

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING

MINUTES



Date: March 14, 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**

- Request was made to table Discussion item 5.B by Liz Marks until the April 11th board meeting.
- Correction on Discussion item 5.C The library is applying for an ARPA grant thru the Maine State Library not AARP Community Challenge.

III. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

- A. Meeting Minutes
 1. February 28, 2023
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 1. Treasurer's Warrant #17 for \$425,080.66
 2. February's Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
 1. Rabies Notification form Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention
 2. Comcast Notice
 3. Emails Regarding Board's February 28, 2023, Meeting

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

IV. **Action Items**

- A. Act on Policy for Superintendence and Management of Bowdoinham Cemeteries
As per request at the last Select Board Meeting wording was changed to soften them language to Article 3.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Policy for Superintendence and Manager of Bowdoinham Cemeteries, as proposed; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.

B. Act on Cemetery Advisory Committee Reserve Request

The Committee is requesting to use money from the reserve account to purchase supplies for their clean-up day scheduled for May 20th.

Favreau moved the Board approve up to \$1,000 from the Cemetery Reserve for purchase of supplies, as requested by the Cemetery Advisory Committee; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.

C. Act on Waterfront Improvements Project Phase 1

We received six bids for our proposed project and have received approval from Maine Department of Transportation to award the Bid to the low bidder Bedard Excavation.

Acker moved the Board award the Waterfront Improvement Project Phase 1 to Bedard Excavation for \$478,750; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

D. Act on Casella Proposal for FY2024

Casella has provided us with a 1-year and 3-year contract options. Our current prices are:

- Municipal Solid Waste - \$97.01/ton
- Single Sort Recycling - \$374.40/haul and \$135 – ACR + 32

Acker asked if they had received bids from other providers or if any research into other providers had been made. He felt that this was important to do to be able to compare if there were other options for the town before signing the contract with Casella.

Briand agreed to investigate the matter and how it would affect our current trash collection and have information for the board. This was agreed on by the board.

Feeney moved the Board to table this item; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.

V. **Discussion Items**

A. Navigational Aids

The Town currently has 16 aids, 8 navigational and 8 headway. Several of these aids require maintenance, we should be updating the aids every four years at a cost of approximately \$300 each. We also pay \$900 to have the aids put out and \$900 to have them taken in. In reviewing the aids with the Harbor Master, we are recommending that we reduce the aids to 8, 4 navigational and 4 headway.

Acker expressed his concerns with the reduction of headway aids as to how this would affect for the safety of the non-motorized boaters.

Feeney added that he is on the water a lot, that there are those who ignore the signs. He also stated that they might see more people run aground in the mud more often with a reduction of the Navigational aids.

B. 529 Bay Road Consent Agreement

Item Tabled until April 11th per request from Liz Marks

C. Library ARPA Grant thru Maine State Library

The library is applying for an ARPA Grant thru the Maine State library for a porch addition to the second floor and the parking area. The goal of this grant would be to pay for the materials needed for Public Works to install the new parking area and to match the porch addition. Due to the cost of the project the Library is interested in installing a covered porch instead of the building addition that was previously proposed.

Kate Cutko explained the processes required to apply for the grant. She also informed the board that the library had a donor who gave \$50,000 towards the project. Smith and Acker expressed their approval of her efforts.

VI. **Town Manager's Report**

- Public Works will be light on staff for the next two months.
 - One of our employees has resigned and I'm in the process of rehiring.
 - Our new employee will be going to school full-time to get their CDL.
 - Bryan Benson, our Solid Waste & Recycling Director will be filling in as our on-call plow driver for the remainder of the winter.
- We've opened a new savings account with Camden National Bank, as they are offering a 4% interest on deposits over \$1,000,000.
- Ambulance –
 - North East has an agreement in place with Lisbon to cover Bowdoinham as mutual aid for the remainder of our contract in place of Topsham.
 - Holding Ambulance Service Informational Meeting on March 29th at 6:30pm in Kendall Room.

Acker expressed his concerns on Lisbon's response times and how it will affect citizens in need.

VII. **Select Board Member's Request for Agenda Items for Next Meeting- None**

VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. March 28, 2023-Regular Meeting
- B. April 10, 2023-Budget Workshop with Finance Advisory Committee
- C. April 11, 2023-Regular Meeting
- D. April 25, 2023-Regular Meeting

IX. **Comments from the Select Board Members**

Feeney stated that he had received numerous public comments about the previous board meeting. He stated that he knows that recycling and the barn are passionate items but as the board members we need to check ourselves and think about how we are presenting to the public.

Acker asked about the Maine CDC regarding rabies in town that he felt to inform the public this should have been announced at the meeting. He also asked that the three letters that were received from the public concerning last weeks select board meeting be read.

Lewis agreed and proceeded to read all five communication letters from the Consent Calendar which included three emails from the public regarding last weeks select board meeting.

X. Comments from the Public

Karen Mayo addressed the board stating that she felt they needed to chill out a little bit. She also stated she had written an email to Mr. Lewis but was not sure if he had received it because she had not received a response. She continued to say she thought that we all needed to work on listening to both sides of the solid waste issue and be better at sharing information in order to understand each other.

Nora Bishop addressed the board stating that she felt that when she spoke, she should be treated with the same respect she gives to the members for the board and the town employees. She added that she feels the town employees do a marvelous job but the selectmen have been dismissive of her remarks.

Susan Drucker addressed the board with her concerns of how much dissension and uncivil conversation and behavior there has been. She stated she felt there should be a standard that needed to be applied.

XI. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 7:35 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