

**Town of Blue Hill  
Select Board Meeting  
Monday, April 13, 2026  
Minutes**

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

**Attendance/Quorum**

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams, J. Wootten, A. Woog, A. Ruiz (Deputy Clerk, Minute Taker).

**Approval of Minutes**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 3/0 to approve the minutes of April 6, 2026, as edited. (Best and Adams had not joined the meeting at the time of the vote.)

**Public Comment**

S. Cromwell requested drafts of the minutes to be posted on the Town website; S. Miller indicated that approved minutes are posted and that also posting drafts would be cumbersome and result in clutter. He also noted that drafts are available to members of the public via a FOAA request. S. Miller and A. Woog discussed the staff's availability and the deadline for getting the approved minutes posted sooner. It was agreed that posting approved minutes no later than three days after approval seemed reasonable, and that day-after-approval posting should be the goal.

**Business**

**1. Mobile Vending Permit Application – Blue Chill**

A. Woog provided updates regarding the location and duration of the permit. C. Gleason requested the application to reflect some upcoming events for the Blue Hill area. S. Miller suggested they establish specific locations of those events before the hearing date. The Board agreed to set the required public hearing date for Blue Chill on April 27, 2026

**2. Set Liquor License Hearing Dates:**

- a. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the hearing date for Blue Hill Co-Op on April 27, 2026.
- b. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the hearing date for Devil's Half Acre Beer Garden on April 27, 2026.

**3. Updates to Employee Policies**

S. Miller identified some "clean-up" updates to the Town's Employee Policies and noted that Town Clerk D. Goettler had suggested clarification that accrued "sick leave" is capped at 120 hours and that any additional time designated for sick leave accrual are lost; Miller inserted a sentence to make this clear. Miller also noted that the new draft excludes "other personal reasons" from allowed sick leave purposes, and that this broad category should come from vacation time. Upon further discussion about the possibility of confusion between the Town's "earned paid leave" and a state mandate using the same term, it was decided to delay approval of the policy and redraft the document to use different terms for these concepts.

#### **4. Policies Requiring Annual Renewal**

- a. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the policy on disbursement of municipal education costs.
- b. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve the policy on treasurer's disbursement warrants for employee wages and benefits.

#### **Other Business**

##### **1. Little League Liability Insurance/Concessions**

E. Best will follow up to gain more information regarding the status of the liability insurance. J. Chapman brought up the skating rink in comparison to the Little League pickups in terms of the policy. E. Best stated since the skating rink is not private use of the facility; it is under different circumstances.

##### **2. Posted Wharf Road**

J. Wootten requested permission to use the Wharf Road for his estimated 55,000-pound heavy vehicle to move the gangway from the wharf to GSA for repair. After discussion about why other alternatives were not appropriate, the Board voted 4/0 to approve use of the road, despite being posted, for this activity.

##### **3. Construction Travel on Posted Kingdom Road**

B. Adams requested Select Board permission to use the (also posted) Kingdom road to transport equipment to help tear down a town employee's house (damaged in a catastrophic fire) on Kingdom Road. Adams will be donating his crew's time and equipment to assist the employee. S. Miller noted that waivers of posted road limitations are provided for in state law (sometimes with a bond requirement to insure against any damage to the road). Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve Adams' use of the Kingdom Road for the stated purpose, without bond.

##### **4. Donating EPL to Employee due to Extenuating Circumstances**

A. Woog raised the idea of cashing EPL amounts out to an employee upon request and if it is possible given the current Employee Policy being able to cash out the EPL amounts, only upon an employee leaving. In this case, M. Lawson offered to cash 40 hours of his EPL to donate to S. Gould. S. Miller instead recommended being more flexible with S. Gould's EPL and adding an extra week of paid time off due to the recent fire. After discussion of the alternatives, and trying to balance assistance to a valued employee against setting a precedent that might prove difficult in the future, the Board voted 5/0 to approve an additional week of EPL to S. Gould due to the catastrophic loss of his house and possessions and to thank M. Lawson for raising the issue for the Select Board's consideration.

##### **5. Eighth Grade Fundraiser**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to approve \$250.00 for the eighth-grade fundraiser project.

6. **Re-evaluation of the Assessment of the Kingdom Road Property**

A. Woog suggested the property tax valuation of the Gould property be re-evaluated due to the loss of the house by fire. S. Miller recommended soliciting the advice of the Town's assessor's agent, M. Caldwell, to determine how other towns have addressed similar issues.

7. **Downeast Innovation Network**

S. Miller noted that the Select Board had been sent an invitation to participate in a survey of Maine municipalities to assess common issues and strategies for developing and maintaining a robust roster of candidates for municipal office and municipal employees. He indicated that the resulting study might be of use to Blue Hill. A. Woog will reach out and schedule a meeting to participate in the study.

8. **Versant Permit for Pole**

S. Miller acknowledged the receipt of a request from Versant for work on a utility pole on the Stover/Range roads. The Board had no objection to Versant performing the proposed work.

**Adjournment**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.