

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
April 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**

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

Town Officials present: Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk; Keena Cates, Deputy Clerk

Public present: Water Voskian, Planning Board; Matthew Hanly, School Board Representative; Henry Goldberg; Kim Hetherington; Tom Papell; Kerry Kohnert; Susan Davis; Martha Frink; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man; Elizabeth Walztoni, Lincoln County News

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Matthew Hanly, Bremen's School Board representative presented preliminary numbers for next year's school budget.

The Town Clerk explained that the town could apply for a potential grant for harbor management. The grant should be applied for by May 19. Selectman Marsh will review the application to discuss at the next meeting.

Select Chair Pieh announced that Harbor Master Melanee Osier-Gilbert received the Maine 2022 Spirit of America Foundation award in recognition of her valuable service over the years to her community. Melanee was applauded by those present.

The Board of Selectmen signed a broadband grant application from the Libra Foundation. Henry Goldberg was thanked for his work on the grant.

The Town Clerk explained that she has asked the State of Maine to include Bremen in its upcoming salt bid as it did in the previous year. The price was lower last year due to the buying power of the state with other participating municipalities. Last year, the town got its salt for \$75/ton compared to the previous year when salt cost the town a little over \$100/ton. The town has 2 weeks to accept the bid which will allow the Town Clerk to compare the bid with other vendors.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, announced that the Budget Committee accepted its budget that will now go to town residents for approval. The BCC would like to see a brass plaque at the Weston Spring to be placed on the concrete cap. The BCC budget will cover the cost. The Town Clerk will call the vendor and get an

estimate for Ann. The plaque will honor one of the first land gifts to the town. The BCC is considering inserting its new map into the Annual Town Report to provide all residents with a copy. The BCC budget will cover the cost. The BCC will hold a Trail Work Day on the fourth Saturday of April.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, announced that there will be one informal discussion regarding shoreland steps on an island in Pemaquid Pond for the April 11th meeting. He also noted that the PB budget was accepted as submitted by the Budget Committee. He discussed LD 665, potential legislation to extend the date when LD2003 will become effective.

The Town Clerk announced that no bids were received for the retired fire truck. The Selectmen asked that the bid be put back out with a photograph of the truck in the advertisement. The pumper is still on the truck. The reserve is \$15,000.00. The date set for reviewing bids will be 5 p.m. on Thursday, May 18.

Resident Susan Davis expressed her concern regarding notification when the town receives a complaint. Complaints can be accepted by the town in writing at the office, by U.S. Mail, over the phone or by email. The Selectmen discussed email receipts for complaints received if an email address is provided by the person placing the complaint. The Town Clerk said the complaint policy would need to be amended. The Selectmen will discuss amending the policy at the next meeting.

The Town Clerk announced that this year's municipal election will be held on Saturday, June 24th, prior to the Annual Town Meeting. Elections will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The Annual Meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Absentee ballots for municipal elections will be available. The state election for District #45 will be held on June 13th with the polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots also will be available for the state election.

The Selectmen discussed a browntail moth infestation in a tree overhanging State Road 32. The state has run out of its discretionary funds to remove infestations. The town will contact a tree company for an estimate.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to approve the Selectmen's minutes of March 16, 2023, the Town Warrant of March 31, 2023, and signing the contract for the University of Maine grant.

Matthew Hanly discussed the town's educational reserve. It is currently at \$175,000.00. The budget committee approved additional money in the reserve to be approved at the Annual Meeting. The Selectmen agreed that the reserve was a priority for the town.

The Selectmen then moved into Executive Session for legal/personnel purposes.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Cheryl S. Ferrara
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

W.P. Pieh
Wendy Pieh, Chair

John Marsh
John Marsh

Stephen Page
Stephen Page