

# TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

## SELECT BOARD MEETING

### MINUTES



Date: January 14, 2025

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 pm. Select Board members participating were Joanne Joy, Mark Favreau, Jason Hodde, Allen Acker, Peter Feeney, and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

#### II. Amendments to the Agenda - None

#### III. Comments from the Public - None

#### IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

##### A. Meeting Minutes

1. December 23, 2024

##### B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #13
2. December 2024 Financial Reports

##### C. Reports and Communications

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

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

#### V. Action Items

##### A. Act on Employee Health Insurance Renewal

The Board discussed two options for employee health insurance; Harvard Pilgrim (Maine HMO 2,500/5000) and Anthem (National PPO 1,500/5000). The Town Manager informed the Board that she had met with and surveyed the Town employees and that they would prefer to stay with Harvard Pilgrim. They felt that Harvard allows more alternative health visits and is easier to work with.

**Hodde moved the Board approve Harvard Pilgrim 2500 for employee's health insurance plan; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 4-0.**

Acker abstained stating he was not at the previous meeting when it was discussed.

##### B. Act on Shade Structure for Maily Waterfront Park

Jason Lamoreau was present to answer questions. He explained that the Advisory Committee for Age Friendly Bowdoinham has received the grant funds from the University

of Maine, as part of the Community Connections Mini grant, to contribute towards the purchase and installation of a permanent shade structure at Maily Waterfront Park. Funding provided by the grant totals \$8,000 with the remainder of the funds to be obtained from the TIF, as previously approved.

With the help of the Recreation Department and Planning Department, the Committee has acquired three quotes from vendors for shade structures. The Committee is recommending moving forward with the shade structure from Concord Awning. This structure provides the maximum amount of shade, is more attractive and offers the best warranty for the money. Concord Awning has also proved to be committed to customer service and will provide great support when/if needed.

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**Favreau moved the Board to authorize the Town Manager to contract with Concord Awning for the new structure at Maily Waterfront Park; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.**

**C. Act on Public Art Project**

Yvette Meunier presented an update on the mural project. Banana Banners offered another option for sourcing the product needed that would save over \$2000. CDAC has put out a survey to residents to select a theme for the project. CDAC also discussed with Merrymeeting Arts Center managing the art project in return for their help the Town would pay them \$500.

The Board supports this project and did not feel an additional motion was needed since at a previous meeting they made a motion on the amount of funds that could be used for the project and changes would not increase the funds needed.

**VI. Discussion Items**

**A. Solar Array**

Yvette Meunier, Director of Planning & Development talked with the Board about the possibility of having a solar array on the roof of the Fire Department. The Town had previously looked at having a solar array on the Public Works building but the project would have been costly. The Town would have had to be in a 20-year contract with Envision. The Board members at the time did not feel it was a good fit for the Town. There were a lot of unanswered questions. At that time, the Board agreed that when opportunities arose, they should look at smaller systems that the Town would own.

Meunier went over options with three different companies. She recommended Maine Solar Solutions. The Board agreed and requested to look just at MSS. They were interested in hearing more about their options and, if possible, having a representative of the company give a presentation and answer questions at the second meeting in February.

**B. Budget Goals**

Briand explained to the Board that the Finance Advisory Committee was preparing for the upcoming budget season. They had questions for the Boards regarding the upcoming fiscal year.

- **Budget Goals**

The Board members agreed they would like to keep the budget with minimal to no increases. They also would like to not take on any additional bonds.

- **Budget Priorities**

One of the Board's priorities was continued road maintenance. They felt that the Town had set up a good plan to get the roads caught up and keep them maintained.

They also asked about cemeteries with concerns on stabilizing the gully at the Village Cemetery. They were all in favor of hiring temporary employees again this year to help Public Works in maintenance of the Town's cemeteries.

- **Employee Wages**

It was agreed that the efforts the Town has made to bring employee wages up to median salary levels to keep the staff they have was helping. They had concerns with maintaining Public Works employees as well as being competitive to fill the empty position.

- **Information that would find helpful.**

The Board stated that they would like to see an updated Road plan and that it would be helpful to have a map of the Town's roads so they could see what has been done, what was being worked on as well as where work was still needed.

### C. Coombs Building Electrical Service

The Town received an estimate to move our electrical service underground. There is \$127,793.37 available in the Town Hall/Town Office Reserve, of which \$10,000 was budgeted for electrical work. The utility room work was completed by Frederick Electric and cost \$1,931.09.

**Acker moved the Board authorize the Town Manager to enter into a contract with Fredrick Electric for up to \$5000 for underground electrical hook up at the Town Office; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 5-0.**

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

- The Town Office and Departments will be closed January 20<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King Day.
- The Ice & Smelt Festival is scheduled for the weekend of January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 2<sup>nd</sup> with various activities in the village AND Bowdoinham Recreation Night at the Maine Celtics.
- Foreclosure Notices for FY23 property taxes (payments were due 11/1/22 & 5/2/2023) will be going out by January 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Lisbon Emergency is intending to remain as a separate organization for at least one more fiscal year. After the Lisbon Town Council voted down the Municipal EMS ordinance, as they just hired a new fire chief, and they wanted him to have time to look at the different proposals. The Town is hoping to receive the contract extension for FY26 by the end of February.
- CMP installed a new transformer to support the new electrical service at Town Hall on Monday, January 13, 2025, the office was without power for approximately one hour.
- The Town's consolidated hearing date for all the remaining outstanding Gallant matters is scheduled for 1/30/25 at 9:00 a.m.
- Mr. Gallant is appealing the Court's Protection Order; the Town is awaiting further information on the schedule for that process.

## VIII. **Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. January 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm – Special Meeting
- B. January 27, 2025, at 12:00 pm – Via Zoom (Consent Calendar only)
- C. February 11, 2025, at 6:30 pm – Regular Meeting
- D. February 25, 2025, at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting

## IX. **Comments from the Select Board Members**

- Joy requested more info when available on Merrymeeting Trails- LD29.

X. **Comments from the Public**

- Deb Smith thanked the Board for all their work.

XI. **Adjourn**

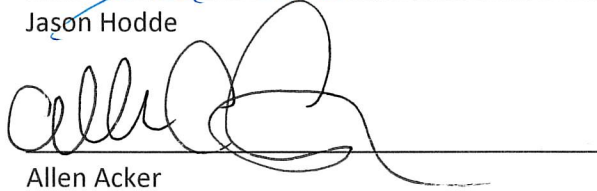
Adjournment was at 8:05 pm.

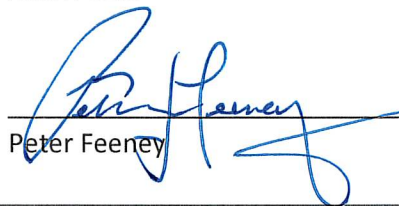
Select Board  
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

  
Joanne Joy, Chair

  
Mark Favreau, Vice-Chair

  
Jason Hodde

  
Allen Acker

  
Peter Feeney

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Respectfully Submitted,

  
Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant