

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, May 11, 2026
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:32 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 3/0 with one abstention to approve the minutes of April 27, 2026, and May 4, 2026.

Public Comment

J. Dow inquired about the current status of Horton Emerson Park. E. Best agreed to meet with him to discuss it. He also praised the current condition of Seaside Cemetery and offered to clean the Civil War memorial with the help of J. Wootten's lift.

Business

1. Toddy Pond Association Donation

J. Ross, representing the Toddy Pond Association, reported that the Association voted to donate \$500 to the fire departments of all four surrounding Towns as a gesture of gratitude to the Towns' voters. He presented J. Chapman with a check.

2. Hancock County Planning Commission

Each Town in Hancock County may appoint two members to the Planning Commission, along with an alternate. A. Woog reached out to the two current members, both of whom were interested in being reappointed. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to reappoint Julia Zell and Elise Schellhase to the Hancock County Planning Commission, along with B. Adams as the alternate member.

3. Clarification of 8th Grade Donation

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to clarify that the previously-approved donation would come from the Select Board's fund for unanticipated expenditures.

4. Request for Abatement of 2025 and 2026 Property Tax for 032-023

Blue Hill Community Development acquired the Blueberry Barrens after the 2025 tax commitment, resulting in the bill having gone unpaid. BHCD will pay the 2025 taxes but will be seeking an abatement for the 2026 taxes.

5. Appropriation of "Local Match" Funds for WWTP MIAF Payments

The portion of the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project that uses ARPA funds is required to be operational by September 30, 2026. The \$1,000,000 MIAF contribution requires a 5% match that was not previously budgeted for. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to appropriate up to \$25,000 from the Select Board's fund

for unanticipated expenditures for future 5% matches pertaining to the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project. The remaining match will require a Special Town Meeting.

6. CEO Candidate

J. Wootten and S. Miller interviewed the candidate interested in the Code Enforcement Officer position. He currently works out of New Jersey but will be moving to the area soon. His area of expertise is commercial contracting. S. Miller will meet with current CEO Z. Alvarez about his plans and goals, ideally resulting in two part-time CEOs.

7. Safe Streets for All Grant Status

A. Woog has drafted the agreement and hopes to circulate it later this week, so that it can be approved at the next Select Board meeting. The candidate selected by A. Woog and S. Miller accepted the Island Institute's offer and plans to start on September 3, 2026. A. Woog will seek out housing opportunities for her.

8. Close Town Money Market Accounts

The Town currently has four money market accounts open, earning worse rates than CDARs. S. Miller suggested closing those accounts and investing those funds more aggressively, while keeping them earmarked for their purposes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to authorize M. Cousins to close those four money market accounts and transfer the funds to the Town's general operating account.

9. Mobile Vending Permit Application

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to schedule the public hearing for Hearth and Soul's annual Mobile Vending Permit for May 18, 2026, at 5:45 PM. A. Woog will place a public notice in the Weekly Packet.

10. Shaw Institute ReflectORIZED Sign Application

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to authorize E. Best to sign the Shaw Institute's application, indicating the Town's approval.

Other Business

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve the supplemental tax assessment of \$349.53 on 029-092.

S. Miller spoke to a MaineDOT engineer about their request for a permit to take overweight equipment across unknown posted Town roads. They discussed discrepancies between the cover letter and application submitted to the Board, and S. Miller agreed to help improve the application.

The Maine Municipal Association solicited nominations for its Legislative Policy Committee. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to nominate Kathleen Billings and Roberta Boscowicz to the Legislative Policy Committee.

M. Cousins will contact the other four Towns that use the Blue Hill/Surry Transfer Station to make sure they know that their defray accounts have been closed.

J. Wootten has compiled a list of work that needs to be done on the Stavola Building and will sit down with A. Woog to draft it in appropriate terms. J. Chapman pointed out that the Stavola Building's water comes from the Fire Station and is seasonal.

J. Chapman informed the Board that MaineDOT removed several campaign signs from places too close to the roundabout. They can be claimed from the Sedgwick MaineDOT lot. He also provided some recent road safety updates, including delays in responding to a fire in Penobscot.

J. Chapman also reported that Blue Hill has advanced to the second round of selections for Congressionally Directed Spending from Senator Collins' office.

A. Woog was interviewed by the Downeast Innovation Network. She also thanked A. Laursen for her cleaning services in the Town Hall.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.