

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 12, 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, Allen Acker, Shelley Hooper and Nicole Briand, Town Manager. Jason Hodde was absent.

II. **Amendments to the Agenda**

Item 5.C Cannabis Business License for Upta Camp Edible Co, LLC

III. **Comments from the Public**

Hope Libby read a statement she wrote to the Board expressing concerns with how she felt Town Officials' opinions were not reflecting public opinion, specifically regarding the yellow river house and paving the Maily parking lot, which she thought was part of a grant application. She suggested that both items should be placed on a referendum ballot for the citizens to vote on.

IV. **Approval of Consent Calendar**

- A. Meeting Minutes
 - 1. April 28, 2026
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 - 1. Treasurer's Warrant #21
 - 2. April 2026 Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
 - 1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's April Report

Favreau moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 4-0.

V. **Public Hearing**

Convened 6:36 pm. Adjourned 6:37 pm.

- A. Cannabis Business License for Cannabis Cultivation – North Fire, LLC
 - There were no public comments on this item.

VI. **Licensing**

- A. Cannabis Business License for Cannabis Cultivation – North Fire, LLC

Favreau moved the Board finds:

- The Planning Board approved their Site Plan Review Tier II application on April 29, 2021, and all performance standards were determined to be adequately met.
- A site visit was conducted by the Town's CEO and found that all conditions of approval were adequately met.

Seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

Favreau moved the Board approves this Cannabis Cultivation Facility 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 their Site Plan Review Permit, April 29, 2026.**

Seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

B. Cannabis Business License for Cannabis Cultivation – Cannabis for Medicine, LLC

Acker moved the Board find Cannabis for Medicine, LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License complete; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0.

Acker moved the Board schedule a public hearing for Cannabis for Medicine, LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License on May 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 4-0.

C. Cannabis Business License for Upta Camp Edible Co., LLC

Acker moved the Board find Upta Camp Edible Co., LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License complete; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 4-0.

Hooper moved the Board schedule a public hearing for Upta Camp Edible Co. LLC's application for a Cannabis Business License on May 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0.

VII. Action Items

A. Act on Curbside Waste Pick-up & Transportation Contract

For FY27 Plummer is proposing a \$0.05 per bag increase.

Acker moved the Board authorize the Town Manager to sign the Curbside Waste Contract with Richard Plummer & Son, Inc; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0.

B. Act on Maine Waste to Energy Contract

Maine Waste to Energy has provided the Town with a 1-year contract at a rate of \$110/ton. Cassella would offer the Town a price of \$127/ton delivered to their West Bath facility.

Acker moved the Board approve the waste to energy contract with Maine Waste to Energy for Fiscal Year 2027; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 4-0.

C. Act on Casella Recycling Contract

Casella has provided the Town with a 1-year contract for FY27 Single Sort Recycling - \$460.85/haul and ACR - (\$175 + 38)

Acker moved the Board approve the Single Sort Recycling contract with Casella Waste Systems, Inc for Fiscal Year 2027; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 4-0.

D. Act on Property Tax Abatement #3

Favreau moved the Board approve FY26 Property Tax Abatement #3, as presented; seconded by Acker. Vote was 4-0.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. Solid Waste Committee Recommendations – Trash Tags & Glass Recycling

Wendy Cunningham, Chair of the Solid Waste Committee, addressed the Board with the Committee's recommendations regarding trash tag pricing and glass recycling. She explained that, due to increased costs for trash pickup and household waste disposal, the

Committee recommends raising the price of trash tags from \$3.00 to \$3.25 to keep the service self-sustaining.

Wendy Cunningham presented the Solid Waste Committee's findings on glass collection. The Committee reviewed two options: contracting with a third party to recycle glass or having the Town process glass for its own use. In evaluating both options, the Committee considered fiscal and environmental impacts.

The Committee reported that the facility previously used by the Town for glass recycling has closed, and the nearest available facility is approximately 180 miles away. Given the hauling distance, transportation costs, and current market value of glass, the Committee determined that third-party recycling is not financially feasible. The Committee also noted that it was unable to identify a hauler willing to transport glass that distance. They estimated that adding glass collection under these conditions would increase the Solid Waste budget by approximately 11.6%, or about \$25,352 annually.

The Committee also evaluated whether the Town could process glass into cullet for local use. While the Town owns a glass crusher, it has been in storage since 1999, and its condition is uncertain. Committee members noted that the equipment would likely require replacement of aging rubber components and special electrical work to support its three-phase motor, with installation costs estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. They also noted that glass crushing would require a dedicated processing area and could require additional staffing.

The Committee further reported that the resulting cullet could not be used by the Town without an appropriate outlet for disposal, and glass can migrate to the surface over time, the Committee noted additional safety concerns.

Based on this research, the Committee concluded that adding glass to the Town's recycling program is not fiscally responsible at this time. The Committee stated that the issue could be reevaluated in the future if a closer recycling facility becomes available or market conditions change.

