

TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Date: February 10, 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 - None

III. Comments from the Public - None

IV. Approval of Consent Calendar

- A. Meeting Minutes
 - 1. January 27, 2026
- B. Warrants & Financial Reports
 - 1. Treasurer's Warrant #15
 - 2. January 2026 Financial Reports
- C. Reports and Communications
 - 1. Sagadahoc Sheriff's January Report
 - 2. Xfinity Customer Notice

Favreau moved the Board approve the Consent Calendar, as presented; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.

V. Presentation

- A. Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency

Philip B. Davis, Director of the Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency, met with the Board to introduce Chaos, Maine's crisis-response canine. Davis explained that Chaos is trained to detect stress hormones and provide comfort and stress reduction to individuals during crisis situations.

VI. Action Items

- A. Act on Board of Appeals Appointments

Acker moved the Board appoint Marc Babcock and Hope Libby to the Board of Appeals for a term of February 10, 2026 to June 30, 2031; seconded by Hooper. Vote was 5-0.

- B. Act on Community Action Grant Acceptance

Funds from the grant will be used to hire a consultant to assist in writing an Open Space Plan with the Comprehensive Planning Committee using input from the community.

Favreau moved the Board accept the \$75,000 Community Action Grant from the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future's Community Resilience Partnership and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 4-1. Acker opposed.

C. Act on All-Way Stop Demonstration Proposal

In response to limited visibility at lower Main St and River Rd staff collaborating with DOT are proposing installing a temporary all-way stop. This project will evaluate the suitability of an all-way stop at this location.

Acker moved the Board approve the Demonstration Project Proposal for a Temporary All-Way Stop at the intersection of Main Street and River Road; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

D. Act on BUILD Grant for Merrymeeting Trail

Request for permission to apply for FY 2026 BUILD Grant for Preliminary Design & Final Engineering for Merrymeeting Trail Segment.

Acker moved the Board approve applying for a BUILD Grant for the Merrymeeting Trail; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

E. Act on Property Tax Foreclosures & Small Claims Court

Select Board members reviewed the list of properties flagged for automatic foreclosure for unpaid FY2024 property taxes.

Favreau moved the Board to authorize the Treasurer, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944 and Town Meeting Warrant Article #42, to waive the automatic foreclosure of tax liens for Accounts 264, 327, 372, 394, 410, 607, 750, 1607, 1769, 1803, and 1804, to record waiver of foreclosure notices for said properties in the registry of deeds prior to the expiration of the right of redemption; seconded by Hodde. Vote was 5-0.

Hodde moved the Board to authorize the Treasurer, Nicole Briand, to work with the Town Attorney to pursue small claims court for the collection of FY22-FY24 property taxes for the following tax accounts: 1607, 1769, and 1804; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 1-4.
Hodde in favor.

The Select Board then discussed with the Town Manager the option of small claims court to collect taxes on three properties. The Board asked Briand to get more information on this process before they make a decision.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Undesignated Fund Recommendation

The Finance Advisory Committee recommended requesting \$200,000 from the Undesignated Fund to support the Public Works Reserve for the following purposes: to replace the Dodge RAM Pickup Truck and to replenish funds that were used this past year in unplanned expenses related to the roof, insulation, and retaining walls. Board members were in agreement with the committee. This item would be on the warrant, either as one article or two for the community to vote on at Town Meeting.

VIII. Town Manager's Report

- The Ice & Smelt Festival is scheduled for the weekend of February 28th – March 1st with various activities in the village.
- Town Departments Closed – Monday, February 16th in observance of President's Day Holiday.
- The flooring for the back offices is complete, and the upstairs bathroom is almost complete.
- The Recreation and Community Services Director office has moved to the Fire Station, which has allowed re-organizing of the main office area.

- There was a freeze up at the Waterfront Restrooms. The furnace has been repaired. There was no damage to the radiant floor plumbing. We are waiting for parts to complete the remaining plumbing repairs.
To prevent this from happening in the future, we are planning to install:
 - Wireless Thermometer and Moisture Meters for all facilities.
 - Oil/propane sensors for all facilities.
 - Septic Tank Monitors for Waterfront Restrooms and Yellow Building.
- The Town is looking to purchase small generators, to keep all our facilities heated in case of a power outage in the winter.

IX. Announce Future Select Board Meetings

- A. February 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm. - Regular Meeting
- B. March 10, 2026 at 6:30 pm. - Regular Meeting
- C. March 24, 2026 at 6:30 pm. - Regular Meeting

X. Comments from the Select Board Members - None

XI. Comments from the Public

Heather Libby asked the Board if they had considered closing the restrooms at the waterfront during the winter months. Briand commented that the restrooms were designed to be heated.

XII. Executive Session

- A. Convene in Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(A) to discuss Town Manger contract.

Convened 7:20 pm. Adjourned 7:38 pm.

Acker moved the Board enter Executive Session Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405 (6) (A) to discuss Town Manager contract; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0.

Acker moved the Board leave executive session; seconded by Favreau. Vote was 5-0. No action was taken.

XIII. Adjourn

Adjournment was at 7:40 pm.

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