

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: March 12, 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 - none

III. Comments from the Public

Robin Frank from Browns Point Road addressed the Board with her objections of how the Primary elections were set up on March 5, 2024. She was concerned that the ballot machines were labeled by Party. She was not comfortable with others knowing the party for which she was voting.

Joy informed Frank that the Board has no control over how elections are run.

Acker said that after receiving her email he reached out to the State Elections hotline and that no statues were broken. This was the first year that Unenrolled voters were allowed to vote in a primary election. He emphasized that the Town Clerk did nothing wrong and this was a new and learning experience for the election workers.

Briand added that the Elections Warden and Town Clerk run the elections. They were not aware that with two ballots they could use one machine to read both ballots. Now they know next time if there is more than one State Ballot, they can use one machine. She also added that whenever you vote the election workers must announce your name, address, and party so that Poll watchers can hear them.

Frank then asked if this was the way elections would be run in the future, and how she or anyone else could find out ahead of time?

Briand said she could talk to the Town Clerk closer to an election.

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

1. February 27, 2023

B. Warrants & Financial Reports

1. Treasurer's Warrant #17
2. February 2024 Financial Reports

C. Reports and Communications

1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's March Report
2. North East Ambulance January & February Reports

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

V. Licensing

A. Marijuana Business License for Caregiver Retail Store

Applicant: Loud and Local

Property: 50 Birchwood Ln (Map R02, Lot 052)

Duncan Alden addressed the Board offering the Board to table his license if they needed full compliance before issuing it, but he would prefer that they would issue a conditional license. He added that Matt had been out twice to measure the lighting and it was within compliance he said that Favreau had asked about employees last time and he wanted to clarify that. He currently has two employees and may be adding a third to his cultivation facility. The store would only be himself and was by appointment only. He addressed concerns about the shrubs saying they were small not dead and would like to hear suggestions from the Smiths as to what they would like to see. He went on to say that he knows the road is the big sticking point and that Mr. Gaudette has spoken to Doug Tourtellotte to widen and grade the road once weather permits. He also thanked the Board for their patience through this process.

Feeney asked Alden if tabling their decision would cause a burden to his business. Alden replied that he would like to get is going of course it would affect sales.

Acker said he did not see any reason they could not go forward. Matt's report was very thorough. He felt that the property owner, not the tenant, was responsible for the road and they had not given any indication that they would not deal with the issues.

Smith said her only concern with approving the license would cause more discontent. Alden did not think so.

Favreau said he had no issue with granting a conditional license that the road would be fixed.

Acker moved the Board find that:

- **the performance standards for this proposed project were reviewed as part of the Planning Board's Site Plan Review application process which received its Site Plan Review permit from the Planning Board on June 25, 2020.**
- **this application is for a new business which has not begun operation. The proposed business shall meet the conditions of its Site Plan Review Permit.**
- **And the Board approve this Marijuana Caregiver Retail Store 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 the Site Plan Review Permit from the Planning Board, June 25, 2020.**

Seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

VI. Action Items

A. Act on Lease Agreement for Printers

Briand explained that the current lease agreement with Xerox will end in July. Lisa Curtis has researched options and found Smith Office Systems. They are offering comparable if not

better printers and service for less than the current provider. We have received good references from their existing customers, including other municipalities, and they have a local service technician. Curtis was there to answer questions.

Acker moved the Board approve contracting with Smith Office Systems for printer services and authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

B. Act on Summer Concert Series

Acker moved the Board approve the Summer Concert Series and authorize the Town Manager to contract with Watersong Music; seconded by Feeney. Vote was 5-0.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Proposed Land Use Ordinance Amendments

The Board reviewed a draft of the proposed Land Use Ordinance amendments which was approved at the 2/22 Planning Board meeting. The Planning Board will be finalizing the proposed amendments at their March 28th meeting based on the Town Attorney's review, which would not result in major substantive changes.

Joy pointed out a typo that needed correcting as well as her concern that people would not understand what maximum residential density meant.

Acker had questions on the 80% of net residential open space in a subdivision, he felt this might get some push back.

The Board suggestion was that someone from Planning Committee should be prepared to answer question from the public at Town Meeting.

B. Spirit of American and Citizen of the Year Awards

Briand proposed that the Board choose one recipient for both awards. She had spoken with Spirit of America, and they could submit their recipient in September. This would allow the recipient to be acknowledged at Celebrate and through the State and County Awards. In the past, it has been difficult to distinguish between the two awards and this would allow one recipient to receive greater acknowledgement for their work.

Board members agreed to this. Favreau suggested that they could list past winners in the Newsletter.

VIII. Town Manager's Report

- We completed the installation of our new phone system and TRIO Web software on Friday, March 8th. The last technology item we are looking to address this year is to complete the relocation of our IT equipment in wiring. We are looking for a date at the end of April for API and Consolidated to complete the work, our server and internet will be down for this last step.
- We had 475 voters participate in the March 5th Primary Election, which was an 18% voter turnout.
- Pratt Road will be closed to all thru traffic on Thursday, March 14th from 9am to 3pm (with a rain date of March 15th) so that Public Works can replace a cross culvert.
- We have advertised our 2024 Road Paving; bids are due on March 19th.
 - Our engineers are working to get the shoreline stabilization portion of the waterfront project out to bid next.

- We issued our request for engineering services for our MDOT VIP planning projects. We will be issuing our request for engineering services for the sidewalk extension next.
- We have tentatively scheduled the chimney work for April 23, 14 and 15. The work for the bats is scheduled for late April.
- Gallant Update - Things are tied up in the Superior Court because they do not have a judge (the regular judge, is conflicted out).

IX. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. March 26, 2024 – Regular Meeting (may start early)
- B. April 9, 2024 @ 5:00 – Budget Workshop and Regular meeting.
- C. April 23, 2024- Regular Meeting (may start early)

X. Comments from the Select Board Members

Acker told the Board that he had attended the School District Finance Committee meeting they had been invited to. He said a member of the committee presented an MOE budget and said if everything stayed the same the budget would be 55,221,493 for the entire district. Last night he had attended another meeting, and the Superintendent submitted her budget which came in less than the MOE budget at 54,907,786.

XI. Comments from the Public

Duncan Alden told the Board that there was still a piece the State needed to approve and asked if the road needed to be inspected again once the improvements were made. Briand told him to call CEO Matt James to inspect when it is completed.

XII. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 7:38 p.m.

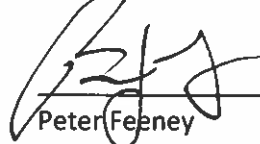
Select Board
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine


Joanne Joy, Chair


Debra Smith, Vice-Chair


Mark Favreau


Allen Acker


Peter Feeney

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant