

**TOWN OF BOWDOINHAM  
TOWN MEETING WARRANT MINUTES  
June 11, 2025**

**Sagadahoc, ss  
State of Maine**

To: Preston Hughes, a resident of the Town of Bowdoinham, in said County of Sagadahoc, State of Maine.

**GREETINGS:** In the name of the State of Maine, you are hereby required to notify and warn the voters of the Town of Bowdoinham, in said County and State, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at **Bowdoinham Community School on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00pm**, then and there to act on Articles 1 through 46 as set out below.

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose a moderator to preside at said meeting.

**John Cunningham was sworn in as Moderator.**

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**ORDINANCES**

**It was moved and seconded to group articles 2-11 less 9 in a single vote.  
Vote was 54 Yes, 46 No. Articles were bundled.**

**Articles were adopted.**

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Change References From “Marijuana” to “Cannabis,” to Update Definitions to Reflect Changes in State Statute, and to Enact Performance Standards for Cannabis Establishments” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Revise Various Provisions Relating to Subdivisions” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Revise Various Provisions of Article 5 (Land Use Districts)” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Revise Select Board Permitting/Licensing Process” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 6:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Revise Road Standards” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 7:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Enact Provisions Relating to Waste and Nuisance Yards” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 8:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Make Housekeeping Edits to Address Typographical/Grammatical Errors, Formatting Changes, and to Update Administrative Provisions” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 9:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Land Use Ordinance to Revise Automobile Service Station Use-Specific Performance Standards” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board agreed to not give a recommendation on this article.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt this article. Article was not adopted.**

**ARTICLE 10:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Bowdoinham Solid Waste Management Ordinance” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 11:** Shall an ordinance entitled “An Ordinance to Amend Animal Control Ordinance for the Town of Bowdoinham” be enacted?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article to pass, 5-0.

**Article was adopted.**

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**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT & FUND BALANCE ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to: 1) authorize the Select Board to negotiate and enter a contract with Maine Solar Solutions for the purchase and installation of a grid tied solar electric system at 57 Post Road, and 2) appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE for said project?

**Explanation:** The Town would own and operate our own solar array to be located on the Fire Station roof. The energy produced by the system is anticipated to cover 50% of the Town’s energy use and will be directly credited to the Town’s accounts. The system is warrantied for 25 years with a 9 year payback. Over 25 years the Town will save an estimated \$4,451 annually for a total overall saving of \$111,288. Additionally, this system could qualify for a \$30,000 Federal Tax Credit Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board voted to not give a recommendation on this article and Finance Advisory Committee recommend this article to pass, 5-0.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt this article. Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 13:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$650,000, as itemized below, for the CAPITAL RESERVE Budget?

Capital Improvements:	\$9,500
Town Hall & Town Office:	\$20,000
Cemetery Maintenance:	\$20,000
Solid Waste & Recycling:	\$10,000
Public Works Reserve:	\$512,000
Fire Reserve:	\$72,000
Recreation Reserve:	\$2,000
<u>Electronic Equipment Reserve</u>	<u>\$4,500</u>
Total	\$650,000

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt this article. Article was adopted.**

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**EXPENSE BUDGET ARTICLES**

**ARTICLE 14:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$824,696 for the ADMINISTRATION Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt this article. Article was adopted.**

**It was moved and seconded to group articles 15-31 in a single vote.  
Articles were adopted.**

**ARTICLE 15:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$49,500 for the GENERAL SERVICES Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 16:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$702,762 for the DEBT SERVICES Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 17:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$413,690 for the FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 18:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$104,850 for the TOWN FACILITIES MAINTENANCE Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 19:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$38,877 for the ANIMAL CONTROL AND HARBOR MASTER Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 20:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$919,096 for the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 21:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$224,787 for the SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DEPARTMENT Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 22:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$160,844 for the RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 23:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$157,347 for the PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CODE ENFORCEMENT Budget?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

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**OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION REQUESTS**

**ARTICLE 24:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,820 for Spectrum Generations?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 25:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$762 for The Life Flight Foundation?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 26:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$100 for Kennebec Behavioral Health?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 27:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$1,200 for Tedford Housing?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 28:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$250 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bath-Brunswick?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 29:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$280 for New Hope for Women?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 30:** Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$500 for Sweetser?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

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### **REVENUE BUDGET ARTICLE**

**ARTICLE 31:** Shall the Town vote appropriate the sum of \$1,186,828 from the ESTIMATED REVENUES ACCOUNTS (Non-Property Tax Revenues) to be applied to reduce the 2026 tax commitment?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board (5-0) and Finance Advisory Committee (5-0) recommend this article to pass.

**Article was adopted.**

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### **BUSINESS ARTICLES**

*Select Board recommends the Business Articles #33-#48 to pass, 5-0.*

**ARTICLE 32:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to conduct winter maintenance on a 0.19-mile section of Pratt Road (formally Dingley Road) that was previously discontinued?

**Explanation:** At March 13, 1978 Annual Town Meeting, Article 46 discontinued the portion of Dingley Road (now known as Pratt Road) from the northern boundary of Map R03, Lot 52 to the southern boundary Map R04, Lot 017); a public easement remains. The approximately 0.19-mile section of (now) Pratt Road that is located north of Map R03, Lot 52.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Select Board recommends this article ought not to pass, 5-0.

**It was moved and seconded to adopt this article. Article was not adopted.**

**It was moved and seconded to group articles 33-48 in a single vote.  
Articles were adopted.**

**ARTICLE 33:** Shall the Town vote to fix the third day of November 2025 and the first day of May 2026 when all 2025 real estate and personal property taxes shall be due and payable in semi-annual installments and to instruct the Tax Collector to charge interest at 7.50% per annum on all taxes unpaid after said date(s)?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 34:** Shall the Town vote to establish the interest rate of 3.50% per year on the amount of overpayment to be paid to a taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate or personal property taxes in excess of amount finally assessed pursuant to 36 M.R.S. §506-A?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 35:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept tax payments prior to the commitment of taxes?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 36:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Tax Collector to offer a 2026 Tax Club Plan to taxpayers who enroll no later than July 31, 2025, who pay the total amount of 2026 taxes by monthly payments from September 2025 to June 30, 2026, who abide by the requirements of said plan; who shall receive from the Town, in return for such payments, full credit for such taxes paid without incurring any charge of interest?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 37:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the payment of any overdrafts that may occur in the Town's 2025/2026 budget to be paid out of the undesignated fund balance?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 38:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to appropriate funds from various reserve funds, as they deem necessary, in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which said funds were established?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 39:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to transfer unexpended funds remaining in department expense accounts, which are appropriated by the town meeting for FY25-26, but which are not expended in FY25-26, to related reserve accounts?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 40:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer to accept on behalf of the Town, monetary gifts, and donated equipment and vehicles, and to appropriate said gifts to supplement the accounts and departments as specified by the benefactor?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 41:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the following actions on behalf of the town: (1) to authorize the Select Board to rent, lease, sell, or otherwise dispose of any real estate acquired by the town for non-payment of taxes thereon on such terms as they deem advisable and execute Municipal Quit Claim deeds for same; (2) to authorize the Select Board to keep any real estate acquired for non-payment of taxes or portion thereof for the use of the town when they deem it to be in the town's best interests; and (3) to authorize the Select Board to rent or lease town-owned real estate that was not acquired for non-payment of taxes when they deem it to be in the town's best interest and on such terms as they deem advisable?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 42:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the municipal Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of a tax lien mortgage by recording a Waiver of Foreclosure at the Registry of Deeds in which the Tax Lien Certificate is recorded, prior to the right of redemption expiring, pursuant to 36 M.R.S. § 944?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 43:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer, on behalf of the Town to sell or dispose of obsolete Town equipment, material, and commodities on such terms as they deem proper and place money from said sales into related reserve account?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 44:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Treasurer to accept any donations, gifts or grants of money for the Heating Assistance Program reserve account and to expend available funds from the account for the designated purpose?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 45:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer to enter into multi-year contracts necessary to provide services to the Town?

**Explanation:** Services for the town include but are not limited to ambulance service, banking, road maintenance, snow removal, curbside recycling and trash disposal.

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 46:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board and Treasurer to accept and expend Community Development Block Grant Funds and other federal, state or private grants on behalf of the Town?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 47:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to periodically set fees for returned checks, copies of Town ordinances and other documents, and notary services?

**Article was adopted.**

**ARTICLE 48:** Shall the Town vote to authorize the Select Board to close any road or roads or portions thereof for winter maintenance and to annul, alter, or modify such decisions, pursuant to 23 M.R.S. §2953, and that such orders made by the Select Board shall be a final determination?

**Article was adopted.**

“Attest”

  
Tina Magno, Town Clerk

There were 132 registered voters in attendance.