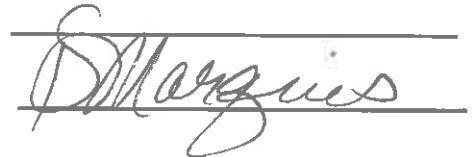


**Selectmen's Meeting  
Town of Bowdoin, Maine**

**March 20, 2017**

**A true record is recorded:**



**Present were:**

**Marc Bernier**

**Michelle Keleher**

**Deborah Marquis**

**6:30 PM Pledge of Allegiance**

**Administrative:**

The Selectmen reviewed and initialed and/or signed the following:

- MMA 2016 Unemployment Fund Balance Report
- Letter and corresponding brochure and poster on the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1979
- Letter and automobile schedule from Corinna Steeves of Maine Municipal Association confirming insurance coverage on the Town's vehicles including the newly purchased Kenworth Fire Truck.
- MSAD 75 notices of upcoming meetings and agendas.

**Audience Participation:**

- A meeting to discuss better broadband service for rural areas of Bowdoin was held with ConnectME Authority Associate Executive Director Lisa Leahy, State Rep. Seth Berry, Sagadahoc County Commissioner, Charles Crosby III and several local concerned citizens.
- Marc explained the Town is looking to span blank areas where a large empty area is preventing more dense areas from getting cable/internet service. The Town also is questioning the approximately \$400,000 cost to the Town for expanding the service.
- Lynda Weeks, a member of Bowdoin's newly formed Cable/Internet Committee, said her husband got a price from FairPoint to expand fiber to their area of West Rd near the Litchfield line. The estimated price was \$7800.
- Lisa Leahy, explained that ConnectME works with communities and although funding is limited and a build out of the infrastructure needed is slow, (she believes build out will come by 2022), there are things that the Towns can do now. She urged the Town to seek approval for a planning grant, to get a professional to help the Town get a clearer idea of what they can do. She passed out flyers and a guide book to explain the process for applying.
- Seth Berry said as chairman of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, he has proposed a bill seeking authorization of a general bond issue to increase rural Maine's access to broadband Internet service. He is proposing an investment of \$100 million. He said his proposal would help give our children access to education and encourage young people to stay in Maine.
- Charles Crosby asked Lisa what steps insure getting the necessary grants. She said starting with the planning grant and getting the professionals to guide the Town through the process. She said the

professionals will meet with the Town first then go to the providers. She said ConnectME will work with Towns even if they do not get any grant money.

- There are currently 6 members on the Cable/Internet Committee for Bowdoin.
- The Selectmen thanked Lisa Leahy, Seth Berry, and Charles Crosby and all the interested residents for their interest and for providing useful information for the Town to move forward.

**Adjournment:**

**At 8:00 PM Deb made a motion to adjourn, Michelle seconded, the vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned.**