

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 4, 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 4/0 to approve the minutes of July 14, 2025, as amended.

Public Comment

B. Wootten invited the public to attend Budget Review Committee meetings. There was discussion about how George Stevens Academy constructs its budget.

T. Horton expressed the opinion that real estate taxes are too high and that the Town should be reducing its budget. Board members suggested ways for him and similarly-minded residents to get involved in the budget-drafting and approval processes.

Business

1. Mobile Vendor Permit Application

Flanders Bay BBQ applied for a one-day Mobile Vendor Permit to serve food at the Maritime Heritage Festival on Saturday, August 9, 2025. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve Flanders Bay BBQ's Mobile Vendor Permit application as requested.

2. Town Hall Sign Policy

A. Woog circulated two revised versions of the sign policy, one as close as possible to the original draft policy, and the other allowing attended signs. The group that regularly protests on the Town Hall lawn submitted a written endorsement of the latter. The Board discussed the advisability of allowing attended signs and agreed to table any future restrictions on the place, manner, or time period of planted signs. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve A. Woog's second policy, permitting attended signs only.

3. Fire Station Relocation

The Board is in the process of discussing design plans for the new fire station with architects. The Board and public discussed aesthetic preferences. There may be a public information sessions for the public to give their input before the Special Town Meeting required to authorize construction.

4. Rural Infrastructure Strengths Evaluation (RISE) Grant Opportunity

S. Miller reported on a no-match grant opportunity to provide an action plan for local economic development. The application consists of signing a letter of support to USDA

Rural Development. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to authorize S. Miller to sign the letter of support and send other documents as required.

5. MaineDOT Main Street Bridge Repair/Village Partnership Initiative

An MDOT 90%-10% grant opportunity is available to replace the Main Street bridge and improve nearby downtown roadways, including sidewalks. Members of the public expressed aesthetic concerns about the bridge replacement. The Board will invite an MDOT representative to provide more details in the autumn.

6. Insurance Repairs (Stavola Building, Town Hall)

In addition to a few small needed repairs, the Stavola building has suffered water intrusion and a tree is in danger of falling onto power lines. The Town Hall also has evidence of water damage. The Board discussed using the budget previously set aside for painting the Town Hall to replace rotten wood instead. As SeaLoft will be open until Christmas, A. Houghton requested repairs to the Stavola building be made in January or February.

Other Business

B. Astbury will move his equipment out of the Salt/Sand Shed. B. Adams has made progress on the Town's snowplows, but is having trouble sourcing sand.

Following a site visit to 418 Pleasant Street, 028-055, the assessors' agents recommended an abatement be granted in the amount of \$637.67 due to poorer than expected structure conditions. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant the abatement as recommended to Michael Gillins and Fawn Sternberg.

E. Best reported that a large scallop farm has been proposed off of Hog Island and suggested revisiting the shellfish carveout in the proposed industrial aquaculture moratorium.

E. Best has a candidate in mind to take over as Code Enforcement Officer at the end of M. Conant's interim term, so the job listing ad will not be re-run.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to issue a mobile vending permit to Marissa Marchello for the Blue Hill Maritime Heritage Festival, as requested in the permit application.

Functional Area Reports

1. Animal Control Officer

Tabled pending J. Wooten's presence.

2. Treasury – Past Due Amounts

A school loan payment is overdue, an issue of which the School Union is aware. A recurring payment was also declined because it was charged to the Town credit card under J. Atwell's name, which was canceled following her resignation.

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 7:00 PM. Executive session ended at 7:20 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.