

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING

MINUTES



Date: February 28, 2023

Time: 6:30 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 6:30 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.

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

III. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

- A. Meeting Minutes
 - 1. February 6, 2023
 - 2. February 13, 2023
 - 3. February 14, 2023
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 - 1. Treasurer's Warrant #16

Favreau moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.

IV. **Action Items**

- A. Act on Approval of RJD Appraisal Revaluation Contract
 - Our revaluation would be scheduled for 2026, they are holding their proposal price. We are working on possible partial in-house revaluation options for the Board.

Favreau moved the Board approve Revaluation Proposal with RJD Appraisal for \$102,500; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 5-0.

- B. Act on 2023 Roadway Paving Bid Award
 - We received seven bids for our roadway paving project. We split the project into two parts:
 - Base Bid - The portion of the work we currently have funding for.
 - Alternate Bid – The portion of the work that we need to raise funding for.

The contract will be for the Base Bid work, then assuming the funding is approved at Town Meeting we would complete a contract amendment for the Alternate Bid work.

Favreau moved the Board award the 2023 Roadway Paving project to Maine-ly Paving Services, LLC for the Base Project of \$122,767 and an Alternate Project of \$328,800; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 5-0.

V. Discussion Items

A. Policy for Superintendence and Management of Bowdoinham Cemeteries

Frank Connors outlined for the board the updates that the Cemetery Advisory Committee would like to make to the policy for Superintendence and Management of Bowdoinham Cemeteries. The policy had not been updated in several years and is in need of updating.

The board had questions and concerns as to article 3 referring record keeping by the Town Clerk. There were concerns of time, materials, data, and funds that would be involved in taking on such a project.

B. CMP TIF Program Update

The Community Development Advisory Committee has been working with Midcoast Council of Government (MCOG) to update the CMP TIF program. Matthew Eddy of MCOG was present to discuss the proposed update with the Board. Proposed extending the CMP TIF for 10 years and making changes to wording of the CMP TIF so that as the Pipeline TIF expires the CMP TIF would be available to support the same community and economic development activities.

C. Hybrid Recycling Program Proposal with David Berry

David Berry presented a hybrid recycling program that would not be specific to any location. The hybrid program would give recyclers two options for recycling. The first is they could sort their recycling and put it into the specific bins. The second would allow them to continue to use the single stream "silver bullet" dumpster but there would be a fee for using it. Mr. Berry stated that he believed it was now costing the town \$400-500 a ton to get rid of a dumpster and that the fees would help pay for these cost.

Favreau addressed Mr. Berry, that his information was incorrect. The town is currently paying \$93 a ton and \$360 for dumpster pick up. A dumpster holds approx. 1.5 ton. If we would have had the compacting dumpster, we could have had approx. 7 ton per dumpster load that is picked up. This would have saved the town a lot of money. But it was voted down at the last town meeting. He also added that both sorted would still cost the town to dispose of the materials with current markets.

A heated conversation broke out with passionate views on the recycling program from all parties involved.

D. Sagadahoc Recycling Company Grant Proposal with David Berry

David Berry planning to apply DEP Waste Diversion grant for \$16,000 for materials to improve the current Gift Shop area (1584 sq. ft.) at the Recycling Barn. Mr. Berry referred comments to Karen Mayo who has run the gift shop for 2.5 years. Ms. Mayo explained the operation of the gift shop. How they take in donated items from Bowdoinham residence then people can come in and get what they need at no charge. They do have some items that are not reusable as well as mixed in trash occasionally that they have to dispose of. She feels the grant would allow Mr. Berry to make upgrades in the shop area that would be beneficial.

Smith thanked Mayo as well as the other volunteers for the service they provide for the community.

Favreau expressed his concerns with doing upgrades to an area not knowing what the Gift Shop will look like or where it will be located once they have the plans back from B&L, adding that taking this grant and making changes before this is settled was bad timing. Ms. Mayo added that being said it still would be some time before changes would go into effect and this would help them in the meantime.

Feeney asked Mayo what she wanted from the board to support this? Ms. Mayo response was that she felt David Berry would like the Select Board to support a grant money to improve our gift shop and a vote of support that the money would be well used this year to improve our gift shop.

E. Public Participation with Action and Discussion Items

Acker presented the idea of having a few minutes after each Action item, before a motion is made and after each Discussion item for public comments on that particular item be allowed instead of waiting until the end of the meeting. Any other comments by the public would still have their place at the end of the meeting. He also asked if it was possible that except for confidential/personal items, if the public could have access via the website of documents the Select Board was reviewing at each meeting.

Favreau had concerns about allowing 1-2 minutes per citizen to give opinions after each item, that it could have the potential of adding a lengthy extension to meeting times, especially once the Town moves to Hybrid meetings (in person as well as via Zoom). He also stated that these meetings are intended for the Select Board members to do their business, that the citizens voted them into office to do. That there are avenues for citizens to voice their opinions to board members. They can contact members personally, public hearings and during public comments at the end of the meeting.

Acker was going to provide examples of other towns that have similar agendas to the Town Manager for the board.

VI. **Town Manager's Report**

- The Waterfront Project is also out to bid, the bid opening was this afternoon February 28th. We received 6 bids, 3 came in within budget. They will be presented at the next meeting.
- Maine DEP has completed with PFAS investigation of the Town's old Carding Machine Road landfill and found no PFAS. I have attached the email from the department.

Lewis then mentioned a letter from Curtis, a town employee, to the Select Board regarding comments made by Acker at the February 13, 2023, Workshop. Acker then asked Lewis to read the letter. Acker proceeded to apologize to Ms. Curtis as well as other employees who are not from Bowdoinham for his comments, stating his opinion in no way reflects their performance or dedication to their jobs.

VII. **Select Board Member's Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Acker asked if they could have an Action item at the next meeting on a letter of support for the Gift Shop at the Recycling Barn.

VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. March 14, 2023 - Regular Meeting
- B. March 28, 2023 - Regular Meeting

IX. Comments from the Select Board Members- None

X. Comments from the Public

- Nora Bishop voiced her frustration with board members, stating her opinion that they shut down public participation, disrespect and personal bias.
- Lewis apologized to her, He was sorry she felt that way and thanked her for her input.

XI. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 8:09 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