

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, August 19, 2024  
Minutes**

**Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm**

- 1. Determine quorum and meeting attendance** – E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, J. Wootten, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), Z. Pulitzer (Minute Taker), various members of the public
- 2. Approve Select Board meeting minutes of the August 5, 12, and 14 meetings** – S. Miller motioned to approve and J. Wootten seconded. Vote: 3/0 Approved.
- 3. Public Comments** –

1. Randy Curtis on behalf of the Climate Resilience Committee informed the Board that the Northern Border Regional Commission is taking pre-applications for a grant to go towards the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant with a due date of September 6th. The town has been rejected for the grant in the past, however, Stonington has recently received a grant for their Wastewater Treatment Plant. A request to see the accepted grant was considered. J. Atwell will send an email drafted by Randy Curtis to request Mandy from Olver to review the grant information to determine if it would be worth the Town of Blue Hill to apply again.

2. Jeff Milliken informed the Board that he will not be able to fulfill his duty of taking inventory of culverts on all town roads. Jeff is willing to share templates and results to other volunteers interested in the job.

**Business**

**1. Peninsula Skating Association - Alex Drenga**

Alex Drenga, manager of the Peninsula Skating Association (PSA) updated the Board on the condition of the ice-skating rink this past season. There was not enough ice this winter to use the tractor to clear the rink and by January the rink had turned to slush and never returned to functional use. Due to the climate we have on the coast during the winter, it has made it difficult to maintain the rink. A. Drenga feels that the only way the town could keep a rink functional for the whole season would be to get refrigeration installed. This would require a relocation of the rink. He wanted to know if this is something the Town would be interested in pursuing in the future. He stated that there are several groups interested in using the rink if the Town went forward with the project. The current spot would have to be given up on account of limited parking, utilities, and amenities. Drenga believes the rink would best be located next to a municipal building (like a new fire station) which would offer a source of water, power, bathrooms, storage, etc. S. Miller indicated that he believes it will likely be at least several years before a new fire station is constructed; he suggested reaching out to other towns for support and researching fundraising, donation, and grant opportunities.

**2. Abatement - follow up**

J. Wootten moved to approve the abatement of \$357 of 2024 property taxes assessed to Zachary Martin Trust. S. Miller seconded. The vote was approved with 3/0.

### **3. Abatement - New**

J. Wootten moved to approve the abatement of \$327.25 of 2024 property taxes assessed to Pamela Malhotra. S. Miller seconded. Approved 3/0.

J. Wootten moved to approve the abatement of \$315.88 of 2024 property taxes assessed to Craig Williamson. S. Miller seconded. Approved 3/0.

J. Wootten moved to approve the supplement of \$315.88 of 2024 property taxes to be assessed to Francis Gray. S. Miller seconded. Approve 3/0.

### **Other Business**

E. Best moved to appoint Julie Atwell as the town treasurer. S. Miller seconded. Approved 3/0.

GEI, the consultants doing the climate vulnerability assessment study, looked into raising the road near the Curtis Cove beach where the road is at its lowest and is sometimes flooded during extremely high tides and storms. That section of road is at a higher elevation than originally thought. The elevation of that part of the road is approximately 4-5ft about sea level. There are dunes along the Curtis Cove Road that are well protected by current law and the wetland along the roadway is not allowed to be built into. GEI advised that it will likely be difficult to build up a road under those conditions. They noted that, even with heightened sea levels and storm surge, emergency vehicles should still be able to get through.

### **Adjournment**

E. Best moved to adjourn and J. Wootten seconded. The vote was passed at 3/0.