

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, July 28, 2025  
Minutes**

**Call to Order: 5:30 PM.**

**Attendance/Quorum**

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, A. Woog, D. Goettler (Town Clerk, Minute Taker).

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 3/0 with one abstention to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025, and July 21, 2025, as edited.

**Public Comment**

R. Boulet confirmed that Blue Hill does not have a constable and asked about the status of Blaze's notice of violation. A. Woog informed him that the notice will be issued from the Clerk's office, not the Code Enforcement Officer.

**Business**

**1. Town Park Use Request (8/2/25)**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve the Town Park Use Request from 11 AM to 1 PM on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

**2. Town Property Sign Policy**

S. Miller summarized the history of the sign policy and the Board fielded questions about the new draft of the proposed sign policy. Several members of the public voiced opposition to restrictions on planting signs on Town property. The Board agreed to redraft the proposed policy to allow signs to be planted while actively attended.

**3. Barncastle Special Amusement Permit**

The public hearing was opened. Multiple members of the public, Barncastle's past owner, Barncastle's current owners, and a Barncastle employee spoke in favor of granting the permit. S. Miller noted that no previous noise complainants were present or submitted written remarks and then confirmed with the owners that all live music is concluded by 9:30 PM. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve Barncastle's Special Amusement Permit subject to the entertainment ending by 9:30 PM.

**4. Sewer Fee Abatement Request (Blue Hill Laundry)**

Adam Giles, representing Blue Hill Laundry, requested an abatement for past sewer bills due to having replaced the washing machines with more water-efficient models. He explained that the abatement amount requested is based on volume measurements from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and future sewer bills have already been updated to reflect the reduced amount; he only sought to extend the reduced rate back to the time that the laundromat shut down for upgrades. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant the requested abatement in the amount of \$8,286.48 to sewer account 105.

Grace Wallace, a homeowner who is subject to sewer billing despite not being connected to the sewer line, reported that T. Higgins of the Wastewater Treatment Plant measured and confirmed that her house is within the requisite 200 feet from the sewer line. She stated that she considers it unfair for houses not using the sewer to be subject to the same billing rate as those that are and asked how to go about getting the ordinance amended. The Board explained that the fee exists to incentivize homeowners to connect to the sewer and acknowledged that the process of doing so is not always easy.

**5. Liquor License Application (Special Event)**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant a qualified catering permit to Bar Harbor Catering Company, Inc. for the antique show held at GSA on August 13, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**Functional Area Reports**

**1. Insurance Response**

The Town received a list of approximately 12 to 15 areas of concern from Maine Municipal Association's insurance inspector. Those located at the Transfer Station have all been addressed; T. Higgins is addressing those at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and M. Lawson is addressing those at Town Hall.

**2. SHIP Grant Reimbursement**

The Board expects to receive the approximately \$18,000 reimbursement check from the Small Harbor Improvement Program shortly.

**3. WWTP Upgrade Progress**

S. Miller reported signing the appropriate documents to authorize Olver Inc. to act as the Town's agent with the DEP and MDOT.

**4. Animal Control Officer**

Tabled pending J. Wootten's presence.

**Other Business**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to appoint D. Goettler as Registrar of Voters.

A. Woog and D. Goettler reported that A. Ruiz, Deputy Clerk, and Z. Pulitzer, Office Assistant, are both scheduled to begin work on August 4, 2025. M. Conant will be in the Town Office on the same day as the first of his stipend office hours. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to appoint M. Conant as interim Code Enforcement Officer and Licensed Plumbing Inspector. A. Woog and D. Goettler will continue to review applications for a second Deputy Clerk.

S. Miller reported signing agreements to begin the phone replacement process. He will seek the phone numbers for the Town Hall's alarm system and elevator emergency button.

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) - Personnel Matter at 7:04 PM. Executive session ended at 7:10 PM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(D) - Labor Negotiations at 7:11 PM. Executive session ended at 7:25 PM.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.