

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: August 8, 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 6:30p.m. Select Board members participating were Peter Lewis, Mark Favreau, Allen Acker, Peter Feeny and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

II. Amendments to the Agenda

- Acker asked to observe a moment of silence for Jeffery Jones who was killed while in the Ukraine helping with humanitarian aid. The Chair called for a moment of silence.
- 5.K – Amend Road Work Project

III. Comments from the Public

- Bruce Knight expressed his concerns for the safety of the paddlers and swimmers with what he has observed as an increase in speed on the river this year. He is concerned with only having two no wake markers. He would like to see a full complement of aids out next year and all the rules posted at the ramp for boaters.
- Carl from Fisher Road: Wanted an update on paving of Fisher Road. He expressed his concerns over the condition of the road and that he hoped they would move it to a high priority.

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes
 1. July 25, 2023
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 1. Treasurer's Warrant #3
 2. July's Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
 1. Sagadahoc Sherriff's July 2023 Incident Report

Favreau moved the Board approve the remainder of the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

V. Action Items

- A. Act on Celebrate Bowdoinham

Favreau moved the Board approve the Celebrate Bowdoinham Budget and Schedule of Events; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

B. Act on Cornhole Tournament

Jason Lamoreau is requesting up to \$1,200 from the recreation reserve to have a cornhole tournament fundraiser at Celebrate Bowdoinham. The money raised from this event would be deposited back into the recreation reserve.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser and spending up to \$1,200 from the recreation reserve with the depositing the funds raised back into the recreation reserve; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

C. Act on Assessor's Agent Appointment

Favreau moved the Board approve contracting with RJD Appraisal for Assessing Agent services and appoint Robert J Duplisea Jr, as Assessors' Agent; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

D. Act on Abatement#7

All dwellings and buildings on parcel U01-065 were destroyed in a fire in 2022 but were never removed in the TRIO system. They were demolished prior to April 1st and should have not been assessed for the 2023 tax year.

Favreau moved the Board approve FY23 Property Tax Abatement #7 in the amount of \$2,995.21, plus interest, as presented; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Certificate of Abatement for FY23 Property Tax Abatement #7; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

E. Act on Cemetery Reserve Request

Tobey Frizzle is requesting up to \$5,500 from the cemetery reserve to purchase a tripod for the re-setting of stones.

Favreau moved the Board approve expending up to \$5,500 from the cemetery reserve to the purchase of a tripod; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

F. Act on Job Description Updates

Proposed job description changes:

- Public Works Foreman – We are proposing changing this position from non-exempt to exempt, as allowed Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) exemptions.
- Public Works Laborer – This job description is new. We are trying to hire a part-time person that could help with mowing and other duties until the full-time positions can be filled.
- Recreation Director/Older Adult Services – The proposed job description combines the two positions and changes the position to exempt. I've included the current job descriptions in your packet.

Favreau moved the Board approve the updated job descriptions, as presented/as amended; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

G. Act on Heat Pump Project

Favreau moved the Board approve contracting with Eco Heat and spending up to \$50,000 from the Town Hall/Town Office Reserve for the heat pump project; Seconded by Feeney. Vote 4-0.

H. Act on Sand Bid

Favreau moved the Board award the winter sand bid to McGee for a cost of \$15.55 per yard delivered, \$ 11.00 per yard loaded; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.

I. Act on Transportation Fuel Bid

Favreau moved the Board award the transportation fuel bid for regular unleaded gasoline to Main Street Fuel, as bid; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 4-0.

Favreau moved the Board award the transportation fuel bid for diesel to O'Farrell Energy as bid; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 4-0.

J. Act on Heating Fuel Bid

Favreau moved the Board award the heating fuel bid for propane to Main Street Fuel, as bid; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 4-0.

Favreau moved the Board award the heating fuel bid for #2 heating fuel and kerosene-1 to O'Farrell Energy as bid; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 4-0.

