

**Town of Blue Hill
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 17, 2026
Minutes**

Call to Order: 5:30 PM.

Attendance/Quorum

E. Best (Chair), S. Miller, B. Adams (arrived during item #3), J. Wootten, A. Woog, D. Goettler (Town Clerk, Minute Taker).

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to approve the minutes of August 10, 2026, as edited. The July 27, 2026, minutes were tabled pending clarifications from J. Wootten.

Public Comment

S. Brookman thanked the Board for the use of the Wharf and Stavola Building and reported that the Maritime Heritage Festival was a success. He passed along some artists' requests to continue selling in the Stavola building throughout the summer. E. Best requested that they put together a written offer for the use of the space.

Three representatives of George Stevens Academy reported that construction will still be underway when students begin to arrive for the school year, requiring school buses to park in the street to load and unload students. This will not change the current traffic flow. The construction should be over by the end of November 2026, which will allow the buses to park out of the roadway without obstructing traffic.

B. Wootten and S. Miller discussed the School Board-related draft warrant article. S. Miller also offered the old 200-kW generator from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Consolidated School; B. Wootten agreed to look into whether or not it would work for the school.

J. Cummer reported that the Range Road street sign appears to have been hit and is bent.

Business

1. Games of Chance Permit Application

E. Best described the Ellsworth Lioness/Lions's Games of Chance Permit Application for the Blue Hill Fair. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 4/0 to grant municipal consent to the application as requested. S. Miller confirmed with David Gray that this is the only Blue Hill Fair participant requiring such a permit.

2. Certificate of Settlement for 2025 Tax Year

S. Miller described the process of relieving a tax collector of their liability for a tax year. The Board asked D. Goettler for a breakdown of outstanding Personal Property taxes and tabled signing the Certificate until it was provided.

3. Review of Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

S. Miller read out a list of items on which the Board had already spent its fund for unanticipated and emergency expenditures. He also reported that the expected \$50,000 grant match was not, in fact, required to be paid, because the “local match” requirement will be satisfied by the loan authorized to support the project. Without that large expenditure, the Board has only exhausted about half of its fund. The Board discussed removing the warrant article replenishing its fund from the upcoming Special Town Meeting.

P. Norris reported via email that most landowners with whom he spoke were willing to remove their infected elms at their own expense. He had not yet provided a specific dollar amount requested to appear as a warrant article.

4. MOCA Housing Opportunity Municipal Ordinance Development Grant

The Town was awarded the \$10,000 MOCA Grant, primarily for legal fees in updating ordinances to comply with new land use legislation and for Town Meeting costs to enact the new ordinances. Under the terms of the grant, any remaining funds must be expended to expand housing.

5. Special Town Meeting August 31, 5:30 PM

Though the article about the Board’s fund for unanticipated expenses may be removed from the warrant, the Special Town Meeting will go ahead as scheduled.

Other Business

The Board discussed an upcoming statewide collection event for old pesticides. Participants are required to register by October 5. Posters will be distributed at the Town Hall, the Transfer Station, and on the Town website.

E. Best summarized a letter received from a business owner in support of Blaze. The Board has received no further updates from the Blue Hill Town Attorney. S. Miller will reach out to her for an update.

E. Best reported that Jim Dow expressed reluctance to serve as Tax Collector for the 2026 tax year, expressing the view that the role should be held by a town clerk or treasurer, as is typically the case. The Board scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 20, 2026, to commit the taxes.

The Board discussed a request to waive a parking ticket fee due to an obscured No Parking sign. As the ticket as given for parking on the wrong side of the street, not for parking in a No Parking zone, the Board agreed not to waive the ticket. The Board discussed the equal enforcement of tickets for parallel parking outside of the fog lines when the fog lines have been painted in the wrong places; they agreed to ask the Public Works crew to ticket only vehicles causing a danger or obstruction to traffic flow.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted 5/0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM subject to signing Disbursement Warrants.

The Disbursement Warrants were signed.