

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: February 8, 2022

Time: 5:30 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, David Engler, at 5:30 p.m. This was a Zoom meeting in accordance with the Towns remote participation to board members and the public, due to the up surge of the Covid virus. Select Board members participating were David Engler, Mark Favreau, Jeremy Cluchey, Peter Lewis and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

II. Amendments to the Agenda

Added Action item 6 E: to act on a contract for construction services with the architect for the Town Hall renovations.

III. Workshop

A. Budget Goals for FY 2023 Budget

Meeting was joined by a few members of the Finance Advisory Committee to hear ideas from the board as to their goals for the upcoming FY23 budget. Items mentioned:

- Funds to maintain and retain adequate staff
- Funds to add an on-call/part-time staff member to fill in as needed
- Set aside funds for roads to maintain without bonds.
- Funds to assure best services at lowest cost

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes:

1. January 25, 2022

B. Warrants & Financial Reports:

1. Treasurer's Warrant #16 for \$342802.65
2. January Financial Reports

C. Communications

1. Xfinity Programming Advisory

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

V. Licensing

- A. Marijuana Business License for Medical Marijuana Caregiver and Dispensary
Applicant: Green Maiden Ventures, LLC
Property: 107 Pork Point Road (Map R10, Lot 032)

Favreau moved the Board find Green Maiden Ventures, LLC's application for a Marijuana Business License to be complete; seconded by Cluchey. Vote 5-0.

Smith moved the Board schedule a public hearing for Green Maiden Ventures, LLC's application for a Marijuana Business License on February 22, 2022 at 5:30 pm; seconded by Favreau. Vote 5-0.

VI. Action Items

- A. Act on ReVision Power Purchase Agreement

Much discussion was made as to the pros and cons of the ReVision proposal.

- Smith: Strong supporter of solar energy and wants to see the town pursue this form of energy but has reservations on the PPA, wonder why the town would not purchase a system outright instead of the PPA. She would very much like to see the town invest in solar project but is not sure this is the right program.
- Cluchey: Talked with selectperson in Woolwich who have entered a similar project with ReVision. They explained that even though their project did not offer the same savings as Bowdoinham's, they proceeded unanimously anyway due to all the community benefits. Customer service has been positive. He then reviewed the history how arrived at this point. CDAC committee did a good job researching this project. We should consider the future benefits of the project and do what we can to reduce use of fossil fuels.
- Favreau: Not against solar, in the right place and with the right system it can work. This project is too large for the town. The attorney who specializes in solar contracts said this wasn't a good deal for the town. He would like to see the town buy smaller system(s) like at the waterfront instead of committing to this project.
- Lewis: Is not against solar but does not believe this project is good for the town. He does not believe the town will see any savings from the project and is concerned with the unknown and additional cost the town will incur from this plan.

- Engler: Has a system at home that is about a tenth of the size of this project and sees several types of risk associated with a project like purposed. First the possibility of pricing being inverted, and the town ending up paying more than what they would of from CMP. Second, there is a regulatory risk as it is unknown what the legislation might do in the future and there is the risk of actual production from the panels themselves. The projection is based on the previous 50 years of data, we all know that the climate is changing, and this will affect output. He doesn't feel this will matter because the town will only pay for what is generated. He does not feel it makes sense to buy the system, but it does make sense to sign on for 20 years and at the end of 20 years if feel like it telling them to remove their panels.

Cluchey moved the Board approve Solar Power and Net Energy Billing Credit Purchase and Sale Agreement with ReVision Energy; seconded by Favreau.

Vote 2-3. Smith, Favreau & Lewis were opposed.

B. Act on Amendments to Personnel Policy

Policy was amended to add Juneteenth as an additional holiday as well as provide time and a half pay for hours worked on a holiday, as well as holiday pay.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Personnel Policy, as amended; seconded by Cluchey. Vote 5-0.

C. Act on Health Insurance Renewal

Favreau moved the Board approve Harvard Pilgrim's Maine's Choice HMO 1500 for employee's health insurance plan; seconded by Cluchey. Vote 5-0.

D. Act on Waivers of Automatic Foreclosures

Lewis moved the Board to authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944 and Town Meeting Warrant Article #30, to waive the automatic foreclosure of tax liens for 518, 530, 263, 327, 264, and, to authorize the Treasurer to record waiver of foreclosure notices for said properties in the registry of deeds prior to the expiration of the right of redemption; seconded by Favreau. Vote 5-0

E. Act on Contract for Architect's Services.

Favreau moved the Board approve the Architect Contract for Construction Services for \$40,500 plus reimbursable with funding from the Town Office/Hall Reserve account; seconded by Cluchey. Vote 5-0.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Newsletter Policy

No changes will be made at this time to policy.

B. Remote Meetings

The Select Board will resume in person meetings in March.

VIII. Town Manager's Report

1099s have been sent, now we are preparing for the upcoming MEMIC audit and finalizing the FY21 Audit.

The Finance Advisory Committee review a draft Capital Improvement Plan at their January meeting and will continue its review at their February 15th meeting.

Town Office Update – The architect has completed the design services and has provided us with a contract for construction documents and administration. We are going to need to address stormwater for this project and there is currently no stormwater infrastructure on our property or in School Street.

Waterfront Restrooms – We've been having difficulties with the restroom locks again and have been working with the manufacture to address the issues. There was an attempt to remove camera on the restrooms, no damage was done; the sheriff's office was notified and given a photo of the subject.

We have received are ACOE permit for the Mallon Brook Stream Crossing on Dingley Road! The project has been put out to bid, bids are due back on March 1st and will be on the Board's agenda for March 8th's meeting.

With the warmer temperatures this week, public works will be working to reclaim the sidewalks that have been frozen in.

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

X. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. February 22, 2022 - Regular Meeting
- B. March 8, 2022 – Regular Meeting
- C. March 22, 2022 – Regular Meeting

XI. Comments from the Select Board Members

Favreau commented that he saw the ad for heating assistance donations and asked how the funds were for this account. Briand responded that there was a healthy balance in the fund despite donations being down this year.

Smith announced that the Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Bowdoinham would be giving out goodie bags at the food pantry on February 16th. The bags contain information about Age-Friendly Bowdoinham as well as a few cookies.

XII. Comments from the Public – None.

XIII. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 7:02 p.m.

Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

David Engler, Chair

Mark Favreau, Vice-Chair

Peter Lewis

Debra Smith

Jeremy Cluchey

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant