

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, December 02, 2024
Minutes**

Called the meeting to order at 5:30pm

Determine quorum and meeting attendance – E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Dow, J. Wootten, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), S. Lavallee (Town Clerk), D. Goettler (Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

Item has been tabled until next meeting

Public Comments

No public comments.

Business

1 GEI – Climate Vulnerability Assessment

Allen Kratz wanted to thank the Blue Hill Climate Resilience Committee's, Randy Curtis, David Dietrich and Jeff Milliken with their 2-year involvement on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment. He introduced Leila Pike from GEI to present the study to the Board in its final draft form. The finalized report will soon be available as well as on-line. The on-line version will include interactive maps and information on ongoing Community Science projects. The recommendation for the Board from this study was categorized into 4, "next steps":

- 1/ Create a GIS database of assets
- 2/ Refine Blue Hill's flood risks including both wave analysis and rain fall levels
- 3/ Continue regional collaboration
- 4/ Search out grants for funding

A. Kratz asked the Board to comment on the study via a town Resolution which would then allow him as Project Manager to complete his part of the reporting to the State. The Board agreed this could be done during the next Select Board Meeting giving them time to review the study in its final form.

2 Sealoft Update

Item has been tabled until next meeting

3 Peninsula Skating Association

River Plouffe Vogel gave the Board an update with the Peninsula Skating Rink. With the dry weather the rink has not held much water since the plug was in. He stated the water well is working but it would take a while for it to fill up. He has reached out to see the cost to fill up the rink so it can begin being used. For the 85 x 160 square foot rink, 4 tanks of water should be enough for the season. R. Plouffe Vogel asked the Board to consider paying \$1200 total for 2 tanks of water, where they have funding for the other 2. He also mentioned the lights at the rink are blinking and

asked if they could be looked at. E. Best stated the town will be responsible for any issues with the lights. S. Miller moved to have the town pay for the 2 tanks of water totaling no more than \$1,200; J. Wootten seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

4 Assessment of Personal Property Taxes

S. Miller informed the Board that the town attorney had confirmed that the collection of personal property tax is mandatory. He explained that, since the current Blue Hill assessor's agents do not have the capacity to fully enforce that requirement, the town might have use for a policy like Portland's, which relies on business owners self-reporting their assets. He added that the town attorney told him that this policy would not entirely fulfill the town's obligation but could work temporarily.

J. Atwell brought up the possibility of issuing mass mail through the Post Office in order to prevent some business owners from going uncontacted; she added that this letter should be issued no later than January in order to give business owners ample time to respond.

5 Stray Animal Contract

E. Best stated that *Small Animal Clinic* in Ellsworth continues to be the only option to contract with to accept Blue Hill's stray animals. S. Miller moved to authorize J. Atwell to execute the contract with *Small Animal Clinic* on the Town's behalf. J. Wootten seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

6 General Assistance Minimums–Schedule Hearing

S. Miller moved to set the General Assistance Minimums hearing for Monday, December 16, 2024, at 5:45 PM. J. Dow seconded; Vote passed 5/0.

7 Unpaid Moorings Letter

S. Miller informed the Board that a letter will be sent to everyone believed to hold a mooring for which they have not paid, and that the Marine Resources Committee will recommend a 100% fee to be applied to any moorings not paid by the end of the year. E. Best asked how the fee could be enforced, and S. Miller answered that all overdue moorings from before 2024 would be forgiven, while nonpayment going forward would result in the mooring's forfeit and removal of the ground tackle or, at least, dropping the chain. He also mentioned that there is a small waiting list to fill any vacated moorings.

Other Business

-Winter Road Clearance: S. Miller asked how the decision is made to plow or sand Blue Hill roads—the contractors or the Road Commissioner. B. Adams indicated that it is typically the contractors who determine when to plow (but the Road Commissioner has the authority to require action). B. Adams also noted that the contractors have been making the determination as to whether to use a salt/sand mix or pure salt, but that he would be open to setting salt limits in future years. S. Miller added that he thought the current contracts state that the salt/sand mixture is determined by the road commissioner. E. Best asked for confirmation that this year's salt and sand had been mixed in the summer, which B. Adams provided.

-Abatement Map 007 Lot 014: John Danzenbaker and Valencia Libby requested an adjustment in building valuation based potential errors in house assessment. The Assessor's Agent confirmed the errors both in square footage calculation and with a shed that was described as a living space.

The adjusted calculation recommended was for a \$935.38 deduction. S. Miller moved to grant the Abatement in the amount of \$935.38 for their 2024 Taxes; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 5/0.

Executive Session

B. Adams moved to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S.§405(6)(a) - Personnel Matter at 7:34 pm; J. Dow seconded. Vote: 5/0 Approved.

Executive session ended at 7:39pm

Adjournment

S. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 subject to signing Disbursement Warrants; B. Adams seconded. Vote passed 4/0.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.