

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP

MINUTES



Date: February 6, 2013

Time: 1:00 pm

I. **Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established by Select Board Chair, Peter Lewis, at 1:00 p.m. This was a Zoom meeting in accordance with the Town's remote participation to board members and the public. Select Board members participating were Peter Lewis, Mark Favreau, Deb Smith, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney and Nicole Briand, Town Manager. They were joined by the Finance Advisory Committee.

II. **Amendments to the Agenda -None**

III. **Discussion Items**

A. Capital Improvement Plan

- **Town Buildings:** Large remodeling project was put on hold due to no bids last year. Instead, are looking at doing smaller projects to address office needs and taking care of issues that need immediate repair.
- **Town Hall:** There are structural issues that need to be addressed sooner rather than later. The longer they are put off the more damage will occur.
- **Recycling Facility:** They would like to get a van or box truck to help with picking up items like cardboard and making smaller deliveries. They would also like a compacting dumpster, this item will be used regardless of location and help reduce hauling fees.
- **Fire Station:** Looking at purchasing a new truck as well as expected life of equipment. There is an 18 month wait time for a truck. Discussed on building reserve to offset cost of replacing equipment as needed. Discussion to keep in mind that the cost for EMS is still unknown.
- **Public Works:** Discussion was also made on the purchase of an additional truck to be used for hauling as well as plowing in the winter. It was favored to look at surplus state truck over purchasing new.
- **Recreation:** Looking at adding bathrooms at the rec field like those used at State Parks.

- Reserves: Discussion was made as to the reasons behind working to build funds in Reserves to offset the amount of borrowing the town needs to do to fund needed projects. Such as but not limited to road repair, facility maintenance, replacement of equipment, unforeseen issues that come up.

The FAC agreed that building up the reserves will take time but will have financial benefits for reducing the Towns accumulation of debt each year. It was agreed that this would not eliminate the needs of Bonds for larger projects but would eventually allow the Town to be able to pay for the smaller ones without taking on more costly loans.

B. Discuss Winter Maintenance Proposal

- Board discussed the amount of work Public Works has been doing and the possibility of adding a fifth member to the public works staff to help with the overload of work that needs to be done. This person would also elevate the need of contracting out plowing on some of Bowdoinham roads. The funds currently paid to contract out work would help pay for the new position.
- There was discussion of the pros and cons of taking on the State contract for plowing Post Road. Arguments were made on both sides.

C. Further Discussions

- The FAC as well as the Select Board expressed concerns on the increase of taxes but agreed that many of the items they looked at were vital and that building the reserves to keep the debt services down was good financial strategy for the Town.
- Both agreed that they needed to educate the public on the situations, on what they are trying to accomplish and why. How to do this was also discussed. Ideas, were public meeting, newsletter and web site.

IV. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. February 13, 2023 @ 1:00 - Workshop
- B. February 14, 2023 @7:30

V. Comments from the Public - None

VI. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 2:45 p.m.

Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

Peter Lewis, Chair

Mark Favreau, Vice-Chair

Debra Smith

Allen Acker

Peter Feeney

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant