

Town of Bowdoinham
Finance Advisory Committee Meeting
February 18, 2026 at 2:00p.m.
Kendall Meeting Room

Present – David Engler, Steve Smith, George Christopher, Wayne Dorr, Marc Babcock, Nina Mendall, and Nicole Briand, Town Manager

1. Call the Meeting to Order & Establish a Quorum

Meeting was called to order at 2pm.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved as amended.

3. Non-Municipal Budget Requests

a. New Hope Midcoast

b. The Committee reviewed the additional information provided. The Committee voted to recommend New Hope Midcoast's \$280 request, because they provide an important service to Bowdoinham residents if/when necessary.

c. Maine Public

The Committee reviewed the letter request and found it incomplete for processing. They agreed that some residents may believe this organization is too political for municipal funding.

d. Kennebec Behavioral Health

The Committee reviewed the package and requested no additional information. The Committee voted to recommend \$1,000, as they did for Sweetser; to support the valuable services they provide to Bowdoinham residents. Kennebec Behavioral Health's request was \$1,040.

e. Bowdoinham Historical Society – Merrymeeting Hall

The Committee reviewed the package and requested that Bowdoinham Historical Society provide their financial statements, including their balance sheet and Merrymeeting Hall revenue report.

The Committee asked how Bowdoinham residents are made aware of the services that these non-municipal organizations provide. While posters are shared at the Town Office, we should find additional ways to promote the services that these organization provide.

4. Review Department Budget Requests

The Committee reviewed the following budgets:

- Public Works – Tobey Frizzle, Public Works Foreman was present.

The proposed budget of \$968,410 is a \$49,315 increase from the current budget, which includes:

- A 3% wage increase for staff.
- \$24,024 for two part-time seasonal laborers.
- Increases in the following line items:
 - Vehicle Maintenance - \$5,000
 - Building/Facility Maintenance - \$2,000
 - Utilities - \$1,200
 - Road Salt & Sand - \$5,000
- To offset increases the following budget items have been reduced:
 - Mow/Ditching/Culverts – \$5,000
 - Gravel/Grading/Maintenance - \$5,000
 - Winter Gas/Diesel - \$7,000

The Committee discussed the benefits of purchasing a brine system for winter road maintenance and requested estimates for purchasing the equipment and more details on the process and impact on staff time.

- Solid Waste and Recycling – Bryan Benson, Solid Waste & Recycling Director was present. The proposed budget of \$239,073, which is a \$14,287 increase from this year. Almost \$10,000 of which is for expected increases for disposal of waste, from contract increases and disposal of additional items. This department is estimated to receive \$102,000 of revenue, making the net cost to taxpayers \$137,073. The Committee discussed possible future improvements for transfer station operations and possible truck options (box, roll-off) for the department.
- Fire and Emergency Services – Arthur Frizzle, Fire Chief was present. The proposed budget is \$438,637, a \$24,946 increase from this year, the majority of which is due to health insurance. The committee discussed: the plans for the new fire truck and the sale of the older truck and equipment, updates on our ambulance service with Lisbon Emergency, and department's efforts to increase its licensing level.
- Administration – The proposed budget is \$847,698, a \$22,959 increase from the current year. The increases for personnel and insurance is offset with decreases in professional services and insurances. The decrease in Assessing services is possible, due to completing the revaluation this year, we'll be caught up on most of our assessing projects. We seeing a significant decrease in our worker compensation insurance due to having less work-related accidents. The Committee discussed the proposed budget changes.
- General Services – The proposed budget is \$5,000 less than last year, because at the time the budget was created, Nicole had not received the request from the Bowdoinham Historical Society.
- Debt Services – This budget is decreasing by \$6,106 to \$696,656, due to decreases in scheduled bond payments.
- Capital Reserve Accounts – As proposed in the Capital Improvement Plan, budget remains flat at \$650,000.
- Revenues – The Committee agreed to increase the projection for the automobile excise tax from \$725,000 to \$750,000, as the Town collect \$743,109 in FY25. The State has not released their Revenue Sharing projects yet.

5. Financial Reports

No updates from the last meeting.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47pm.