



**Select Board Meeting  
MINUTES  
Bristol Town Office – January 24, 2024**

*Select Board Members Present: Chad Hanna, Kristine Poland, Paul Yates*

*Also present: A. Beaudet, J. Corbett, R. Francis, R. Manning, J. Riley, J. Stolecki, M. Zaccadelli, M. Ziarnik*

Hanna called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes**

On a motion by Poland and a second by Yates, the minutes of January 17 were passed unanimously.

**Broadband Expansion**

Corbett and Manning gave a brief review on the status of fiber optic installation. Over the past three years fiber optic has been installed along most state and town roads and several private roads. Up to this point, installation of fiber has been financed by ARPA funds and ConnectME grants. The fiber installation project focused first on unserved areas (areas with no internet service) and then underserved areas (areas with internet service but below 25Mbps download speed). The current phase of this project includes installing fiber in the areas of Southside and McFarland Shore Roads and Huddle Road. Future projects will include installing fiber in the areas of Southern Point Road and Back Shore Road. Manning suggested the National Digital Equity Center and the Affordable Connectivity Programs for grant programs.

**Bristol Fire & Rescue Budget**

BFRs budget has an overall increase of \$7,100 from the previous year. Projects scheduled for 2024 include upgrading fill stations, electrical work on Tank 1, and remodeling at Station 2. Rescue 2 needs new tires. Sutter will add a new budget line for testing and certification. The dry hydrant installation in Round Pond is still planned. A grant for new extrication equipment was received in 2023 from the Steven King Foundation. He will apply for a grant for fill stations in 2024. The search for a new fire truck will start this year, BFR hopes to have cost estimates by 2025.

**Old Bristol Historical Society**

Ziarnik discussed the archival vault located on the OBHS campus. He sought guidance on an agreement between the town and OBHS if town records were to be stored in the vault. The records would need to be inventoried before being moved and OBHS offered volunteers. Yates suggested taking a small number of records at first and cautioned that a lot of public handling of the records may lead to their deterioration.

OBHS recently met with the Budget Committee about the 2024 submitted request for \$9,500. The Budget Committee voted down the request (0-8, 3 abstained). OBHS may withdraw the request for funding. They have considered lowering their requested amount and possibly re-meeting with the Budget Committee.

### **Storm Debris**

Debris floated into Pemaquid Harbor and is strewn along the northern shore of Lower Pemaquid River and in the Upper River. Stolecki asked for clarification for cleaning the debris. Because of the amount of debris, he thought it would take 2-3 more days to get it cleared. The floating debris is a navigational hazard within the harbor. Free dumping of storm debris for taxpayers closes at the Transfer Station on Friday, January 26. All agreed to allow a few additional days for cleaning up Pemaquid Harbor with a deadline of 4pm on Wednesday, January 31.

South Bristol has been keeping a dumpster at their Town Landing for storm debris.

### **2024 Budget Review**

Costs associated with emergency repair to the roads will be carried in this year's roads budget. The Board agreed to keep as much surplus on hand to see what costs may arise in 2024 for other emergency repairs. \$20,000 will be added to the Bridge capital reserve. \$15,000 will be appropriated for Ordinance Administration. Knowles Industries quoted a price of \$30,000 for a new fence along the Bristol Mills dam.

### **Hatchtown Bridge**

The engineering design is complete, the utility pole has been moved and the ROW purchased. The project will go out to bid when a start date is determined.

### **Regular Business**

Correspondence. A thank you note was received by the Maine Lobstermen's Association a donation appropriated at the 2023 Town Meeting. A thank you letter for folks who helped clean up New Harbor was reviewed. A relocation notice of a utility pole along Route 32 in Chamberlain was received.

The school community asked if the June 11 Primary could be relocated so the gym could be used to store furniture during construction. The last day of school is on June 7. Bizarro suggested that half of the gym be used for furniture storage until June 12. The Select Board agreed with this. The June 11 Primary will be held at the Bristol School gymnasium.

Warrants. The Board reviewed and signed AP and Payroll warrants for the Town Office, Fire Department, Parks Department and Transfer Station.

Public Comment. Francis requested the Board sign a Letter of Support for the Community Resilience Partnership. LCRPC and Coastal Rivers have partnered together for a Service Provider grant. They will assist Bristol with a Community Action Grant program. Resiliency projects in Bristol will focus on roads located near the ocean.

Hanna gave notice of the following upcoming public meetings:

- Planning Board, Thursday, February 1st @ 6:30pm, Town Office
- Fish Committee, Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm, Ellingwood Center

- Shellfish Committee, Monday, February 5th @ 6:00pm, Town Office
- Parks Department, Tuesday, February 6th @ 6:00pm, Ellingwood Center
- School Board/Budget Committee, Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm, Bristol School.  
Select Board meeting to immediately follow.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Bizarro  
Town Administrator