

**TOWN OF BREMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON  
September 21, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; Boe Marsh; Steve Page

Town Officials present: Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk; Keena Cates, Deputy Town Clerk; Stan Waltz, Bremen CEO

Public present: Debora Elliott; Tom Papell, Road Commissioner; Kerry Kohnhert; Walter Voskian, Planning Board; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Henry Goldberg, Bremen Broadband Committee; Kim Hetherington; Autumn Mahoney; Walter Radloff; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man; Jonathan Riley, Lincoln County News

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

Bremen's CEO Stan Waltz informed the Board of Selectmen that he issued a condemnation notice for 83 Turner Road and an eviction notice for an illegal occupant at the same location. He described the conditions and actions taken, based on the fact that the structure meets the state statute for a "dangerous building." Stan suggested that the building be torn down by the town and any costs and back taxes be attached to the remaining land. According to the CEO, the owner is deceased and there is no estate.

The CEO said the house should be boarded up and posted. CMP has already cut power to the structure. An advertisement should be placed in the newspaper for three weeks asking for bids to demolish it. Any heating oil will need to be removed.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the above actions, including advertising that the building has been condemned and will be demolished, as stated by the CEO.***

CEO Stan Waltz presented the Board of Selectman with recommendations for raising fees on building, subsurface wastewater (septic), and plumbing permits as has been done in other area towns. These fees help cover the CEO's salary, and the town's fees have not been raised in 18 years. During discussion, the board considered raising the square footage fee to \$.025 for all structures including accessory buildings.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the fee changes recommended by the CEO and agreed to raise the square footage fee to \$.025 per square foot for all structures to become effective September 21, 2023.***

The Town Clerk reported that replacement has begun for town business computers approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The computers to be replaced are currently 10 to 12 years old. Included in the replacement is a new printer that will bring the system into compliance with new requirements by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Tom Papell, Road Commissioner, spoke to Brian of B&B Tree Service about brush cutting the edges of Nobleboro Road. Brian will begin as soon as convenient. CMP cut down five trees on Medomak Road prior to the arrival of Hurricane Lee. Some others did come down during the storm causing a loss of power.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, reported that the Hilton O'Connor Trail was not damaged by the storm. Tom Papell reported that everything looks fine at the Hay Property. The trail work day will be held on the weekend. She discussed weed whackers, cameras at the hay property, and the renewal of membership in the Maine Association of Conservation Commissions. The Town Clerk will once again call the Maine Municipal Association regarding the use of power equipment on town-owned land by non-town employees. The Town Clerk will be receiving an updated version of the mowing map from the BCC.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, reported that the PB will meet on October 10th with one potential application. He discussed making changes to the PB bylaws as discussed with the town's attorney.

Deb Elliott, member of the Bremen Broadband Committee, presented a flyer for financial assistance for Bremen families through the FCC Affordable Connectivity Program, and computer skills training classes to be held at the library. Both are being administered by the National Digital Equity Center and are free and open to everyone.

Resident Autumn Mahoney asked for guidance on appealing an order by the CEO requesting that a permit be submitted when she felt she did not need to submit it. Autumn was asked by the Board of Selectmen to put her request in writing.

Selectman Page updated the ongoing work at the Hillside Cemetery by J&H Landscaping.

Steve Page reported he had placed a cellular game camera at the Hay Property, and as feared, there is not a strong enough internet signal there. The Selectmen and the public discussed several alternatives for cameras at the Hay Property and the Town Landing. Solar battery-powered units also were discussed. At the Hay Property, the sun and the camera angle are not in line for adequate viewing. Monitoring is also an issue. Selectman Marsh suggested investigating a hot spot at the Hay Property.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman March, the Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the selectmen's minutes of September 6, 2023, and the town warrant of September 15, 2023.***

The Board of Selectmen also signed the National Digital Equity Contract and the line extension agreement.

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

Cheryl S. Ferrara  
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

**BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Wendy Pich  
Wendy Pich, Chair

John Marsh  
John Marsh

Stephen Page  
Stephen Page