

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, April 6, 2026
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:31 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

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

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to appoint E. Best as Chair of the Select Board.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the minutes of March 30, 2026.

Public Comment

A member of the public expressed safety concerns about the traffic circle and the speed of the approach from Beech Hill Road. The Board discussed posting a sign warning of the traffic circle and agreed that speeding on Beech Hill Road is probably the biggest issue.

Decisions regarding Blaze's liquor license and one-night special amusement permit extension were tabled until the Board can get a clearer impression of the current level of permit compliance. R. Boulet expressed his preference that the extension should not be granted.

Business

1. Mobile Vending Permit Application – Blue Chill

Tabled pending an owner's availability to come to a meeting.

2. Tax Exemption Request – Blue Hill Public Library

M. Caldwell, Assessor's Agent, provided the opinion that, while exemptions should technically be granted before April 1 of a tax year, he felt that the Board could consider exempting one of the two lots for which the Library is seeking exemption for the 2026 tax year, while the other's exemption status might be revisited in early 2027. R. Boulet clarified some details about the properties' uses. The Board agreed to ask M. Caldwell whether part of one lot's value can be exempted while the remainder remains taxable. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize a charitable exemption to the property at 13 Parker Point Road, 012-030, due to its ownership and use by the Blue Hill Public Library.

3. Replacement of Mountainview Cemetery Fence

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to authorize the Public Works crew to proceed with the fence replacement. The Board agreed that the required \$3,500 should come from the Select Board's fund for unanticipated expenditures.

4. Little League Liability Insurance/Concessions

M. Cousins requested that the Town be added to the Little League's insurance policy as an additional insured party. She was provided with a screenshot as evidence of coverage; the Board agreed to seek formal notice of coverage from the insurance agency. There was further discussion about whether the food concession associated with Little League activity is covered by the League's insurance; if not, S. Miller believes a TULIP policy should be available to the league to extend this coverage.

5. Missing Non-Profit Funding Requests

S. Miller reported that a non-profit funding request that was emailed to him before the deadline was mistakenly not included in the Town Meeting warrant. He suggested waiting to make sure that no other agencies came forward with discrepancies and then funding the request out of the Board's unexpected expenditures reserve.

6. Policies Requiring Annual Renewal

The Policy on Disbursement of Municipal Education Costs, and potentially a few others, needs to be renewed every year. The Board will review that policy and seek out any other policies to be renewed at the meeting on April 13, 2026.

7. Town Hall Sign

The Board revisited the question of whether to replace the sign at the end of the Town Hall lawn with a "tasteful, but not too expensive" digital sign. While alternatives are identified and considered, they granted D. Goettler permission to update the sign with Town Office notices and noted that there is an existing policy governing use of the sign by other interested parties.

8. Election/Referendum Hours for 2027 Town Meeting

The Board discussed the benefits and risks of reducing the hours of open polls at the Annual Town Meeting and agreed not to reduce them for the 2027 Town Meeting.

9. New Town Office Hours

The Town Office will be open on Mondays from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and not at all on Wednesdays.

Other Business

The Board received a notice of bankruptcy for Downeast Community Partners, seeking any potential creditors. They will investigate any outstanding balances and decide whether to file a claim.

S. Miller attended a meeting with representatives from a housing grant agency in Vermont which gives forgivable loans to subsidize the construction of affordable housing, saving the state money in welfare. He suggested that a similar, state-funded program, might make sense for the State of Maine.

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 at 7:08 PM. Executive session ended at 7:27 PM.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to extend an offer of part-time employment to Amanda Laursen for cleaning the Town Office at an hourly rate of \$25.00 and for 5-10 hours/week, subject to the Town's standard conditions of employment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to provide the wage adjustments as laid out in the schedule reviewed during Executive Session, retroactive to January 1, 2026, to Town employees.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.