Members of the Select Board then offered comments and discussion. Acker suggested charging residents \$1 per pound to accept glass and having it hauled to Maine Waste at a cost of \$110 per ton, noting that the program could potentially pay for itself and generate a profit for the Town. Wendy Cunningham responded that the Town could possibly pursue that option if a hauler could be found. Favreau added that the Town would need designated storage and a way to ensure the glass was clean and free of lids and wrappers. He noted that, while a profit might be possible, handling costs would likely consume a significant portion of it. Bryan Benson, Solid Waste Director, added that he would also need to confirm whether Maine Waste would accept glass by the truckload.

Favreau thanked the Solid Waste Committee for its research and thorough report.

A public hearing on the proposed increase in trash tag prices will be held at the next Select Board meeting on May 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

B. Legal Services

Acker clarified that his motion at the previous meeting was not intended to terminate the Town's current legal representation and that he had no direct concerns with the Town attorney. Rather, his concerns related to the law firm itself. He stated that he did not believe the Town had received adequate diligence, citing a form letter that took months to receive and what he believed to be incorrect advice regarding rights-of-way on abandoned roads. He stated that the Town was not receiving the level of representation for which it was

paying and that it would be fiscally responsible to review other options. Joy agreed that the Town should consider what other legal service options may be available.

Favreau stated that the Town has had some ongoing cases for more than six years and that only recently had some correspondence not been handled promptly. He said he believed the current legal counsel had generally represented the Town well and suggested that the Board meet with the attorney to express their concerns.

Hooper thanked Acker for clarifying his concerns and suggested that the Board explore whether some legal work could be assigned elsewhere if another attorney with a lower hourly rate could be retained.

Briand suggested that, given the Town's ongoing legal matters, the Board explore other options without formally issuing an RFP. Acker agreed. Briand also advised that the Board should hold another executive session with the Town Attorney to follow up on ongoing legal issues and asked whether the Board wished to schedule a meeting for that purpose. The Board agreed.

C. MMA Legislative Policy Committee Nominations

Town Manager, Nicole Briand, informed the Board that she would like to serve on the MMA Legislative Policy Committee and asked for their support. Board members expressed their support of Briand serving on the committee. They will make a motion on her nomination at the next meeting.

IX. Town Manager's Report

Thursday, May 21st – MSAD 75 District Budget Approval Meeting

Tuesday, June 9th – Elections (State Primary and School Ballots)

Wednesday, June 10th – Town Meeting

Friday, June 19th - Trek Across Maine

Town Office Hours:

May 25th – Closed for Memorial Day Holiday

June 10th – Open 10am-2pm - Town Meeting Set-up

June 18th – Closing at 12:30pm – Staff Appreciation
(*Recycling will also be closing at 12:30pm.*)

June 19th – Closed for Juneteenth

June 30th – Closed for End of Year Processing

July 3rd – Closed for Independence Day Holiday

Bowdoinham will host Lisbon EMS's Study Presentation to the communities on Wednesday, May 27th. Additionally, Lisbon EMS is still working to get a contract with Lisbon for FY27.

Updates:

- Both Senator Collins' Office and Senator King's Office have submitted our/MDOT's CDS applications for funding approval through the federal budget process.
- The Lower Abby Bridge on Browns Point Road will be closed again, May 26-28th for additional soil borings.
- MDOT is conducting their on-demand public meeting for the Abagadasset Bridge on Route 24 until May 22nd.
- MDOT is currently working on our speed limit requests, all the data has been collected and is currently being reviewed. Town Manager will provide additional information once it is received.

- We have asked MDOT the clarification questions regarding the “all way stop” proposal. Once we have their answers, we will add the item back to the agenda and will include both the original and revised proposals.
- We had a productive meeting with both Sagadahoc Sheriff’s Office and Maine Department of Transportation to discuss ways in which we can address speeding in Bowdoinham.
- RH Construction is working to get the insulation installation scheduled at Public Works and expects to complete the work in Town Hall in May.
- The Center Street retaining wall has been completed. The Ridge Road retaining wall is scheduled for the end of June after school is out for the summer.
- We expect 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.
- We 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 22nd for transportation fuels and June 15th for heating fuels due to recent events in the Middle East and price uncertainty in global oil markets.

X. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. May 26, 2026, at 6:30 pm – Regular Meeting
- B. June 9, 2026, at 6:30 pm – Regular Meeting
- C. June 23, 2026, at 6:30 pm - Regular Meeting

XI. Select Board Member’s Comments and Request for Agenda Items

Acker asked whether 1441 River Road had met the May 11 deadline. Briand said the party came in on May 12 and asked whether the Board wanted to proceed with enforcement action. Acker also asked about a second party. Briand said that party had initially made progress but had since stopped. She suggested holding an Executive Session to discuss the matter and determine next steps, and Acker agreed.

Acker asked whether revenue figures were available for Bulky Waste Day. Bryan Benson said he did not have them with him but could provide them later. Acker requested that future reports include both total weight and revenue.

Joy reminded attendees that the Town Manager’s Report is distributed at the time of the Select Board meeting to ensure it contains the most current information. She also noted that it is posted on the Town website after the meeting. Acker suggested printing a few extra copies for attendees.

XII. Comments from the Public - None

XIII. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 7:36 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