

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, August 5, 2024  
Minutes**

**Called to Order at 5:30pm**

- 1. Determine quorum and meeting attendance** – J. Dow (Acting Chair), B. Adams, S. Miller, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), M. Rockwell (Treasurer)
- 2. Approve Select Board meeting minutes of July 29, 2024** – S. Miller moved to approve the minutes as amended; B. Adams seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.
- 3. Public Comment** – A member of the public asked the Board about the Road Commissioner's pay and whether or not J. Atwell was receiving both her Town Administrator pay and the Road Commissioner pay. The Board advised that she receives a single salary for both roles, and does not receive any extra amounts for Road Commissioner work. Marc Restuccia from the Orland Watershed addressed the Board concerning the closing of the dams for Toddy Pond and other waterways. The state returned AIM's request to abandon the dams stating the information was not sufficient. Bucksport, Orland, Surry, Penobscot and hopefully Blue Hill will be meeting on August 13 at 3:30 in Bucksport to discuss next steps. They are considering hiring a law firm. S. Miller stated that it may make sense for the Town to contribute something, but wants to understand the proposed financial arrangements between the towns and the property owners before any commitments are made.

**Business**

- 1. Proposed Tax Lien Policy** – Currently if any amount of tax is unpaid a 30-day notice is sent to the property owner. This adds certified mailing fees to each of the accounts. The Board is proposing that accounts with a balance of \$50 or less should not be liened. The taxes would still be due and interest would continue to accumulate, but no additional fees would be applied. An advertised public hearing was held to receive comments on the draft policy as posted on the Town website; there were some questions, but no changes were suggested. S. Miller moved to adopt the policy with a \$50 trigger amount; B. Adams seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.
- 2. Community Resilience Partnership Renewal** – Randy Curtis addressed the Board. The partnership has been in effect for two years and it's time to reapply to continue in the program. The partnership has given 185 Maine communities eligibility for grant funding and a service provider (Allen Kratz). Randy reported that out of 72 community actions, they chose six and now have 11 or 12. He highlighted the actions the Board has taken with the Town Hall; adding six heat pumps, new windows and LED (energy star) lighting. Allen Kratz mentioned NOAA has granted \$69 million to the state of Maine for community resilience. The Climate Resilience Committee submitted a report required by the state to the Board. S. Miller moved to authorize J. Atwell to submit the report after he has had an opportunity to edit it. B. Adams seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.
- 3. Fire Chief – Appointment** – The Blue Hill Fire Company nominated John Chapman as the new fire chief. B. Adams moved to select John Chapman as the fire chief; S. Miller seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.

4. **Traffic Ordinance** – The current ordinance is unclear and there are ten or more ordinance documents that are undated, some are possible drafts, or amendments. S. Miller reviewed Ellsworth and Castine’s ordinances. He stated that, based on MMA guidance, stop signs on Town roads are unenforceable without an ordinance. The community expressed concerns with the possibility of Mill Street becoming a one-way road. Comments were made asking the Board to slow down and consider all the ramifications that enacting an ordinance may cause. The Board will schedule a working session to develop a draft and then hold a public hearing at which the public can express its views on a specific draft ordinance.

#### **Executive Session**

S. Miller moved to enter executive session at 6:35pm per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) Personnel Matters; B. Adams seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.

S. Miller motioned to terminate Anthony Ashton, a probationary employee, effective immediately; seconded by B. Adams. All approved.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:32pm after warrants are signed. All approved.