

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, December 16, 2024  
Minutes**

**Call to Order: 5:31 PM.**

**Attendance/Quorum**

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Dow, J. Wootten, J. Atwell (Town Administrator), D. Goettler (Minute Taker).

**Approval of Minutes**

S. Miller moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2024, as edited. B. Adams seconded. J. Atwell agreed to place a notice in the Weekly Packet regarding parking during snowstorms as discussed on December 9. Vote passed 5/0.

**Public Comment**

No public comments.

**Business**

**1. SeaLoft Lease Renewal**

S. Miller moved to renew the lease as distributed; B. Adams seconded. The Board agreed to replace the building's rotten siding pursuant to Paragraph 8; J. Wootten accepted responsibility for finding an appropriate contractor. The Board edited the lease to specify that the lessee will not be responsible for paying property tax, then voted to renew the lease as edited. Vote passed 5/0. Amy Houghton signed the lease.

**2. Public Hearing: Annual GA Ordinance Maximums**

The Board opened the floor for public input and clarified that it has the power to raise the maximum above what the State will reimburse. No public comment was given. S. Miller moved to close the public hearing. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0. S. Miller moved to approve the Ordinance as distributed. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0.

**3. Parade Permit (for 5/17/24)**

Stephan Blanchard, president-elect of the Acadia Council of Realtors, sought permission to host a 5K foot race in Blue Hill, which would probably not require any road closures. S. Miller moved to approve as requested. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0.

**4. Municipal Officers' Policy – Disbursement of Education Costs**

S. Miller moved to renew as distributed; B. Adams seconded. The Board confirmed that it is the School Committee's responsibility to use their budget and the Town Treasurer's responsibility to refuse money transfers that would overdraw on the Committee's Select Board-allocated budget. S. Miller edited the Policy to clarify the terminology around "overdraft," then the Board voted to renew as edited. Vote passed 5/0.

**5. Assessors Agents**

J. Dow reported that he had made contact as discussed on December 9, 2024. He agreed to ask for a firm quotation on the cost to assess and request advice on how to reach business

owners who do not own or lease real estate within Blue Hill. S. Miller moved to authorize J. Atwell to sign the proposed 2025 contract with RJD Appraisal. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0.

**6. Bench Request**

E. Best plans to draft a policy on accepting donations for memorial benches.

**7. Commitment of ARPA Funds to WWTP Project**

S. Miller moved to commit the remaining ARPA funds to be used for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0.

**8. Marine Resource Committee Update**

**a. Harbor Ordinance Amendments**

The Committee plans to recommend shifting the due date for renewing mooring permits earlier, to March 1, in order to allow those not renewed to be vacated in time to move other people off of the waitlist, no later than May 31. These adjustments would take effect in 2026. The new permit application will also ask about the purpose of the mooring.

**b. Aquaculture Ordinance Proposal**

Bailey Bowden of Penobscot offered to assist the Town in drafting a Shellfish Management Plan (as required by the state) for review and also proposed the adoption of an ordinance to prohibit industrial-scale aquaculture operations in Blue Hill's waters.

**c. Mooring Letters**

The letters regarding unpaid mooring permits have been sent out. Some owners have paid and others have relinquished their moorings. Most have not yet responded.

**9. Dam Abandonment Update**

The Town has received invoices for legal fees totaling approximately 60% of the \$500 approved by the Select Board and reported that a substantial amount of legal work remains. He reported that both Surry and Orland are funding their contributions largely through private donations and that he has asked for advice in soliciting donations from Blue Hill residents.

**Executive Session**

S. Miller moved to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(C) - Real Estate at 6:41 PM. B. Adams seconded; vote passed 5/0. Executive session ended at 7:28 PM.

**Adjournment**

S. Miller moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 subject to signing Disbursement Warrants. E. Best seconded; vote passed 5/0.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.