

**TOWN OF BREMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES  
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON  
February 1, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; Steve Page

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

Public present: Steve Wallace, Ordinance Review Committee; Walter Voskian, Planning Board; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Kerry Kohnert; Shane Sidelinger; David Adkins and Tom Papell, Road Commissioners; Susan Davis; Walter Radloff; Juanita Roushdy; Mary Berger; Jonathan Riley, Lincoln County News; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

Select Chair Wendy Pieh announced that Selectman Boe Marsh was in transit from Scotland and would not be attending the meeting.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) appointed John Mohr, Jr., Mary Sue Weeks, Mark Tenney, Eric Teele, Joseph Viti, Jane Oliver Gravel, and Kerry Kohnert to the Budget Committee.***

The Town Clerk presented an annual contract from CAI Technologies for services to upgrade the town's tax maps. The contract is \$1,000.00 per year.

***On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Select Chair Pieh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) approved the CAI Technologies contract for \$1,000.00.***

The Town Clerk explained that the owners of Seascope Investments, LLC, (the Maine Cat building at 300 Waldoboro Road) have a desire to split the property and were in discussion with Town Assessor Murphy, CEO Waltz, and Town Attorney Drum. The owners are asking for the Board of Selectmen's support and approval to split the property.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) agreed to table discussion until a later meeting.***

Selectman Page discussed his attendance at a session to review Nobleboro Transfer Station costs. Bremen's contract with the transfer station runs with the calendar year, so the new contract beginning January 1st increased by approximately 17 percent and will affect the current fiscal budget ending on June 30, 2024. Money may have to be expended out of reserve to

cover the increased cost. The new contract comes in at \$66,000 including the increase. The contract that ended on December 31, 2023, was signed for \$55,000.00. That line item will be about \$6,000.00 short of the amount budgeted, so a special town meeting will need to be called to appropriate the shortfall. Also, the increase will need to be considered when budgeting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) agreed to accept the Nobleboro Transfer Station contract.***

Select Chair Pieh announced that the town offices will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6th and 7th for required state training.

Selectman Page discussed revisiting the Comprehensive Plan. He has spoken with the town's consultant for more information. He felt the town needs to discuss how to approach setting up a committee to address it, or possibly hiring a consultant, or a combination of the two. Select Chair Pieh asked that the discussion be tabled until the next meeting to allow Selectman Marsh to be part of the discussion.

The Select Board opened bids for mowing for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. J&H Landscaping bid \$15,800.00. Shane Sidelinger bid \$13,500.00. Chair Pieh asked that the vote be tabled until the next meeting to allow Selectman Marsh to be part of the decision.

Road Commissioners David Adkins and Tom Papell reported that as the winter progresses potholes are getting bigger. Road Commissioner Papell asked if Bremen would be receiving any support from the MDOT that received Federal infrastructure money recently. The Road Commissioners are still working on a proposed activities that will need to be budgeted.

Steve Wallace, chairman of the Ordinance Review Committee, gave the Selectmen a progress report on changes to town ordinances regarding LD2003 state mandates and random other possible changes. The town will hold a public hearing and vote, possibly in April, for residents to speak to the ordinance changes.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, discussed a zoom meeting for community leaders to review the Inland Fish and Wildlife maps and to reflect on how they can be useful to the community. There will be an in-person meeting on this subject in May. A subgroup has been working with the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District on mapping and identifying of invasive species. On February 10th there will be a trail walk led by a naturalist on the Hilton O'Connor Trail. There has been a donation of 236 acres on McCurdy Pond to Coast Rivers Conservation Trust.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, announced the PB will meet on February 13th but has no applications. The meeting will be devoted largely to reviewing information from the Ordinance Review Committee. Walter asked if the budget process could be set at a later date.

Select Chair Pieh announced that budget requests are due by February 16th, Articles for the Town Report are due by March 15th. The Town Clerk said the Budget Committee will be meeting in the third week of March.

Resident Susan Davis asked about damage in Bremen from winter storms. The boathouse owned by Audubon was moved off its foundation. Tom Papell said a few homes were damaged on Muscongus Road. The Town Clerk said the State of Maine has been in contact with the town regarding damage. For questions about damage and regulations, please call the CEO. Steve Wallace, ORC, said the state has written new regulations to address the need to raise buildings in the floodplain area.

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) approved the Board of Selectmen's minutes of January 18, 2024, and the town warrant of February 2, 2024.***

***On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (2-0 with Selectman Marsh absent) moved to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.***

**A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:**

Cheryl S. Ferrara  
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

**BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

WDP

Wendy Pieh, Chair

J Marsh

John Marsh

SP

Stephen Page