

# TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: November 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, Joanne Joy, at 6:30 p.m. Select Board members participating were Joanna Joy, Deb Smith, Mark Favreau, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

## II. **Amendments to the Agenda**

### A. Consent Calendar

- Minutes- Election of Vice Chair vote corrected to 5-0 from 4-0.
- Warrant updated to include backup truck for Public Works
- Two communications received.

## III. **Comments from the Public**

Steven Cox addressed the Board offering his knowledge from 15 years of experience with cell tower contracts. He told the Board that cell tower leases are not always cut and dry and that there were things the Board should take into consideration. He said that there might be a potential to work in stabilization of the Town Hall and having them put an antenna in the tower of Town Hall building instead of building a tower.

Joy asked Mr. Cox if he could wait to be part of the Boards discussion on this later in the meeting. Mr. Cox replied he was not able to stay but wanted to let the Board know they could use him as a resource.

## IV. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

### A. Meeting Minutes

1. November 14, 2023

### B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #10

### C. Reports and Communications

1. North East Ambulance October Report
2. Resignation from Town Hall Committee

**Acker moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as amended; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 5-0.**

## V. **Public Hearing**

Convened 6:37 pm. Adjourned 6:39 pm.

- A. Marijuana Business License – Great Buds Farm  
No comments were made.

## VI. **Licensing**

- A. Marijuana Business License - Great Buds Farm

Joy stated the solid waste piece of the application it said waste was bagged and put into a locked disposal bin but not where it went from there, she was interested in knowing what happens to the waste products after that.

**Acker moved the Board approve this Marijuana Manufacturing Facility Business License application with the following Conditions of Approval:**

- **The applicant shall reimburse the Town for all noticing fees.**
- **The applicant shall maintain the necessary State Licenses and approvals while in operation.**
- **The applicant shall comply with their Site Plan Review Permit from the Planning Board, September 30, 2021.**

**Seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

## VII. **Action Items**

- A. Act on Committee Appointment

**Acker moved the Board appointed David Lewis to the Emergency Medical Services Committee; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.**

- B. Act on Trust Fund Accounts

Briand: I'd like to move our trust accounts from Wilmington Trust to Camden National Bank. Camden reached out to us over the winter to discuss their services, and we created a saving account with them. Since then, Nina Mendall, Finance Advisory Committee member, and I meet with them twice over the winter to discuss our trust accounts. Camden also met with the Finance Advisory Committee at their November 16th meeting to discuss their trust services. The Finance Advisory Committee voted unanimously to move our trust accounts to Camden National Bank.

Joy asked Briand if they had explored other options.

Briand informed the Board that not all banks handle Trusts. The Town does most of its banking with Androscoggin Bank, but they do not offer this service. She met with Northeast Bank a year ago and they do not offer Trust either. Historically the Trust was with Peoples Bank who then transferred it to Wilmington Trust. There have not

been any negative issues with Wilmington Trust they would just like to see more active participation and the Town already has a good working relationship with Camden Bank.

Feeney asked if it had been put out to bid or just the recommendation from the Finance Committee?

Briand said that was totally up to the Board.

Acker said he was concerned with not getting other options to see if another bank would do better just to have the Town's business.

Both Favreau and Feeney stated that with Nina Mendall's background her recommendation held a lot of weight.

Acker asked Briand if there was a long-term commitment or if they did this could they change later?

Briand said they would move the Trust as is then it would take a little time and see how it is doing and adjust the investments. In a year to 18 months reevaluate.

Joy agreed with Acker that she would like to see what other banks offered.

Feeney said he would like to see them take the advisement of the Finance Committee and move the Trust and after budget season is over the committee could take time to evaluate other options and if Camden is the best leave, it there.

**Feeney moved the Board approve moving the Town's trust accounts from Wilmington Trust to Camden National Bank; seconded by Smith. Vote was 5-0.**

## VIII. Discussion Items

### A. Cell Tower Proposal

We've received a request from TowerCo 2023 LLC to lease property at the Fire Station for a cell tower. We've talked with our attorney, and they believe that the Board does have the authority to approve the lease agreement without Town Meeting approval. The proposal is before the Board now to determine interest in moving forward with this and the process to do so.

Favreau said he had spoken with Arthur Frizzle about the department's radios don't go far enough in town and the need to boost the signal, if the Town were to lease the land for the tower language could be added the repeaters for the Fire Department to the tower at no cost. The helicopter pad has never been used, it could be, but as yet has not been. Where the pad is now is not the best place for it and it could be moved. He also said that someone had mentioned that they thought

only the Fire Dept. staff was allowed on the property; there is nothing in writing to state that restriction.

Feeney said he liked the suggestion Mr. Cox made and would like to investigate the possible option of using the Town Hall.

Acker expressed his concern of the visual affect a tower at the Fire Station would have on the village and believed it went against the suggestions of the Comp Plan. He went on to say he would be willing to spend the money to build a smaller repeater tower for the Fire Department. He also expressed concerns that there was no visual presentation of what the tower would look like and its size.

Both Joy and Smith expressed concerns on how the tower would affect neighbors; sound that would be emitted and strobe lights it may have.

Favreau said they did not have enough information at this time.

## **IX. Town Manager's Report**

Dog licenses are due by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

MSAD 75 has approved our request to use Bowdoinham Community School for our June 1<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting.

### **December Holiday Schedule**

#### **Town Office and Public Works:**

- Closed – December 18<sup>th</sup> 12-1pm for Staff Holiday Lunch
- Closed - December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Solid Waste & Recycling**

- Closed – December 23<sup>rd</sup>

### **Updates:**

- We've advertised for:
  - The harbor master applications were due 11/3 and two were received. We've readvertised the position and extended the application window.
  - Trash hauling services proposals were due 11/9, and one was received.
  - Audit service proposals were due November 22<sup>nd</sup> and we did not received any.
  - Town Hall proposals are due December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Public Works has purchased a used 2014 Mack GU7 Dump Truck with plow gear for \$85,500.
- We're in the process of planning for our VOI Phone changeover.
- We've recently learned that we are going to need a new hosting option for our website, possibly in the first half of 2024. We are working with our current

providers to see what our options may be and how those options may affect our website.

- We are also looking to make the transition from TRIO SQL to TRIO Web
- We've completed the purchase of our streetlights from CMP. I met with CMP on Friday and have their pre-approval. We're finalizing the final project scope and getting the contractor scheduled.
- We've requested two additional proposals from Affinity, one to address the lighting in the stairways and the second to address our outside lighting.
- We have scheduled an executive session with the Town Attorney, Leah Rachin to update the Board on our pending court cases on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Joy asked Briand in light of Monday's power outage what the standard practice was when there is a power goes out. Briand replied that on Monday the office opened late due to the power being out. If the power goes out while the staff is in the office, we wait to get an update from CMP and depending on the circumstances then decide whether staff will stay or go home.

**X. Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. December 12, 2023 - Regular Meeting
- B. December 26, 2023 - Regular Meeting

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

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

**XIII. Adjourn**

Adjournment was at 7:10 p.m.

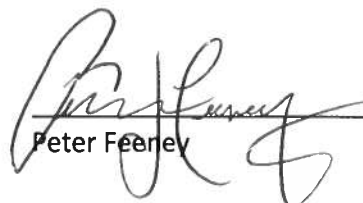
Select Board  
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

  
Joanne Joy, Chair

  
Debra Smith, Vice-Chair

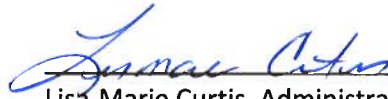
  
Mark Favreau

  
Allen Acker

  
Peter Feeney

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant