

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
October 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh (joined via zoom at 5:02 p.m.); Boe Marsh;
Steve Page

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

Public present: Jim Corbett, Bremen EMS Director; Walter Voskian,
Planning Board; Kerry Kohnert; Nate Ferrara; Jack Mohr;
Deb Elliott; Jack Boak; Sal Bartolotta; Eric Teele, Assistant
Fire Chief; Tom Papell, Road Commissioner; Susan Davis;
Martha Frink; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation
Commission; Johnathan Riley, Lincoln County News; Tony
Ferrara, Computer Man

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Selectmen Boe Marsh.

Jim Corbett, Bremen EMS Director; explained that a new EMT had joined the group and would need a radio for his vehicle. Jim asked for up to \$1,300.00 from the EMS donation fund to cover the purchase, taxes, and installation of the radio.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen approved (2-0) up to \$1,300.00 for the purchase of a radio for the new EMT. (The vote was 2-0 since Select Chair Pieh had not yet joined the meeting.)

Selectman Page read a list of names submitted by Sal Bartolotta for the naming of his road in Bremen. Sal's house on this private road is sufficient distance from the crossroad to require a name. The choices submitted were "Bop's Way", "Shayna's Way" and "Sloth Drive."

On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) approved the name "Bop's Way" for the road. (The vote was 3-0 since Select Chair Pieh had joined the meeting.)

The Board of Selectmen discussed appointing two new members to the Bremen Board of Appeals. The names submitted were John Mohr, Jr., and Gordon Lind.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) appointed John Mohr, Jr., and Gordon Lind to the Bremen Board of Appeals for terms ending in 2026.

The Town Clerk asked for approval for a contract with Morton Salt for the product Blizzard Wizard, a special salt used on roads during extremely cold temperatures. The town's regular salt is purchased through the State of Maine. The Morton contract bid is for \$113.58 per ton for up to 100 tons based on usage. Last year's cost was \$121.52 per ton.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) approved signing the contract for Blizzard Wizard from Morton Salt at \$113.58 per ton for up to 100 tons.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, reported that Selectman Page had walked the Hilton-O'Conner Trail with Kerry Kohnart and identified the areas to be mowed using the map designed by Susan Davis. Kerry also is working on transplanting seedling trees within the trail area to more barren areas where trees have been downed by storms. Her work will continue in the spring. Kerry discussed the sumac in the Hay Property.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, reported that the PB met on October 10th and approved a dormer on a non-conforming structure. Walt discussed the volume discrepancy in the town's ordinances now being addressed by the Ordinance Review Committee. He also read a draft amendment regarding Planning Board bylaws.

Road Commissioner Tom Papell reported that the Nobleboro Road brush cutting is done. The Road Commissioners would like to schedule additional work if funding is available. Originally, B&B Tree Service gave an estimate of 4 to 5 days to complete the work schedule established by the commissioners. Funds for one day's work were authorized by the Selectmen.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) authorized another day's work by B&B Tree Service at a cost of \$3,500.

The Road Commissioners, with the help of Jody Sprague, will look at issues arising from culverts on Rial Herald and Medomak roads. The Town Clerk will find out what funding is available in the budget for additional roadwork.

The Town Clerk reported that Max Johnstone, the town's consultant, had reached out about matching grants to explore reviving the town's baseball field. The ASK grant would cover the cost associated with planning. Other grants could help with the actual work. The Selectmen wanted to get more input and quantify the need.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) authorized looking into an ASK grant for the ballfield and possibly pickleball.

Selectman Page tested a new camera technology at the Hay Property and the Town Landing. He confirmed that there was not a strong enough cellular signal to operate a cellular camera at either location. The next level would be a hard-wired, Wi-Fi compatible camera system, costing between \$10,000-\$12,000 to do both properties. It was mentioned that some community members are opposed to surveillance. Selectman Page suggested that the issue be put to a town vote.

Resident Martha Frink asked for more patrol hours in the town. Previous attempts to secure additional hours were not realized due to staffing shortages at the Sheriff's Office. The Town Clerk felt that issue may have been resolved at the Sheriff's Office, and she would try to add money for additional hours to the next annual town warrant.

The Selectmen opened sealed bids for the demolition of a dangerous house on Turner Road. Two bids were received. The first bid opened was from Seamus Gilbert Excavation, LLC, for \$14,500.00, The second bid opened was from Brother Building Company for \$15,725.00. The Selectmen compared the two bids and defaulted to the lower bid from Seamus Gilbert Excavation, LLC.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) accepted the bid for \$14,500 from Seamus Gilbert Excavation, LLC.

Resident Jack Boak asked the Board of Selectmen to consider an electronic fish counter for alewives leaving Muscongus Pond. Once the numbers of fish can be verified and are sufficient, there might be an opportunity for harvesting them. Jack will check with Bristol on their volunteer counting, come up with an estimate, and determine who assumes the cost.


On a motion duly made by Select Marsh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) approved the Board of Selectmen's minutes of October 5, 2023, the town warrant of October 13, 2023, and the supplemental tax warrant.

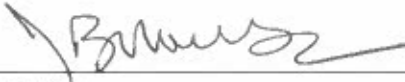
The meeting moved into Executive Session at 5:58 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:


Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Wendy Pieh, Chair



John Marsh

Stephen Page