K. Act on Amend Road Work Project

Given the current condition of Ridge Road and Fisher Road, I'd like to do a contract change with Maine-ly Paving to (shim) pave most of section 3 of Ridge Road instead of Fisher Road.

Public Works has been doing A LOT of cold patching in both sections 3 and 4 of Ridge Road. If we made this change, then Public Works would do patching on Fisher Road to hold it until we are able to pave, it would also give Public Works time to do the culvert work needed on Fisher Road. If this year's paving goes as bid, we will have an estimated \$100,000 to put towards shim (ruts) paving, however given the rutting on Browns Point and Ridge, we expect overages for the additional asphalt needed. Similarly, if the surface coats are complete as bid, then we could have \$100,000 to put towards next year's paving (full width) projects.

While I was hoping not to use the full \$1,000,000 bond for paving next year, given the status of the roads we really need to do as much work as possible. I would like to try and get Ridge (section 4) or Fisher paved next year if our budget and winter bids allow. I expect that we'll need to address the outer section of Millay Road, sooner than currently scheduled.

Acker expressed his discontent with changing the original proposed road plan despite Tobey Frizzle's explanation that if the wheel ruts are not taken care of on Ridge Road, they risk possibly losing the road which will cost the town more to reclaim and repair it.

Frizzle also said that he felt there are things that Public Works can do to help with the issues on Fisher Road until it can be paved next year.

Briand added that many of the roads in town are bad, they are doing their best to catch up on the worst of them. Public Works just got the new excavator, but still only have 3 employees trying to do all the work needed in town.

Favreau moved the Board approve and authorize the Town Manager to change the Maine-ly Paving contract and work order to pave a portion of section 3 of Ridge Road in place of Fisher Road; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 3-1. Acker was opposed.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Tax-Acquired Property Policy

The legislature amended the law regarding the sale of foreclosed properties; therefore, we've updated our policy to reflect those changes.

Favreau moved the Board to approve the Town of Bowdoinham policy for tax-acquired property as amended; seconded by Fenney. Vote was 4-0.

B. Town Hall Rehabilitation

The Board looked at a proposed 5- and 10-year draft rehabilitation plans to illustrate options for the Town Hall repairs. The Board discussed pros and cons of various options from restoration to demolition to selling Town Hall. Discussion left off to finding the cost to all options and bringing it to a special meeting for the town to decide which direction they want to go in.

VII. Town Manager's Report

- I'm still in the process of hiring two full-time public works employees. Our new assistant clerk will be starting on August 16th!!!
- 30-day lien notices were mailed out last week, and liens will be recorded on August 25th.
- We received a \$1,622 dividend payment from Maine Municipal Association because of our good performance and loss prevention programs.
- FOAA training with Town Attorney. We are looking at scheduling the workshop for a Monday night in September.
- Portions of Dingley Road were discontinued in the late 70's, however this area appears to be different then the area in which we maintain. I will be working with the attorney to determine what the Town's options may be to address this.
- 2 Stone Hill Place– District Court's order granted our pre-trial 80K motion regarding our *res judicata* argument. This is the legal principle whereby if violators do not appeal NOV's in a timely fashion, then they will be stuck with the determination in the NOV (i.e., that the violations occurred) and can only then challenge the penalties. Our court date is currently scheduled for August 28th.
- Affinity has installed the first round of streetlights, once we have CMP's approval, they will complete the project.
- The lighting installation at the Town Office has been completed.
- The work is happening at the tennis and basketball courts, once it is complete public works will complete the drainage work.

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

IX. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. August 22, 2023 – Regular Meeting
- B. September 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting
- C. September 26, 2023 – Regular Meeting

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

- Feeney said he has noticed an increase in speed on the river and asked if they could reevaluate aides for next year.
- Lewis asked to find out what the town could do to enforce speeds on the river.

XI. **Comments from the Select Board Members - None**

XII. **Adjourn**

Adjournment was at 8:05 p.m.


Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine


Peter Lewis, Chair


Mark Eavreau, Vice-Chair


Debra Smith


Allen Acker


Peter Feeney

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant