

**TOWN OF BREMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM AND IN-PERSON
March 21, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.**

Selectmen present: Wendy Pieh; Boe Marsh; Steve Page

Town Representatives: Melanie Pendleton, Town Clerk; Keena Cates, Deputy Town Clerk; Tom Papell, Road Commissioner
Bruce Poland, Fire Chief

Public present: John Mohr; Kerry Kohnert; Walter Radloff; Susan Davis; Walter Voskian, Planning Board; Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission; Debora Elliott; Tony Ferrara, Computer Man

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

The Town Clerk reported that the Budget Committee met and completed its work on March 20. Select Chair Wendy Pieh said the committee was supportive of all the requests that were made with a couple of adjustments.

The Town Clerk presented the prospective Shellfish Warden contract between the Town of Bremen and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. The contract price and services remained the same as last year's contract.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) accepted the new contract with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for Shellfish Warden services.

The Select Board reviewed and signed the Lincoln County Commissioners Assessor's tax bill. The new amount for the current year is \$380,523.00. The increase is approximately \$47,000.00 over the previous year. The amount is determined by assessed values of properties in the town and is non-negotiable. The assessed values in Bremen total \$323,950,000.00.

Fire Chief Bruce Poland announced that the new generator for the Fire Station would be installed during the week of March 25th. This will replace an older, outdated generator. The Board discussed disposal or sale of the removed generator. Since the older generator is the property of the town, the Town Clerk will look at options.

The Selectmen were asked to write a support letter for the Bremen Library to accompany and application for an Ask Grant offered by the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) agreed to sign a letter in support of the library's request for an Ask Grant.

Walter Voskian, Planning Board, explained that the March 12th PB meeting was an informal discussion on the boat house owned by Audubon that was moved off its foundation during the January storms. The facilities docks and wharfs also were damaged.

Ann Nesslage, Bremen Conservation Commission, asked if the BCC could hold its community presentation and pizza party in the Town Center meeting room. Select Chair Pieh said that was do-able. She also asked whether the town could potentially have a moratorium on solar farms until some kind of an ordinance could be written. The Town Clerk will look into the question.

Cheryl Ferrara reported that the first public forum – to discuss ordinance changes to comply with the state’s recent housing laws for additional housing and accessory dwellings – yielded good questions and comments. Ben Averill from the Department of Economic and Community Development gave a presentation. The second forum, a continuation of the first, will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday March 28th.

Bremen’s roads are still posted due to softness from thawing and variable weather.

Resident Susan Davis asked if there had been any resolution with the Turner Road property.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Select Chair Pieh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) moved the discussion of the Annual Report cover and dedication to the next meeting.

Select Chair Pieh announced that nomination papers are available for one Select Board seat, four Planning Board seats, one alternate Planning Board seat, and one School Board seat. Nomination papers must be returned to the town by April 23, 2024, to get the candidate’s name on the ballot.

On a motion duly made by Select Chair Pieh and seconded by Selectman Page, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) approved the Board of Selectmen’s minutes of March 7, 2024, and the town warrant of March 15, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Selectman Page and seconded by Selectmen Marsh, the Board of Selectmen unanimously (3-0) moved to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST:

Cheryl S. Ferrara
Cheryl Ferrara, Deputy Town Clerk

BREMEN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

W.P.P.
Wendy Pieh, Chair

John Marsh
John Marsh

Stephen Page
Stephen Page