

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:30 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked about the Board's position on having the Town salt and sand the sidewalks. The Board advocated for a solution wherein the Town provides salt and sand and it is the responsibility of the property owners to spread it. B. Adams agreed to research barrels and asked the requestor to identify downtown property owners willing to host them.

B. Wootten explained that the expected substantial increase in the school budget is primarily due to special education costs, over which the School Board has no control.

Business

1. BHPL Liquor License Application – Single Event 1/31/2026

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve Blue Hill Public Library's single event liquor license.

2. Proposed Assessors' Agent Contract

M. Caldwell, who formerly worked for the assessors' agent company with whom the Town contracted, has sent the Board a three-year contract to perform all current work along with some additional areas of assessment. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to sign the contract, provided that the Town can terminate it either if they are dissatisfied with the service or if the legislative body fails to appropriate the necessary funds at a Town Meeting.

3. Animal Control Shelter Contract

E. Best reached out to Hancock County SPCA and the Ark, the latter of which, though they have limited space, agreed to board stray cats and dogs at no cost. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize E. Best to sign a contract with the Ark Animal Shelter provided that she feels comfortable doing so without further Select Board input.

4. Adjusted GSA Request

George Stevens Academy expressed their desire to become the Town's contracted high school, meaning that students attending alternative schools will be responsible for their

own tuition. The Board emphasized that that decision must be made at a Town Meeting and discussed the timeline required to receive an adequately detailed proposal.

5. Safe Streets for All Update/Island Institute Fellowship

A. Woog reported that the Town was awarded the Safe Streets for All grant of \$260,000 with a Town match of \$65,000. The grant agreement is still being drafted. She also mentioned the potential of applying for a two-year Island Institute Fellow to help oversee this and other long-term Town projects. The Town's contribution to the Fellowship would be \$14,500 for the first year and \$15,000 for the second. S. Miller questioned the Town's apparent responsibility to provide housing for the Fellow and the risk of the legislative body voting down the Town contribution. A. Woog will research whether the Island Institute Town contribution can count toward the Safe Streets Town contribution.

6. Nomination Papers

The Board agreed to post a notice containing information on officer nomination papers, which are currently available and due back by February 2, 2026, in the Weekly Packet.

7. Bank Account Signers

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to appoint A. Ruiz and D. Goettler as authorized signers on the Town's operating checking account at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, and to remove L. Sitzabee as a signatory on all of the Town's accounts. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to remove L. Sitzabee and add M. Cousins as signatory on the Town's safety deposit box.

Other Business

A. Woog is waiting for a return call from Unifirst. Next week's Select Board meeting, which would have landed on Martin Luther King Day, will not take place.

Executive Session

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to enter executive session per 1 M.R.S.§405(6)(C) – Acquisition of Real Property or Economic Development at 7:23 PM. Executive session ended at 7:37 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.