

# TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

## SELECT BOARD WORKSHOP

### MINUTES



Date: February 13, 2023

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. 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 members of the Finance Advisory Committee.

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

#### III. **Discussion Items**

##### A. Discuss Budget Goals with Finance Advisory Committee

The Financial Advisory Committee meet with the Board to discuss budget goals, areas that need more serious consideration and areas that could possibly be cut or postponed. The Board agreed they want to keep taxes as low as possible, but they need to meet the needs of the town.

Staff: The addition of a position at Public Works and moving two office positions to full time to meet the workload. Also continuing the plan to increase wages to be comparable to other towns of similar size. Concerns were made by both the FAC and the Board of the number of employees that have been lost, especially the ones lost to other towns and ways were discussed how to keep the employees we currently have. Briand commented that most people do not know how much the staff does. We require our staff to wear multiple hats, whereas in most other towns they only wear the one. Workload and pay were the biggest reasons stated by employees who have left.

Other areas discussed was looking into smaller solar projects to help with raising electrical cost and researching grants to help pay for solar projects.

The ongoing EMS situation and unknowns of what the cost to the town will be at this time. The increase in waste disposal and increasing trash tags to \$3.50 a bag. Reducing disposal cost by looking at a compacting dumpster.

Addition of parking spaces for handicap at the Town Office/Library to service the ramp. Acker reiterated his disapproval of this project at this time. Favreau thinks that Public Works can do the bulk of the project.

Road work: Briand asked if she could put paving projects out to bid, projects would be in two parts; that which we already have approval on from Town Meeting last year and that which will be voted on at Town Meeting this year. In doing this we will get more bids and better pricing and be sooner on the job list than later.

Looked at equipment that both Public Works and the Fire Department are in need of. They discussed the pros and cons of renting an excavator every year for ditching. For 3 months it cost the town approx. \$20,000 and purchasing one would be approx. \$30,000 a year and it could be used for other projects and they would be better able to schedule work. They discussed the life expectancy of fire trucks and equipment and how long it takes to get replacement, when they need to order to keep within the required timeline and keep the fire department running safely.

**IV. Comments from the Public- None**

**V. Adjourn**

Adjournment was at 2:40 p.m.

Select Board  
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

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Peter Lewis, Chair

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Mark Favreau, Vice-Chair

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Debra Smith

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Allen Acker

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Peter Feeney

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant