

# TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

## SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: April 14, 2026

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, Shelley Hooper and Nicole Briand, Town Manager.

### II. Amendments to the Agenda

Tabled Riverview Building discussion until next meeting.

### III. Comments from the Public

Joy opened the meeting by thanking attendees for bringing items and issues to the Board's attention. She stated that the Board works to hear all comments and understand community input. She noted that, at times, the Board may have additional information and may act differently than community input might suggest; this does not mean the Board was uninformed or not listening. She added that the Board sometimes must make difficult decisions based on the information they have.

Benjamin Brewer addressed the Board regarding speeding on Bay Road and elsewhere in town. He reported that he created a website ([slowdownbowdoinham.com](http://slowdownbowdoinham.com)) to record vehicle speeds near his home. He stated that he has raised this concern for approximately nine years and has contacted the Sheriff's Office multiple times; he noted that the department cited limited staffing.

Mr. Brewer stated that he believes speeding has become a significant issue in town, that traffic signs are frequently disregarded, and that enforcement is limited. Joy agreed that speeding is a concern and noted that others have raised similar comments. She suggested contacting the Sheriff's Office to inquire about holding a community meeting to discuss the issue and potential options for the Town.

Hooper told Mr. Brewer that she appreciated the data he collected and noticed spikes in criminal speeding during certain times of day. She suggested he share that data with the sheriff's department in hopes that they could have a presence during those times.

### IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes
  - 1. March 24, 2026
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
  - 1. Treasurer's Warrant #19
  - 2. March 2026 Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
  - 1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's March Report
  - 2. Lisbon Emergency's March Report

**Favreau moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Hodde.**

Acker requested that the minutes be amended. Disputing his comments on page two, paragraph two. Motion was then amended.

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

## V. Licensing

- A. Cannabis Business License – AE, LLC  
Cannabis Business License Application for Medical Cannabis Cultivation  
Applicant: AE, LLC  
Property: 205 Carding Machine Road (Map R06, Lot 040)

**Acker moved the Board find AE, LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License complete; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

**Acker moved the Board schedule a public hearing for AE, LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License on April 28, 2026 at 6:30 pm; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 5-0.**

## VI. Action Items

- A. Act on FY26-27 Municipal Budget

The Select Board reviewed the proposed Town Meeting Warrant budget articles. The Board voted on which articles to place on the warrant and whether to recommend those articles.

**Favreau moved the Board approve and recommend the FY2026-2027 municipal budget, as presented; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.**

Bowdoinham Public Library - \$30,000

**Favreau moved the Board approve and recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Bowdoinham Public Library in the amount of \$30,000; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 5-0.**

Bowdoinham Historical Society - \$4,000

**Favreau moved the Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Bowdoinham Historical Society in the amount of \$4,000; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-1. Favreau opposed.**

**Favreau moved the Board recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Bowdoinham Historical Society in the amount of \$4,000; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

Spectrum Generations - \$1,820

**Favreau moved the Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Spectrum Generations in the amount of \$1,820; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-1. Favreau opposed.**

**Acker moved the Board recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Spectrum Generations in the amount of \$1,820; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

The Life Flight Foundation - \$762

**Hooper move the Board approve and recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for The Life Flight Foundation in the amount of \$762; seconded by Acker. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

Kennebec Behavior Health - \$1,000

**Acker moved the Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Kennebec Behavioral Health in the amount of \$1,000; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-1. Favreau opposed.**

**Acker moved the Board recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Kennebec Behavioral Health in the amount of \$1,000; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

**New Hope for Women - \$280**

**Favreau moved the Board approve and recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for New Hope for Women in the amount of \$280; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

**Sweetser - \$1,000**

**Acker moved the Board approve the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Sweetser in the amount of \$1,000; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 4-1. Favreau opposed**

**Acker moved the Board recommend the Town Meeting Warrant Article for Sweetser in the amount of \$1,000; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 3-2. Favreau and Hodde opposed.**

#### **B. Act on Land Use Ordinance – Proposed Amendments**

There were four proposed Land Use Ordinance Amendments.

- Address the Requirements of LD 427, “an Act to Regulate Municipal Parking Space Minimums.”
- Waive Permitting Fees on Town Owned Projects
- Address the Requirements of LD1829, “An Act to Build Housing for Maine Families and Attract Workers to Maine Business by Amending the Laws Governing Housing Density.”
- An Ordinance to enact housekeeping amendments to the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance

Due to ongoing changes in legislation, the Planning Board asked the Select Board to remove changes regarding LD1829.

**Acker moved the Board approve and recommend “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to LD427 an Act to Regulate Municipal Parking Space Minimums.” be placed on the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 5-0.**

**Acker moved the Board approve and recommend “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Waive Permitting Fees on Town Owned Projects” be placed on the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.**

**Acker moved the Board approve and recommend “An Ordinance to enact housekeeping amendments to the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance” be placed on the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 1-4. After discussing the attorney’s recommendations, a new motion was made.**

**Favreau moved the Board approve and recommend “An Ordinance to enact housekeeping amendments to the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance” as amended by attorney, be placed on the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 3-1-1. Hodde abstained due to his help with housekeeping amendments. Acker opposed.**

#### **C. Act on Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application**

**Hodde moved the Board approve and recommend the following question for the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant: “To see if the Town will authorize the Treasurer to apply, on behalf of the Town, for federal financing assistance under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Public Law 88-578 for the development of Waterfront and Recreation Improvements; authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into the Land and Water**

**Conservation Fund Project Agreement with the State subsequent to federal approval of the project; further authorize the Board of Selectmen to appropriate up to \$805,000 from the CMP/Riverfront TIF Fund and Rideout Memorial Reserve Fund for all or part of the local share of the project cost; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

**D. Act on Pratt Road Acceptance Warrant Article**

**Favreau moved the Board approve the following question for the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant: Shall the Town vote to accept a section of Pratt Road beginning at the end of the public portion of Pratt Road, which public portion begins at Post Road and ends at a point adjacent to the northern boundary of Map R03, Lot 52, and ending at the northern edge of a turnaround installed in the summer of 2014 on the eastern side of said Pratt Road and measuring approximately 24 feet in width and approximately 50 feet in length which is approximately +/- 0.19 miles from the terminus of said public portion of Pratt Road. The +/- 0.19-mile section of Pratt Road proposed to be accepted is depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-1. Favreau opposed.**

**Acker moved the Board recommend the following question for the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant: Shall the Town vote to accept a section of Pratt Road beginning at the end of the public portion of Pratt Road, which public portion begins at Post Road and ends at a point adjacent to the northern boundary of Map R03, Lot 52, and ending at the northern edge of a turnaround installed in the summer of 2014 on the eastern side of said Pratt Road and measuring approximately 24 feet in width and approximately 50 feet in length which is approximately +/- 0.19 miles from the terminus of said public portion of Pratt Road. The +/- 0.19-mile section of Pratt Road proposed to be accepted is depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 2-2-1. Favreau and Joy opposed. Acker and Hooper for. Hodde abstained.**

**E. Act on Blanchard Road Warrant Article**

**Acker moved the Board approve placing the following article on the June 10<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting Warrant: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance on Blanchard Road for the 2026-2027 winter season; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-0-1. Hooper abstained.**

**Acker moved the Board recommend the following article on the June 10<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting Warrant: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance on Blanchard Road for the 2026-2027 winter season? seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0-1. Hooper abstained.**

**F. Act on Town Meeting Warrant Articles and Recommendations**

**Acker moved the Board approve and recommend the following question for the June 10, 2026 Town Meeting Warrant: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE for the Public Works Reserve; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

**Favreau moved the Board approve and recommend the Business Articles to pass; seconded by Acker. Vote was 5-0.**

**G. Act on Waterfront Park Change Order**

The Town received federal approval of our Land and Water Conservation Grant Amendment. The two remaining change orders to be approved, now that funding has been approved is:

1. Paving of the pathways in the park. The pathways were constructed with the proper base and do not need to be reconstructed to be paved, however they will need to be shimmed (re-graded).

2. Streetlights. Due to budget constraints our original change order for streetlights was for all the site work and bases and only four lights. This amendment allows us to complete all the streetlights in the park (so that they all match).

The Board felt they needed more information on the streetlights before approving that portion of the change order six. They did approve paving change order five.

**Acker moved the Board approve Change Order #5 for Waterfront Improvements Phase 2, Contract No. 2; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

H. Act on Waterfront Water Service

The Town is proposing to complete the water service for the new park. This project proposes to install a new 2" water line in place of our existing ¾" water line from the water main to the yellow building, install a 2" water meter and complete internal plumbing so the park service is a 2" water line from the new meter and the building would continue to be served by a ¾" line.

**Hodde moved the Board approve expending up to \$ 15,000 from the CMP TIF to complete the installation of the water service for Bowdoinham Riverfront Park; seconded by Favreau. After discussion it was decided to table this item. No vote was taken.**

I. 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 Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

J. Act on Town Hall Committee Bylaws

Town Hall Committee asked the Board to remove '250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary' from the committee's name and update wording now that the Town Hall has been restored.

**Acker moved the Board approved the Town Hall Committee Bylaws, as presented; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.**

K. Act on Planning Board Appointment Corrections

The Planning Board appointments are five-year terms; the corrected appointments are to accurately reflect the members' proper term lengths.

**Acker moved the Board approve the corrected Planning Board appointments for R. Reeve Wood, Chris Vonderweidt, Nathan Drummond, and Justin Schlawin, as presented; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

L. Act on Municipal Quitclaim Deed

**Hodde moved the Board approve the municipal quitclaim deed for property Tax Map R12, Lot 039, as presented; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

M. Act on Warrant and Notice of Election – MSAD 75 & Region 10

**Hooper moved the Board approve the Warrant and Notice of Election Calling both Technical Education Region 10 and MSAD 75; seconded by Favreau. Vote is 5-0**

N. Act on MDOT Contractor – Overweight Load Limits Permit

The MDOT asks for construction overload permits when they are placing construction projects out to bid. This permit would allow overweight construction vehicles to travel on town roads. The project area is Route 125 between Route 201 and Route 138, both of which are State Roadways.

**Hodde moved the Board approve the overweight load limit agreement for Project No. 027666.00; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

- O. Act on MaineDOT Infrastructure Adaption Fund Grant Application  
The Town is requesting authorization to apply for a MaineDOT Infrastructure Adaptation Fund grant for the design and replacement of the Stone Bridge culvert on Ridge Road. The existing culvert is over 70 years old and has experienced recurring erosion along the roadway during heavy rain events. The grant requires a 5% local match; a \$50,000 match would leverage up to \$1,000,000 in grant funding.

**Hodde moved the Board authorize submission of MaineDOT Infrastructure Adaption Fund Grant Application and approve the use of the Public Works Reserve to meet the required local match, up to \$50,000; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.**

- P. Act on Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Award Acceptance  
Bowdoinham was selected for the Rural Tribal Grant for the planning and final engineering of the Merrymeeting Trail from Bowdoinham Waterfront to Tulip Street in Richmond!

**Hooper moved the Board accept the Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Award and authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 5-0.**

- Q. Act on Village Cemetery Work  
The Town is requesting up to \$5,000 from the Maxwell Trust to complete grading work at Village Cemetery to reduce erosion along the back of the cemetery.

**Acker moved the Board up to \$5,000 from the Maxwell Trust for the Village Cemetery project; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.**

## VII. Discussion Items

- A. Riverview House Reports  
Tabled until next meeting.
- B. Personnel Policy – Proposed Amendments  
Proposed changes addressed benefits for part-time employees and guidelines for four-day work week.

**Acker moved the Board approve the Personnel Policy amendments as proposed; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.**

## VIII. Town Manager's Report

Town Office – Closures

Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Attic Clean-Out

Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> – Patriots Day

Browns Point Road Bridge will be closed the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> to perform a geotechnical evaluation, which consist of soil borings with a drilling company. These soil borings require that the bridge be closed to traffic during the duration of the drilling.

National Work Zone Awareness Week is next week, from April 20<sup>th</sup> to April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Go Orange Day: Please encourage your teams to wear orange and use the hashtag #Orange4Safety on social media.

Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Social Media Storm: Please share your own reasons for taking the pledge and introduce your social media audience to the people on your teams who work just feet from moving traffic.

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – Moment of Silence: Take a moment to reflect and pay tribute to those workers who have been killed in work zone incidents.

This year's Trek Across Main will be coming through Bowdoinham on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, please see the attached letter. The Town will be sharing their event information.

Restrooms have been fixed and will be opened once Maily Park is ready for the season.

The Center Street Retaining is scheduled to be replaced this week as soon as our contractor CMP approval to start the work.

MDOT is currently working on the Town's speed limit requests, additional information will be provided once they complete their process.

The Town is expected to go out to bid for Back Hill Road and Spring Street reconstruction at the beginning of May. Funding for this project will be contingent on Town Meeting budget approval.

The Town will be sending out our fuel bids after we have the results of GPCOG's bid process. They have postponed their bid opening until May 22<sup>nd</sup> for transportation fuels and June 15<sup>th</sup> for heating fuels due to recent events in the Middle East and price uncertainty in global oil markets.

After the report members of the Board had a few comments:

Favreau asked Briand which roads the Town had requested that MDOT review for speed-limit changes. Briand said she would send the letter they had submitted as a refresher for the board.

Acker asked if the speed sign the Town owned recorded speeds. Briand said it did. He suggested deploying the Town's speed sign and comparing its data with Mr. Brewer's data.

Acker then stated his frustration with the Town's attorneys stating that CEO has been waiting for three months for a letter that he still does not have. Briand said the attorney previously handling the matter is no longer with the firm and that a new attorney is reviewing it.

**IX. Announce Future Select Board Meetings**

- A. April 28, 2026, at 6:30 pm – Regular Meeting
- B. May 12, 2026, at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting
- C. May 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting

**X. Select Board Member's Comments and Request**

Hodde informed the Board that last Thursday the Sagadahoc Budget Advisory Committee sent an estimated budget to the County Commissioners with a 9.9% increase. The contributing factors were cost of living increases for non-contracted staff and mandated wage increases for contracted staff, increases in health insurance, facility maintenance and IT upgrades. A public hearing for the County Budget is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

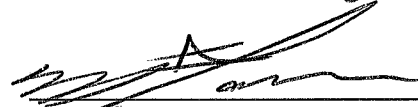
**XI. Comments from the Public - None**

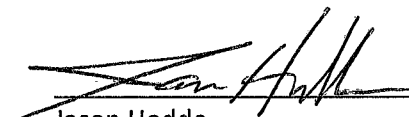
**XII. Adjourn**

Adjournment was at 8:35 p.m.

Select Board  
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

  
Joanne Joy, Chair

  
Mark Favreau, Vice Chair

  
Jason Hodde



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Allen Acker




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Shelley Hooper

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Lisa-Marie Curtis, Administrative Assistant