

MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2025
GOULDSBORO SELECT BOARD MEETING
AND BUDGET WORKSHOP

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8018727702?pwd=WjJmUFhyWVNKZmphOUdoTTdwbDRLUT09>

Meeting ID: 801 872 7702

Password: 4uFgxX

Present: Robert Harmon, Danny Mitchell Jr., Peter McKenzie, Jackie Weaver
Staff: Town Manager Joshua McIntyre
Town Clerk Brianna L. Mitchell
Superintendent of Town Infrastructure Mike Connors
Police Chief James Malloy
Audience: 15 (Fifteen)
Zoom: 3 (Three)

Meeting held at the Gouldsboro Town Office.

Mr. Harmon called the meeting to order at 5PM



Pledge of Allegiance

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. McKenzie made a motion to elect Robert Harmon as Chair; 2nd by Ms. Weaver. Passed 3/0.

Mr. McKenzie made a motion to elect Danny Mitchell Jr. as Vice Chair; 2nd by Ms. Weaver. Passed 3/0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2025; 2nd by Mr. McKenzie. Passed 4/0.

PAYROLL WARRANT #43

Mr. Mitchell moved to approve Payroll Warrant #43 in the amount of \$37,323.79; 2nd by Ms. Weaver. Passed 4/0.

A/P WARRANT #44

Mr. Mitchell moved to approve A/P Warrant #44 in the amount of \$59,255.97; 2nd by Mr. McKenzie. Passed 4/0.

SELECT BOARD REPORTS

Ms. Weaver – Nothing at this time.

Mr. Harmon – Nothing at this time.

Mr. Mitchell – Nothing at this time.

Mr. McKenzie – Nothing at this time.

TREASURER- See attached

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Board – Chair Raymond Jones reported the Planning Board will be having a public hearing on first Tuesday of May starting at 6PM for a proposed food truck on Francis Pound Road for Bottom Line Fisheries Inc.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – Absent

FIRE DEPARTMENT / EMS

Town Manager Joshua McIntyre reported two full time EMS employees departed last week, including the Chief for Fire/EMS. Josh mentioned we still have a roster of people who are keeping EMS services going and are looking to advertise for these positions as soon as possible. Josh has appointed Gary Greenlaw as acting Chief for Fire and Rachel Hudson is assisting with EMS processes until the Town can hire someone.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – See attached

CEO Mike Connors reported:

- He has issued 2 permits from 04/08/2025 – 04/21/2025 with no new residences.
- **Jones Pond Cabin**- An estimate for building roof and structural repair estimate coming from Peninsula Builders.
- **Roadwork/Paving Bids**- Invitations to bid spring paving and paving prep posted on our website and the Ellsworth American. Sealed bids due Select Board meeting on 05/08/2025.
- **Seacoast Security**- Met with technician to assess the Rec Center for potential camera installation. Mike Pinkham is looking at possibly putting cameras in at the PH Pier as well.
- **Guzzle Road**- Guardrail was replaced on south side of bridge.
- **Schoodic Food Pantry Building permit**- Heard back from MMA about the expansion, would like the Select Board to approve to give authorization for them to do permitting to the building as the Town owns the building.

Mr. McKenzie made a motion to give authorization for the Schoodic Food Pantry to apply for a building permit for the building expansion; 2nd by Mr. Mitchell. Passed 3 / 1 – Mr. Harmon abstained.

RSU#24 REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Cowperthwaite reported Gouldsboro will have a 2.4% reduction for taxes this year. She reported the board does not believe the funding for state will affect this year's tax bill, possibly next year. Taxes and insurances came back less than previous years. Mr. Harmon asked if the number of Gouldsboro students has decreased? Mary replied yes, it has.

Mary informed the Select Board there will be a RSU board meeting held on May 6th @ 6PM to discuss Policy JB, which allows transgender students to play on sports teams. The board will be voting as a whole to either repeal policy or continue. Agenda will be posted on RSU 24 website soon.

TOWN MANAGER

Joshua McIntyre gave a friendly reminder the Scenic Byway Committee will be meeting at the Town Park on Monday, April 28th at 10AM to discuss some ideas they have to do at the Town Park. Select Board members are welcome to attend.

Old Business-

Nothing at this time.

New Business-

Appointment for election warden

Mr. McKenzie nominates Cheryl Brackett as our election warden for Tuesday, June 10, 2025; 2nd by Mr. Mitchell. Passed 4/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing at this time.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Budget Committee Members present at workshop – Dwight Rodgers, AJ Higgins, Tim Smith, Brenda Young, Roger Dean, Jay Bricker, Raymond Jones, Paul Stewart, Eve Wilkinson.

Mr. Harmon welcomed all and speaks to the Budget Committee. Mr. Harmon read aloud the explanation of the roles and responsibilities of the Towns Budget Committee with the respect to the process for developing the Town's annual budget email from our Town Attorney Agnieszka "Aga" Dixon as stated below:

"In short, the Budget Committee's role is limited to presenting a recommendation regarding the annual budget to the Select Board, as set forth in the Budget Committee Ordinance. The Budget Committee may, but is not legally required, to be involved in the preparation of the annual budget. In my experience, the typical town budget preparation is as follows: First, an initial budget is prepared by the Town's department heads and the Town Manager without input from the Budget Committee, Select Board, or the public. Second, municipalities usually engage in a schedule of public budget workshops/meetings (3-5 meetings, depending on the complexity of the budget) to review specific areas of the budget and solicit feedback from the public. At these workshops/meetings, it is usually helpful for the Select Board to hear from the Budget Committee. Third, the Select Board adopts a final proposed budget, which the Budget Committee finally reviews and provides its recommendation. Note that, while the Budget Committee may certainly develop its own internal meeting schedule, as well as rules of procedure for its own meetings, the Committee has no responsibility when it comes to developing policies or procedures regarding the Town's budget preparation process. Such policymaking is the sole purview of the Select Board. To that end, I've reviewed the FY 2026 Budget Process and Schedule that you have prepared and is being considered by the Select Board. It does not raise any legal concerns and is consistent with my understanding of how most Maine towns carry out their budget planning."

Mr. Harmon stated that he believed the Budget Committee is treating the Town Manager, Select Board and the department heads poorly and unprofessionally. The Select Board is disappointed how things have been going and continuing. They need to work in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Harmon read comments in the April 02, 2025 and April 16, 2025 Budget Meeting Minutes, that contained derogatory comments stating "The Budget Committee generally remains concerned about the Select Board's lack of budget line inquiries while simultaneously routinely endorsing the Town Manager's budget recommendations" and "budget lines appeared to be cut and pasted electronically from last year's town budget." The Budget Committee meeting minutes are very negative and not in

the best interest of the Town. Interrogation is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. This is how you drive good employees out. The Budget Committee is only an advisory committee to the Select Board, and look over what the Select Board and Town Manager proposes for a budget. The Town department heads and the Town Manager look close within the Budget. The Budget Committee is not to badger department heads. The Select Board is trying to continue to work together with the Budget Committee. In previous years, Mr. Harmon has been told by few department heads themselves, they were ready to walk out the door due to the Budget Committee hounding on them.

Mr. Mitchell read aloud a letter of concern for the Budget Committee overstepping and being unprofessional. The Select Board will not accept this behavior, and criticism is to not be continued and needs to end. Many questions opposed are repetitive and a waste of time year to year. If behavior does not change, forced actions will be taken forth. The Budget Committee made accusations that the Select Board didn't ask enough questions and are rubber stamping the budget. This is disrespectful and insulting to everyone's hard work that is put into compiling the budget together. The people of Gouldsboro deserve a government to work together and respect all. Work with a more constructive and cooperative manner. The Select Board recommends the Budget Committee have an orientation every year for members to know their role on the committee and an explanation of the budget process before starting budget season. The Budget Committee is not to "cut the budget", the members are to focus on what is needed for coming years. Being reasonable and spending more time on bigger items that are needed.

Ray Jones spoke he has been on the budget committee for 30 years and Eve Wilkinson has been the Town Manager for many years and everything has been done the same for this long. The Select Board voiced concern that this process no longer works for the town and needs to be improved.

The Budget Committee needs to be present at the joint Select Board / Budget meetings to ask any questions they may have, instead of sending the Town Manager pages of repetitive questions.

Paul Stewart at a loss on how the budget process is supposed to go. The Select Board for more than 10 years, has not been involved at budget committee meetings and this is why over the years the town has been in turmoil. The current Select Board set joint Select Board / Budget Committee meetings for everyone to be involved and ask questions during these meetings. Mr. Mitchell mentioned it's the Town Manager's responsibility to present the budget to the Select Board. The Select Board is very involved and has been looking over the budget as Josh has presented it. The Select Board takes responsibility as a body, in many years previously the capital improvement plans have not been properly funded.

