an approximate cost of \$700,000). J. Chapman spoke a little about contacting St. Joseph’s crisis line for the Fire Department. They’ve dealt with a lot of traumatic events in February, and he felt this was needed for the crew. Chapman agreed to provide the Board with a copy of the Blue Hill Fire Company donation agreement executed in late 2022/early 2023.

The Board discussed the school budget and mentioned that they would like to see the nutrition numbers presented on a pro forma basis to reflect the change in accounting, so the public can see an apples-to-apples comparison of the budgets.

The Board discussed the use of unassigned funds to support the budget and reduce the amount needed from property taxes. They agreed to utilize \$600,000 of unassigned funds.

They discussed the warrant articles for the upcoming April Town Meeting.

Executive Session

S. Miller moved to go into executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matter at 1:30pm; J. Dow seconded. Vote: 4/0 approved. No action was taken.