

MINUTES  
Town of Bowdoinham  
Select Board & Board of Assessors Meeting  
January 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Call the Meeting to Order & Establish a Quorum at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order and quorum established by Board Chair Peter Lewis at 5:30 p.m. Select Board members Peter Lewis, Thomas Walling, Judy Gray, David Engler, and Jeremy Cluchey were present. Staff present included Town Manager William Post, Planning and Development Director Nicole Briand, Allen Acker, Recreation Department Director/Resident; Joanne Joy, Kevin Twine and David Asmuson, Comprehensive Planning Committee Members.

2. Amendments to the Agenda – None

3. Approve Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2018

- B. Warrants and Financial Reports:

1. Treasurer's Warrant # 43 for \$ 298,021.48

2. Treasurer's Warrant # 44 for \$ 135,491.54

- C. Reports and Communications

1. Sheriff's Department December Incident Report

2. Town Clerk & Registrar of Voters' December Activity Report

**On motion of Walling/Engler, the Board voted 5-0, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.**

4. Action Items

- A. Act on Recommendation for Employee Health Benefit Premium Cost Sharing.

The Manager stated that after analyzing the recent salary and employee benefit survey he completed and discussed previously with the Board, he recommends that as of March 1, 2019, new benefit eligible employees pay 15% of the cost of any health insurance plan above the employee-only plan. He also stated that this will "grandfather" current employees as they accepted their positions with the Town along with the current wages and benefits. This change is with the understanding that he will be increasing some wages in the next budget for the identified positions that are less than the average determined through the survey.

Select Board Member Judy Gray stated she has no problem with new employees having to pay in to health insurance, and has no problem with grandfathering current employees.

Select Board Member Tom Walling stated that it is important to increase employee wages to be competitive with other towns.

**On motion of Cluchey/Walling, the Board voted 5-0, to approve mandating new benefit-eligible employees pay 15% of any health insurance plan chosen above the employee-only plan effective March 1, 2019.**

B. Act on Appointment of David Compton to the Advisory Committee on Age-Friendly Bowdoinham.

**On motion of Cluchey/Engler, the Board voted 5-0, to appoint David Compton to the Advisory Committee on Age-Friendly Bowdoinham for a term ending June 30, 2019.**

5. Discussion Items

A. Budget Calendar/Town Meeting Schedule and Potential Vote on Waterfront Master Site Plan

The Manager stated that the Budget Calendar/Town Meeting Schedule lays out the dates necessary to meet noticing and posting requirements leading up to the Town Meeting in June. While the Board has until May 7<sup>th</sup> to decide whether or not to place a warrant article regarding the Waterfront Master Site Plan on the Town Meeting warrant, the Manager recommended that the Board decide this as soon as possible so that the Comprehensive Planning Committee can schedule informational meetings about the plan and its ramifications well before the town meeting.

Chair Lewis stated that this should be on the warrant, and asked what would be needed from the Board.

Board member Gray stated as with the Comprehensive Plan, people are comfortable with a vision, but less comfortable when funding this vision is discussed.

Board member Cluchey stated that he is wary of rushing the vote. He would like to see a timeline on the process of engaging the public regarding the plan and what it would mean. Cluchey also asked if there would be changes to the plan after any public input.

The Manager stated there would be no changes to the Master Site Plan and that it will be complete once the consultants are done and changes were already made after previous public meetings.

Comprehensive Planning Committee Chair Joanne Joy stated the Committee hasn't had a deadline, so the committee hasn't discussed in detail how to inform the public. They have planned to do at least one informational meeting, as well as using the newsletter and website and could also visit groups in town such as BHS, FD and BCDI.

Planning & Development Director Nicole Briand stated it is important to make sure that people know that the implementation of the master site plan is a multi-year process.

Board member Cluchey stated he feels some uncertainty until seeing the plan.

Board member Gray stated that she thinks it is important to recognize there are people who are against any type of development at the waterfront.

Allen Acker stated, as a resident and not an employee, that there have been many chances for residents to speak up with ideas and concerns about the plan. He wondered how many opportunities the Town should have to give to those against the plan to speak out

against it. Acker didn't think it made sense to give the naysayers another chance to say no when they have had ample opportunity to bring up their concerns.

Board member Cluchey suggested erring on the side of the public to allow as much of a chance as possible and as much time as needed to review and discuss the plans.

Board member Walling stated that the vote is also an advisory vote.

Board member Gray stated that Mr. Acker made an important point, and that she agreed that the public has had ample opportunity; however, she would be unhappy to see the divisions in Bowdoinham widen. Judy appreciated what Joanne Joy said about reaching out to different groups.

Chair Lewis asked how many meetings there were to add comments into the plan.

Joanne Joy stated there were two public meetings with consultants and plan concepts, and every that every CPC meeting has been open to the public every month.

Allen Acker stated that he has worked hard to make sure this plan doesn't widen the divide between new Bowdoinham and old Bowdoinham and he has also reached out to many people.

David Asmusen felt that putting it on a town meeting warrant for a vote may confuse people as to whether funding is being approved or not.

Joanne Joy asked if the plan could be in the lobby to be available to the town meeting attendees before the meeting.

The Manager stated yes, that the plan could be available to the town meeting attendees, and that also the plan could be presented before the official start of the town meeting so those present can be familiar with it.

Chair Lewis stated that he agreed with this route, and then the Board would have a general sense of the room concerning the plan.

Board member Gray stated she thinks the people that are against the plan just want to be heard

Board member Cluchey stated that wording can be developed so that there is no confusion about funding, or lack thereof. Cluchey also felt that it is important to have approval, or not, of the plan so that when it comes time to implement the plan, there will be no confusion.

Joanne Joy stated she has no idea how to address the naysayers, and asked Judy Gray if she had any ideas on how to make those people feel heard. Joanne invited everyone to stay on after the meeting so as to attend the CPC meeting.

**By consensus (4-1), the Board approved placing the Master Site Plan on the Town Meeting Warrant.**

B. Tax Acquired Property at 1173 Post Road

The Manager stated that if this property is to go out to bid, he recommends a minimum bid of \$2,500.00 which would cover the amount of the taxes abated and costs for the bidding process. The Town would issue a quit-claim deed and there would be no assurances to any potential buyers as to a clean title. The Manager also stated there is no value to the Town to keep this property.

**On motion of Engler/Walling, the Board voted 5-0, to advertise the property at 1173 Post Road for sale by sealed bid.**

C. List of Tax Acquired Property

As requested by the Board previously, the Manager presented and reviewed a list of all Town-owned property, including a list of tax-acquired property. He stated that there are six parcels of tax-acquired property, including the property at 1173 Post Road that will now be offered for sale by bid. He further stated that each property needs research, as these properties were tax-acquired before his tenure as town manager.

D. Request from Enterprise Grange

The Manager presented a request from Enterprise Grange from Richmond. The Grange merged with Merrymeeting Grange in Bowdoinham a few years previously. Enterprise Grange recognizes a citizen or community group each year and they would like the Board to be notified of this award opportunity. The Grange is accepting nominations through February 28<sup>th</sup> and they can be forwarded to the Manager.

6. Town Manager's Report

The Manager stated that Lincolnville Communications Inc (LCI) will be providing their report to the Select Board at the Board's next meeting. There are two meetings concerning the broadband design coming up including a meeting with ConnectME's director and deputy director and with the Town of Dresden's Broadband Committee. Both of these meetings will provide information needed to finalize the plan.

The Manager stated that the Public Works facility is continuing to progress. The two end walls have been installed, along with windows on the ends. The next step is for the roof to be installed, then the two remaining walls.

The Manager stated that the workers' compensation insurance premium for 2019 is decreasing again by about \$3,000, down to \$12,411. When he first started in 2011, the premium was around \$35,000.

The unemployment compensation insurance will cost the Town nothing in 2019, and in fact, the Town received a check from the Maine Municipal Association in the amount of \$634 instead of paying in to the fund. The Manager stated that he will need to budget a small amount in the next fiscal year because the fiscal year will cover the first 6 months in 2020.

The Manager stated that he plans to attend the Government Finance Officers Association annual conference in May in Los Angeles. He applied for, and received a scholarship for the conference which saves about \$500 for the registration fee. He is able to attend this conference because he didn't attend the International City Managers Association annual conference in September.

The Manager stated that the Recycling Barn is again accepting glass and #1-#7 plastics.

7. Select Board Member's Request for Agenda Items for Next or a Future Meeting
  - A. Reconsider Tax Acquired Property Policy
8. Announce Future Select Board Meetings
  - A. January 29<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting (Rescheduled from January 22<sup>nd</sup>)
  - B. February 12<sup>th</sup> – Regular Meeting
9. Comments from Select Board Members – None
10. Comments from the Public – None
11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 7:10 p.m.

Select Board  
Town of Bowdoinham, Maine

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Peter Lewis, Chair

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Jeremy Cluchey, Vice-Chair

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David Engler

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Judith Gray

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Thomas Walling

Respectfully Submitted,

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Rebecca Bate, Admin. Asst.