

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, January 26, 2026  
Minutes**

**Call to Order: 5:32 PM.**

**Attendance/Quorum**

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Wootten, A. Woog (remote), 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 20, 2026, as edited.

**Public Comment**

C. Gleason thanked the Town's plow drivers for their work over the past month and brought documents related to GSA's request to contract with towns.

**Business**

**1. Wastewater Treatment Plant/Outfall Pipe Contract Amendment**

Due to the damage to the outfall pipe, Olver Inc. has prepared an amendment to the wastewater treatment plant upgrade contract to allow for approximately \$130,000 in extra spending, with the hope that some of it can be apportioned from surplus ARPA funds. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize S. Miller to sign the amended contract with Olver Inc.

**2. Snow Plowing Update**

B. Adams reported that the Town plow drivers have been growing increasingly efficient over the course of the winter and that the trucks are in good repair. He also cautioned that the plowing staff is putting in excessive hours with minimal downtime. S. Miller suggested seeking one or two on-call supplemental drivers to fill in during long or back-to-back storms.

**3. 2023 Town Audit Complete**

S. Miller will post the 2023 audit report on the Town website and circulate the management letter to the Board. He and M. Cousins intend to continue quickly into 2024 and 2025 while they are familiar with the known issues in 2023.

**4. 2026 Budget Update**

S. Miller circulated a revised budget worksheet and a third version of the school budget with some small changes, likely to result in a real estate tax increase of approximately 9%. The Board discussed municipal debt limits.

**5. Property Tax Assessing Services Contract**

M. Caldwell provided a contract including the requested right-to-cancel provision. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize E. Best to sign the three-

year real estate tax assessment contract with M. Caldwell on behalf of the Town. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize E. Best to sign the one-year personal property tax assessment contract with KRT Appraisal. S. Miller emphasized that much of the taxable property will be eligible for BETE reimbursement.

**6. Toddy Pond Assessments/Town Policy**

Toddy Pond shorefront owners will be billed for the Management District based on their water frontage, though the method for measuring the frontage was initially unclear. S. Miller presented his suggested language to allow for an equitable definition of frontage.

**7. 28 Water Street Rental Inquiry**

S. Miller reported that he received an inquiry about renting the newly-vacated Stavola Building; the Board discussed allowing the prospective tenant to tour the property with the understanding that the Town does not intend to pay to repair the building.

**8. Telephone Installation (Wednesday/Thursday)**

The telephone installation is expected to occur on January 28 and 29, 2026. The main phone number will remain unchanged.

**9. Safe Streets for All/Island Institute Update**

A. Woog and S. Miller spoke with their contact for the Safe Streets grant and confirmed that the expense of an Island Institute Fellow could likely count toward the Town's grant match. A. Woog also confirmed that the Town would be responsible for helping the Fellow find housing but would not be required to provide it. She agreed to draft an Island Institute Fellow application by Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

**Other Business**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize E. Best to complete and return a Bureau of Labor Standards report on workplace hazards.

S. Miller summarized the method that he and M. Cousins will use to properly allocate the available solar credits. G. Hurvitt offered to help determine the allocation in the future.

**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)(A) – Personnel Matters at 6:31 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 7:21 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.