

Town of Bowdoinham  
Finance Advisory Committee Meeting  
February 1, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.  
Kendall Meeting Room

Present: George Christopher, David Engler, Tom Walling, Gene McKenna, Jeff Lauder (by zoom) and Nina Mendall and Nicole Briand, Town Manager

1. Call the Meeting to Order & Establish a Quorum

The meeting was called to order at 1:04pm.

2. Accept Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed January's minutes. Nicole will revise for the Committee's approval at their February 15<sup>th</sup>'s meeting.

3. Discuss Organization Requests

Spectrum Generations – The Committee would like to see items C, D, E, H, and J. Additional request as to the amount of funding they receive from the United Way and Bowdoinham Residents.

Life Flight – The Committee would like to see items C, D, E, H, and J.

Maine Public – The Committee discussed the request for \$100. Tom made a motion to support the request, Jeff seconded and voted 3-2 (Nina, Tom & Jeff in favor and Gene & David opposed).

Kennebec Health – The Committee would like to know more information regarding assistance to Bowdoinham Residents since 2021.

Bowdoinham Public Library – The Committee discussed the request for \$30,000. Gene made a motion to support the request, George seconded, and all voted in favor (6-0).

A request has not been received from Bowdoinham Historical Society yet.

4. Discuss Personnel Budget

The Committee discussed the proposed personnel budget. The goal is to get personnel to the median wage for their positions, in order to be competitive with municipalities in the area, so that we can keep our personnel and be able to fill positions as necessary. Considerations for the recommended wages include a minimum budget, a baseline wage based on position, personnel (merit, longevity), and our wage variance between positions to ensure they are fair based on the work being done.

5. Other Business

- a. Winter Maintenance Post Road. The Committee discussed taking on the the MDOT contract:
  - Offered contract is \$73,665 for a 2% escalation per year for 9.48 miles of road.
  - While Post Road is scheduled to be paved in 2024, concerns were expressed about the sections of ledge outcropping within the shoulder area and potential damage to the plow truck.
  - Concern was expressed about our ability to maintain a full staff due to difficulty hiring staff.
  - If the above concerns could be resolved, it was agreed that this was a good way of gaining \$32,000 in revenue.
- b. Trust Funds. The Select Board discussed possibly biding this out, so Nicole wanted to discuss timing with Nina and committee. Nina encouraged moving forward with the transfer at this time. Nicole will be working on transferring the trust funds to Camden National.
- c. FY23 Audit. The FY23 Audit has been completed, the auditor will be attending the Select Board's February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to review the audit.

6. Adjourned at 3:00pm