After much discussion, Mr. Harmon and the Select Board want to do what is in the best interest of the Town and make sure they receive input from everyone on the Budget Committee as well. The Select Board has received complaints about the budget process in previous years and they are trying to fix the complaints and make it a clearer process for all involved.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

AMBULANCE RESERVE

Need to replace every 5 years to maintain ambulances. Dwight asked if balances are current balance as of today? Josh mentioned these are balances from January. Federal Congressional Funding Josh applied for, for new ambulance, funding was frozen and dumped in March. No grants available right now. We now have a new ambulance because one burnt in 2024 mechanic shop fire, insurance

covered for new ambulance rig. The blue line is the contribution per year for the appropriated needs. If they find this is not feasible, they will decide as they go. The Select Board asked if the Budget Committee if there are any questions. Eve Wilkinson mentioned they believe this is appropriate appropriates for the Ambulance Reserve. The Budget Committee is good with the \$63,000 for this coming year.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS RESERVE

Town Office Vault \$15,000 to assess for the design of a new vault. Over \$100,000 for 12 x 14 to properly build. Dwight asked if the town can get a quote on how much will take to build? A separate structure off the meeting room is what the architect projected. There was discussion about moving the Fire/EMS Chiefs office back into the back office in the Fire Department, and utilize the current office attached to the Town Office meeting room for the vault. It is easily accessible for clerks to get into. Town Clerk Brianna Mitchell recommends this option. Mike and Brianna will discuss further.

Look at process of giving the Women's Club building back to the Acadian Women's Club. Red folder with information about this? Don't see any reason to keep it. Mike will get assessment for building and bring to annual town meeting. The annual contribution will remain the same and keep the assessment for the building in there. Will need major repairs to keep going. The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to keep \$20,000 for annual contribution in Buildings & Grounds reserve for the coming FY budget.

CRUISER/ACADEMY RESERVE

Mr. Mitchell mentioned \$43,000 looks feasible for annual contribution for a new cruiser in FY2027. Select Board and Budget Committee agrees to leave contribution at \$43,000 for the coming FY budget.

FIRE EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Dwight asked if this covers an air system and new air packs? Mr. Harmon will get information on how much these items cost. Dwight asked if the annual contribution needs to be \$100,000? Josh mentioned these figures were supplied from Ken Monroe at the time when these items were discussed and these numbers do include the cascade system. Need to leave the annual contribution at \$100,000. Bill Zoellick asked if \$400,000 was enough for a new pumper truck? Mr. Harmon mentioned he can get one cheaper currently but by the time they purchase the cost will increase. Don't need extra capacity for 6-man. Dwight asked if this is a multi-year purchase? Mr. Harmon mentioned yes, this is how Ken Monroe presented it to the Select Board. If they want to keep the Fire Department, we need to spend the appropriate money to keep it maintained. The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed we need to leave the annual contribution at \$100,000 for the coming FY budget.

HARBOR RESERVE

South Gouldsboro Breakwater improvement? Dwight asked if this is a need? Bill Zoellick wouldn't commit this money as of right now. Mike Pinkham is not present but Bill spoke that they need a better idea on the South Gouldsboro Breakwater.

Bill Zoellick mentioned there will be some interest in doing a ramp at the Prospect Harbor cove. \$100,000 was a 25% quarter match and the match should not be relied upon. Need to figure out the strong desire to have a ramp, to be able to haul boats in and out of, and particularly before storms. Bill would think it would be wise to spend something aside to build would be smart. Bill makes a suggestion within the next 2-3 years to build a ramp.

Brenda Young asked why we need cameras on the pier? Mr. Harmon mentioned there is suspicious activity going on at the pier that we are unsure of who is doing so this will help.

Dwight suggests to make this \$50,000 instead of \$57,000 for annual contribution. The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to reduce to \$50,000 for the coming FY budget and will address next budget season if needs change.

JONES POND RESERVE

Ms. Weaver mentioned if we could bring this upon the townspeople and have a plan in place to demo the cabin. Mr. McKenzie mentioned we could possibly put a gazebo in place of the current structure. Bill Zoellick mentioned it will cost to demo.

Superintendent of Town Infrastructure Mike Connors mentioned about maintaining the dirt road, repair or replace the swim float. Need a quote for a new swim float. Ms. Weaver asked if we could sell the building itself and take it away? After discussion, no. Brenda Young mentioned we should not keep a float as this generation today is much different than back in the day. The current float was in less than a year and was broken many times and repaired. She agrees with getting rid of the cabin and adding a gazebo or a basketball court.

After much discussion, the Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to eliminate the swim float as it has been a continual issue with people respecting the float.

The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to reduce the annual contribution to \$10,000 instead of \$30,000 for the coming FY budget.

LEGAL/PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RESERVE

Dwight mentioned he thinks property eval should be in its own reserve. Something we will have to save money aside and continue to contribute going forward. Add on the Town Meeting warrant to establish a reserve and annual contribute \$70,000 for the new reserve.

The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to reduce the annual contribution from \$80,000 to \$15,000 for the coming FY budget.

