

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: January 13, 2026

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, Joanne Joy, at 5:30 pm. Select Board members participating were Joanne Joy, Jason Hodde, Allen Acker, and Nicole Briand, Town Manager. Shelley Hooper joined later in the meeting.

II. Amendments to the Agenda

Board moving 6.A Budget Goals to after 6.B Committee Updates

III. Comments from the Public - None

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

1. December 23, 2025

B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #13
2. December 2025 Financial Reports

C. Reports and Communications

1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's December Report
2. Lisbon Emergency's December Report

Acker moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-0.

V. Action Items

A. Act on Employee Health Insurance Report

The Town Manager discussed with the Select Board the increases in employee health insurance rates and presented them with a handful of insurance options.

Acker moved the Board approve MMHT for employee's health insurance plan; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-0.

B. Act on Municipal Quitclaim Deed

A title company requested the Town process a quitclaim deed to clean up the title of 22 Hornbeck Cross Road. The taxes had been paid but the old lien was not discharged.

Acker moved the Board approve the Municipal Quitclaim Deed to Darryl Dickey for 22 Hornbeck Cross Road, as presented; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-0.

C. Act on Community Development Advisory Committee Appointment

Acker moved the Board appoint Finn Smith to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term of January 13, 2026 to June 30, 2029; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-0.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Committee Updates

1. **Advisory Committee on Age-Friendly Bowdoinham**
Maureen Booth represented committee. Committee is working with Sally Cluchey, Outreach Coordinator, to help residents with complex needs get connected with resources to help them. They are also putting together welcome kits for new residents, continuing support services, and social activities for older residents.
2. **Cemetery Advisory Committee**
Nina Mendall represented committee. She explained that the committee assessed the cemeteries in town, compiling a list of work and repairs that are needed at each location. They are mapping the cemeteries and obtaining access to six cemeteries that currently do not have right of way.
3. **Community Development Advisory Committee**
Martin Szydlowski represented committee along with Yvette Meunier. The committee focuses on gathering information and supporting local economic development. They are currently involved in the Riverview building project and the pavilion at the new water park.
4. **Comprehensive Planning Committee**
Peggy Christian represented committee. The committee is developing an open space plan. The Tree Growth Subcommittee is preparing a municipal tree care plan, including recommendations for replacement when trees must be removed.
5. **Emergency Medical Services Committee**
Fire Chief, Arthur Frizzle explained that the committee was initiated to help navigate the changes in EMS services and look at ways to adjust services to meet the needs in the community.
6. **Finance Advisory Committee**
David Engler represented committee. The committee works with the Town Manager to review budget requests and prepare a budget for presentation to the Select Board, which is then voted on at Town Meeting.
7. **Planning Board**
Nathan Drummond represented the Board. The Board is currently working on doing administrative edits to the Land Use Ordinance to make it easier to use and comprehend.
8. **Solid Waste Committee**
Town Manager, Nicole Briand, read a memo from committee who is awaiting approval of transfer station application.
9. **Town Hall Committee**
Rachelle Tome represented committee. The committee is fundraising to finish the improvements at the Town Hall such as acoustics, landscaping and painting the tower.

B. Budget Goals

Acker stated that he would like to keep the Town's budget as flat as possible, noting that school and county taxes are expected to increase.

Hooper commented that the cost of goods and services continues to rise, making it unrealistic to expect the Town to maintain the same tax rate. She added that some expenses will naturally increase over time.

Hodde emphasized the importance of supporting the Town's employees to ensure they remain with the Town rather than seeking higher-paying positions elsewhere. He also raised concerns about compensation for volunteer firefighters. After reviewing the budget, he said he did not see any single area where cuts would meaningfully impact the tax rate.

He requested information on the cost of two months' of operating expenses and suggested exploring the use of surplus funds in the undesignated fund to cover costs or reduce debt service.

Hodde also noted that with the addition of new waterfront parks, the Town should consider future maintenance needs and how those costs will be funded.

Briand responded that the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) is reviewing those issues and plans to provide recommendations to the Board.

Joy expressed her support for maintaining the Town's current staff and stated that she would like to see funds set aside in preparation for the next Town-wide revaluation.

David Engler, representing the Finance Advisory Committee, said his understanding from the discussion was that the Board wants the FAC to focus on supporting employees and minimizing budget increases.

C. Project Updates

Briand reviewed the Town's project list. Many of the items that have been on the Town's list have been completed while others are ongoing or have future completion dates. A few items were tabled until a later date.

VII. **Town Manager's Report**

- Dog Licenses are due by January 31st.
- Office is Closed January 19th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Foreclosure notices will be going out this week for unpaid FY2024 taxes, which were originally due November 1, 2023 and May 1, 2024. Liens were recorded on August 22, 2024 and automatic foreclosure is scheduled for February 22, 2026. The Board will review waivers at the February 10th meeting.
- The Town is scheduling the flooring for the upstairs bathroom and back offices.

VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. January 27, 2026 at 6:30 pm – Regular Meeting
- B. February 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting
- C. February 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting

IX. **Select Board Members' Comments and Request**

Acker asked the Town Manager schedule a review with the Planning Board for their next meeting.

X. **Comments from the Public**

A resident asked the board about the survey distributed regarding the yellow building. He noted that he attended the first public meeting and felt that the suggestions and concerns raised at that meeting were not reflected in the survey. Hooper responded that she had also attended the meeting and understood that the survey had already been drafted prior to the meeting and would be issued separately from the feedback collected at that time.

XI. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 8:20 p.m.

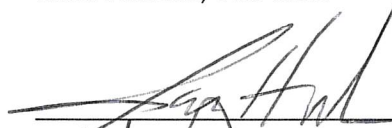
Select Board

Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

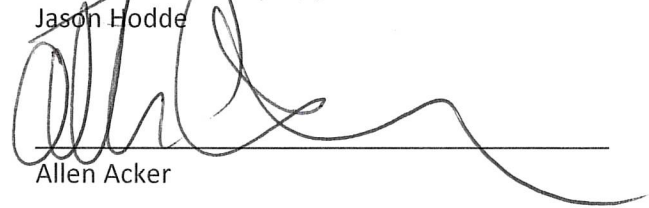
Joanne Joy, Chair



Mark Favreau, Vice Chair



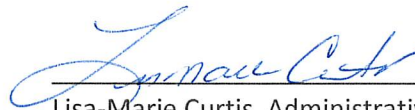
Jason Hodde



Allen Acker

Shelley Hooper

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant