

**Approved Minutes
Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

On Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., the Board of Selectmen met in Meeting Room A, at the Bow Municipal Building, 10 Grandview Road, Bow, NH 03304.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Wayne called the meeting to order. Present: Vice Chairman Michael Wayne, Selectman Christopher Nicolopoulos, Selectman Matthew Poulin, Selectwoman Angela Brennan, Town Manager David Stack, Finance Director Geoff Ruggles, Administrative Assistant Tonia Lindquist and members of the public.

Not Present: Chairman Bruce Marshall

1. Vice Chair Wayne to address the public

Vice Chair Wayne thanked the community, first responders, welfare department and library for their assistance in recovering from the windstorm we had over Christmas weekend. Vice Chair Wayne also thanked all the volunteers, especially the citizens in Bow who went onto social media to offer assistance and opened their homes to those in need. This is Bow, and everyone deserves a hand.

Selectman Nicolopoulos echoed Vice Chair Wayne sentiments and went on to state how proud he was of the way this community helps each other. Selectman Poulin thanked Selectman Nicolopoulos for helping him out during the storm and Selectwoman Brennan echoed everyone's sentiments. She too was without power. It was great to see the community come together to help each other out.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. PUBLIC HEARING

IV. MEETINGS

1. Mridula Naik – Department Update

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Naik came before the Board to present her department update. She noted that her office has collected over \$100,000 alone today in property taxes. They have collected overall about 90% of the property taxes. The 2018 tax liens have been paid and they have registered 235 dogs so far this year.

Selectman Nicolopoulos commended Ms. Naik and her team for their hard work.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Administrative Abatement – Maura Geddes Rev Trust – 8 Blevens Drive - \$5,683
2. Administrative Abatement and Refund – BIP, LLC – 375 River Road - \$2,982

3. Appointment to BDC – Andy Foote
4. Appointment to Planning Board – Mike Lawton
5. Yield Tax Levy – Charles and Susanne Morley – 40 Dunbarton Center Road - \$412.01

A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to approve the consent agenda as presented. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

VI. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town Manager Stack read from his Town Manager’s Report dated January 6, 2023 (attached).

Noting, not on his report, he swore in Officer Matthew Webber, the department’s newest police officer. There will be a formal swearing-in ceremony at a later date.

VII. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

1. Acceptance of the December 6, 2022, December 13, 2022 and December 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to approve the December 6, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

The Board will table the December 13, 2022 meeting minutes until the next meeting for clarification on who made the motion to go into non-public session at the beginning of the meeting.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to approve the December 20, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

2. Public Safety Center Emergency Generator

Buildings and Facilities Manager Chris Andrews reported that over the Christmas weekend storm, the emergency generator at the Public Safety Center failed. This generator has been a problem for quite some time. He is requesting the generator be replaced.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectwoman Brennan to expend up to \$65,000 of ARPA funds for a new emergency generator to replace the faulty one and to authorize Town Manager Stack to sign any necessary documents. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

3. Request for Warrant Article to authorize Conservation Commission to exercise optional powers.

Conservation Chair Sandy Crystall requested that a warrant article be put on the 2023 Town Meeting Warrant. If passed, the article would authorize the Conservation Commission to give money for contributions to “qualified organizations” without taking a property interest.

Selectwoman Brennan asked Ms. Crystall if this would alleviate the workload for the Conservation Commission by not having to maintain so many properties. Chair Crystall stated it would make it easier, there wouldn't be as many properties to monitor.

Selectman Nicolopoulos inquired as to where the Conservation Commission gets its monies. Chair Crystall stated they receive their money from the Land Use Change Tax.

Selectman Nicolopoulos would like specific wording that would guarantee Bow Open Spaces would receive these funds.

Bob Dawkins, Bow Open Spaces is in support. Bow Open Spaces has aided and assisted acquisition of land and maintaining trails in Bow since 1997.

Tom O'Donovan, Bow Drinking Water Committee Chair is in support of this warrant article, because land conservation plays an important role in their work as a committee.

Selectman Nicolopoulos would like Town Counsel to see if the wording can be limited to Bow controlled entities only.

4. Municipal Building Renovation Phase II

As a follow-up from the last Board Budget Work Session Finance Director Ruggles and Buildings and Facilities Manager Chris Andrews reviewed with the Board the cost breakdown for Phase II of the Municipal Building.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectwoman Brennan to reduce the bottom-line figure from \$126,000 to \$90,000 for the Municipal Building Renovation Phase II. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

5. Annual Town Report - In Memoriam and Dedication

The Board will discuss this in their scheduled non-public.

6. Tree Removal at Safety Center

Town Manager Stack wanted to bring to the Board's attention that on the original site plan for the Public Safety Center there is a 100-foot buffer assuring the abutters that the 100-foot buffer of trees would remain. There is also a note on the plan stating "The wooded terrain downslope of the public safety building functions as a vegetated buffer to provide stormwater treatment. No future tree clearing beyond what is shown on these plans will be permitted."

Ted Bardwell, 14 Bow Bog Road shared his concern with the Board, that you cannot see the Public Safety Center from Bow Center Road and by removing some of those trees it would increase the sledding hill for the children.

The Board will table this until the Board's next meeting on January 24, 2023.

7. Speed Limits Signs at I-89 Exit 1

As a follow up request from last meeting, Town Manager Stack reported that the NH DOT removed the 40 MPH speed limit signs on I-89 at Exit 1 southbound. The DOT will not be replacing them.

A MOTION was made by Vice Chair Wayne and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to request the Department of Transportation put the 40 MPH Speed Limit signs back up. MOTION PASSED 4-1 Selectman Nicolopoulos opposed.

8. Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club Trail Access Permission

Town Manager Stack presented a Trail Access Permit that had been submitted by the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club for Board approval. There was back and forth discussion on whether the permit would be for an indefinite period of time and that they were seeking permission on existing trails.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to give permission to the Bow Pioneers for one year for the town land outlined in the addendum.

The Motion was withdrawn and further discussion ensued.

Residents from Pine Crest, Fieldstone Drive, Heidi Lane, and Pepin Drive shared their concerns that permission should not be granted to the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club while they are out of compliance and the continuous lack of information the Snowmobile Club provides.

Selectwoman Brennan shared her concern with the lack of information on the trail access permission request they provided.

The Board will table this until the next meeting to allow time for a member of the Board and Town Manager to meet with the Bow Pioneers.

9. Acceptance of Resignation from Planning Board - Garth Orsmond

The Board read Garth Orsmond's resignation letter.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to accept Mr. Orsmond's resignation with regrets. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

10. Bow Energy Committee - Permission to Solicit Renewable Energy Proposals on Town Property

Jessica Dunbar, Energy Committee Chair requested permission from the Board to move forward with soliciting renewable energy proposals at or on the town properties identified in her memo to the Board of Selectmen dated January 6, 2023.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin that we as a Board ask town counsel's assistance in drafting a Warrant Article that would allow us to enter into leases on town owned land. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to support the efforts of the Bow Energy Committee to seek RFPs for town owned land and to the extent supported by the Baker Free Library for any economically viable renewable energy project. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

Before moving on to reports Town Manager Stack revisited with the Board a budget line item from the Police Department requesting a withdrawal from the capital reserve an additional \$9,000 for a new cruiser. The Board had previously approved \$50,000.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to authorize an additional \$9,000 to be withdrawn from the police capital reserve for the purchase of a cruiser. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

VIII. REPORTS

1. Right to Know Log

The Board reviewed the Right to Know log.

2. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund

The Board reviewed the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund spreadsheet and updated accordingly.

3. Review of follow up task list for 2022

4. Outstanding Projects

The Board reviewed the Outstanding Projects list and updated accordingly.

5. I-89/I-93 Committee Charge - Andy Foote

Town Manager Stack updated the Board. He and Community Development Director Makinen met with Mr. Foote to discuss his thoughts. They are still working with him to narrow down the charge or to determine if the proposed committee is even necessary.

6. Property Clarification - Spruce Wheelock

There was no update available on this and the Board tabled this item until the next meeting.

IX. BOTTOM LINES

Selectwoman Brennan: Thank you everybody for coming out. We love to see the room full and to hear from our community. Thank you to the Energy Committee for coming in once again to get this Board's approval on moving forward on renewable energy options.

Selectman Poulin: Thank you for all the well wishes, and thank you to the residents of Bow that donated to pay school lunch balances, I went to do the same and there were none, they had already been paid. Happy New Year everyone.

Selectman Nicolopoulos: I missed the New Year Day pancake breakfast; I heard it was pretty well attended. I was invited to participate in oral interviews for the Fire Department, there were five candidates going through the process. I serve on the budget committee as the Select Board representative. The Select Board has a budget that is nearly flat, with no tax impact next year. A lot of work went into that by our department heads. The school is looking at a \$1.7 million budget increase.

Vice Chair Wayne: Just want to wish everyone a happy new year, may 2023, be better than 2022.

Chairman Marshall: not present

X. NON-PUBLIC SESSION - NH RSA 91-A:3, II (C) (D) (E)

- (c) May adversely affect reputation of non-BoS person
- (d) Sale, lease or acquisition of property that if discussed in public would benefit an interested party.
- (e) Pending claims or litigation

A MOTION was made by Selectman Nicolopoulos and duly seconded by Selectman Poulin to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (c),(d) and (e). A roll call was taken. Vice Chair Wayne – yes, Selectman Nicolopoulos – yes, Selectman Poulin – yes, and Selectwoman Brennan – yes. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

(d) A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to seal the minutes until the agreement is signed.

(e) A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Selectman Nicolopoulos to seal the minutes until the after the lease is finalized.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m. A MOTION was made by Selectman Poulin and duly seconded by Vice Chair Wayne to return to public session, and voted unanimously to adjourn.