PAVING RESERVE

Roger Dean asked what does \$30,000 for road assessment cover? This will cover town road assessments on all town roads. Roger Dean mentioned he did this many years ago and unsure of what Jim Watson did with his assessment. Mike Connors mentioned the biggest problems are what is under the current pavement. Could see what different options are for current roads and resources we currently have are very limited. The Select Board and the Budget Committee would like to keep the road assessment in the reserve.

The Select Board and Budget Committee would like to leave the annual contribution at \$435,000 for the coming FY budget.

PUBLIC WORKS RESERVE

Limited resources and need a tractor with backhoe for projects around town that need to be done and should not rely on depending on contractors, and if the town owns a piece of equipment, this will allow to get some things done sooner. Looking for 40hsp. 42/40 Kabota.

The tractor purchase should be sooner than FY2028. Bill Zoellick asked if we could finance a tractor and backhoe? If lease payment, need to bring forth to town meeting to approve. Get dealership to give municipal quote on 2500 truck.

The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to leave \$50,000 for the annual contribution for the coming FY budget.

TRANSFER STATION RESERVE

This is self-funded by Transfer Station fees. The Select Board and Budget Committee agree to not contribute to this reserve.

COAST RESPONSE RESERVE (new fund)

Bill Zoellick hoping to get MDOT grant to contribute towards Cranberry Point junction repair and would need \$125,000 for matching. If win grant, construction wouldn't start until FY2026 and into FY2027. Matching needs to be made by the end of the construction. Unsure of hard number and would need 20% match to build.

Bill Zoellick mentioned the next proposal for an opportunity for \$75,000 for a modeling study for what would work outside of the causeway to help reduce the waves. Wave attenuator would be about \$2Million to put in. The \$75,000 would cover active solutions to help figure out what would work best or if it would make sense to spend the large amount of money. Bill is willing to write a proposal for this. Bill mentioned the \$15,000 allocated for FY2026 will be for a study for the permanent repair for the Crowley Island Road.

Mr. Harmon is concerned how to bring this forth to the taxpayers and the questions that will be asked for \$100,000 expenditure and Bill Zoellick agrees. Mr. Harmon expressed he would like to see the number reduced to \$50,000 and Bill Zoellick asked for \$60,000 for annual contribution?

Eve mentioned if ask for \$70-\$75k, the Town could hold a Special Town Meeting to take money from the general fund to put forth more funds.

The Select Board and Budget Committee agreed to reduce the annual contribute to \$75,000 instead of \$100,000 for the upcoming FY budget.

NET TOTAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES FOR FY2026

After revisions, the annual contribution to reserves for the year of FY2026 will decrease from \$978,000 to \$861,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AJ Higgins would like a copy of the attorney advice about the budget committee advisory.

Dwight asked if the fuel surcharge could be taken out or needs to remain? This was based on the price of fuel and have been able to avoid having to expend from this line as fuel has been under the.

AJ Higgins mentioned the ordinance does not specify. AJ recommends the Select Board abolish the Budget Committee. Ms. Weaver mentioned this year Josh has stream lined the budget well. AJ Higgins mentioned the Select Board should revise the Budget Ordinance to define the budget committee responsibilities.

Mr. Mitchell mentioned the Budget Committee should be asking questions at the joint Select Board and Budget Committee meetings just the same as the rest of everyone who goes over the budget. Mr. Mitchell suggested the Budget Committee have their own separate meeting the night before the Select Board meetings so they can bring forth their questions at the joint meetings and does not need to badger the Town Manager and the department heads.

EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss personnel matters in accordance with MRSA Title I, Chapter 13, Section 405, Paragraph 6A (personnel issue)

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to enter executive session at 7:41PM; 2nd by Mr. McKenzie. Passed 4/0.

Mr. Mitchell made a motion to exit executive session at 8:47PM; 2nd by Mr. Mckenzie. Passed 4/0.

Eve Wilkinson made presentation for two Spirit of America nominees to present at the Annual Town Meeting.

ADJOURN: Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47PM; 2nd by Mr. McKenzie. Passed 4/0.


Respectfully submitted,
Brianna L. Mitchell, Town Clerk


Please note: These minutes are not verbatim. A tape recording of the meeting is available at the Town Office during regular business hours.


Enclosures: Agenda, Minutes of 04.10.25, Payroll Warrant #43, A/P Warrant #44, Treasurer's Report, Revised April 2025 EMS Schedule, CEO Report, Appointment of Election Warden, EPEC Construction Schedule and Tours email, Capital Improvement Plan FY2026 – FY2035.


BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of April 24, 2025 and Approval on May 8, 2025


Robert Harmon, *Chair*


Danny Mitchell, Jr., *Vice Chair*


Peter McKenzie


Jackie Weaver