

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: January 9, 2024

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 Joanne Joy, Deb Smith, Mark Favreau, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

II. Amendments to the Agenda

- The Budget Advisory Committee District Caucuses

III. Comments from the Public

- Gene Mckenna thanked the Board for the difficult job they do.

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes
 - 1. December 26, 2023
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 - 1. Treasurer's Warrant #13
 - 2. December 2023 Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
 - 1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's December Report

Smith moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, with amendments to the December 26, 2023, Minutes; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0.

Feeney abstained because he was not at the previous meeting.

V. Discussion Items

- A. Sagadahoc Sheriff with Joel Merry
 - Joel Merry from the Sagadahoc Sheriff's Department joined the Select Board to review 2022-2023 call comparison and answer questions from Select Board members.
- B. FY25 Budget Goals

Members of the Finance Advisory Committee joined the Select Board to ask the Board what their budget goals were for FY25.

- Board members agreed that they would like to see the budget with minimal increases.
- Board members agreed to keep funding reserves to decrease the amount of debt the Town has.
- The Board was split on continuing the plan to increase Town employee wages to bring them up to mean salaries for similar positions in the area. This process was enacted to encourage staff from seeking employment elsewhere. Briand told the Board that the wage increases were below the state COLA. Members said they would like to see where current wages compare to the current mean wages.
- The Board discussed the possibility of making the Fire Chief a full-time position. This was asked because of an increase in responsibilities and demands in this position. The Board was split on this item.
- Gene McKenna asked the Board if they were open to looking at shared services with neighboring towns? He gave the example of sharing law enforcement services with Richmond instead of using Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department.
- David Engler asked the Board if there are any programs that they were willing to limit/reduce to bring taxes down. Acker suggested cutting the trash and recycling program, Feeney agreed. Favreau suggested possibly cutting funding to the Bowdoinham Library and Historical Society whereas they receive private funding.
- Feeney said he was opposed to putting any more funds into the upkeep of the Coombs building and the Town Hall. Suggested the possibility of selling them and moving the Town Office to the Fire Dept. He stated he understood that would mean the library would have to relocate.

C. Project List Update

Briand provided the Select Board with updated status to the list of Town projects.

D. Harbor Master Job Description

The Board reviewed a draft copy of the Harbor Master job description. The job is part-time seasonal to process mooring applications, oversee navigational aids placement. Board members pointed out wordage that needed to be changed. A new draft will be presented at the next meeting.

E. The Budget Advisory Committee District Caucuses

The District Caucuses is being held February 6 at 5 pm. They need municipal officers in the communities to vote for nominees. One member from Bowdoinham Board to go to the meeting. Feeney volunteered to attend the meeting.

VI. Action Items

A. Act on Committee Appointment

Smith moved the Board appoint Lois Smith to the Advisory Committee on Age-Friendly for a term that expires June 30, 2026; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

B. Act on FEMA Grant Application

The Town is working to apply for a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) planning grant for the yellow building, the application is due January 15th. The Town would have to commit the required matching funds, which will come from the CMP TIF budget.

Acker moved the Board authorize the Town Manager to apply for the FEMA BRIC planning grant for the yellow building; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

C. Act on Winter Sand Bid Award

The Board awarded the winter sand in August to McGee Construction, however when Public Works attempted to order sand last week, they were quoted a new price. Public Works has talked with Country Fare, and they are willing and able to honor the bid price provided in July and fill the Town's order on request. We are requesting that the Board re-award the Winter Sand bid to Country Fare.

Acker moved the Board re-award the winter sand bid to Country Fare, Inc for a cost of \$15.60 per yard delivered, \$14.60 per yard loaded; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

VII. Town Manager's Report

- The Town Office and Public Works will be closed on Monday, January 15th.
- Foreclosure notices for unpaid FY21-22 property taxes will be mailed next week, automatic foreclosures are scheduled for February 26, 2024.
- Our quarterly ambulance meeting with North East is scheduled for Friday, January 12th at 10am.
- The generator at the Fire Station was serviced and the starter replaced, we are looking into grants to replace this generator. The generator at Public Works is scheduled for service today.
- We've tentatively scheduled are VOIP changeover with Consolidated for Thursday, February 1st. During the installation process, our phones and computers will be offline periodically, throughout the process.
- Lisbon EMS Board meeting to approve their budget is scheduled for Thursday, January 11th at 6pm at Lisbon Emergency.

VIII. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. January 23, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- B. February 13, 2024 – Regular Meeting
- C. February 27, 2024 - Regular Meeting

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

- Acker said he would like to see a breakdown of how funds the Town pays to the County are spent. Briand said there is a breakdown by percentage in the County Budget. He also asked to have a discussion/update on the Dingley Road discontinuation. Briand said they had a meeting with the Town attorney to discuss this at their next meeting.

X. Comments from the Select Board Members

- Smith commented to Public Works about the repairs at the Abbagadasset bridge. She said she went there and thought they looked good. Favreau said they hope to get reimbursed from FEMA.
- Joy thanked FAC members, Solid Waste and Public Works staff for attending the meeting and for the work they do.
- Joy asked if there were plans to replace the dugout. Briand said they were working on it.
- Smith said she wanted on record that she supports having a full time Fire Chief.

XI. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 8:15 p.m.

Select Board

Town of Bowdoinham, Maine



Joanne Joy, Chair



Debra Smith, Vice-Chair



Mark Favreau



Allen Acker

Peter Feeney

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant