

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
March 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; John "Boe" Marsh; Steve Page

Town Officials present: Keena Cates, Deputy Town Clerk

Public present: Eric Teele, Bremen Assistant Fire Chief; Tom Papell; Rufus Teele; Kerry Kohnert; Henry Goldberg; Kim Hetherington; Rheanna Sinnett; Susan Davis; Martha Frink; Dale Witham; James Farrar; Naomi Martin; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Water Voskian, Bremen Planning Board; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man; Elizabeth Walztoni, Lincoln County News

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

Eric Teele, Bremen Assistant Fire Chief, explained that the Fire Department's 15-year-old generator needs repairs. He presented an estimate from Mid-Coast Energy Systems for \$4,254.00. The Selectmen discussed whether repair or replacement would be the better choice. Eric was asked to get a replacement estimate for comparison, and the Selectmen will look at it and also look into any other funding such as ARPA funds for possible purchase. The generator is currently working, but needs work.

Selectman Marsh complimented CMP's crews for their hard work in restoring power to Bremen residents. He shared his concerns that Keene Neck Road was completely closed to vehicular traffic for 48 hours affecting 25 households, two businesses and the Audubon facility. He asked if the town could discuss better ways to open roads, especially for emergency access. The firefighters agreed that closures have been a problem, and they have been asking for a better schedule. When wires are down, the Fire Department has to wait for CMP to remove the road obstruction. Tom Papell suggested that CMP might be able to trim more trees near lines in the off-season.

The Selectmen discussed electrical work that needs to be done at the sand and salt shed located behind Bremen's Town House. The estimate for the work is \$561.87 to include materials and labor.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve \$561.87 for electrical repairs to the sand and salt shed.

The Selectmen discussed selling the old fire truck that was replaced with the new one. The 1996 fire truck will be open for bids until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Bids will be opened at a special Board of Selectmen's meeting on that date at 5 p.m. A reserve was placed at \$15,000.00 for the truck.

Select Chair Pieh said Governor Mills has set the date of June 13, 2023, as the election for District #45 to replace Rep. Clint Collamore who resigned. Because the date is so close to the town's Annual Meeting, the town's elections will take place on the same day. Municipal poll hours will coincide with the State's hours. The Annual Town Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 24.

The Selectmen discussed the cover design of the Annual Report. Out of the photos offered, they decided to use a collage featuring the new fire truck. The collage will be sent to each of the Selectmen individually for final approval. Selectmen agreed to use the inside design and indexing presented by Deputy Clerk Cheryl Ferrara.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve past Fire Chief Donnie Leeman for the dedication of the Annual Report.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, asked about the inscription for the plaque for the Weston Spring. She discussed educational plans for tours and student volunteer opportunities. Ann asked about liability coverage for students. The Selectmen asked for a paragraph on what work students would be doing. They also asked if the BCC could find out what other organization do when using students as volunteers. Joan Ray is looking at grants to remove invasive species in the town. Kerry Kohnert cautioned that some programs might use herbicides.

The town's Budget Meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, March 29th.

Walter Voskian said the postponed (due to snow) meeting on March 14 has been moved to March 21. The same agenda will apply. He discussed FOAA training and what it covered.

Selectman Marsh reported on the project with Dr. Brian Beal of the University of Maine Machias and the Downeast Institute. Four local harvesters participated with the experiment over a three-day period. The experiment looked at supercharging clam spawning.

Resident Susan Davis discussed a property in the area of the Town Landing that has received complaints from residents and is suspected of code violations. The Board of Selectmen assured her that the town's Code Enforcement Officer had made visits and cited the property for any code violations. Selectman Marsh said the process takes time and that the Selectmen are following the correct channels. He noted that any information at the town regarding the CEO's report is open to the public as public a document.

Resident Martha Frink discussed her concerns about the sensitivity of the shoreline in the Town Landing area. She would like to see the town do more to protect water resources and access resources and protect those who have made complaints to the town about issues in the area. Martha also questioned how the process works and how the Selectmen could be proactive.


Resident Kim Hetherington said the CEO had been down to the Town Landing area and spoken to the person involved and things got better for a time. She would like the CEO to visit again.

Martha suggested the town might need more CEO time to pursue issues. Select Chair Pieh agreed that more hours might be needed, and town residents might want to vote for more of a CEO presence. Walter from the Planning Board agreed that it would be a good idea.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the Selectmen's minutes of February 16, 2023; the Town Warrants of March 2, 2023 and March 17, 2023; and the supplemental tax warrant.

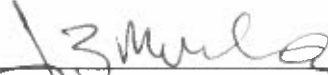
The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:


Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Wendy Pieh, Chair


John Marsh


Stephen Page