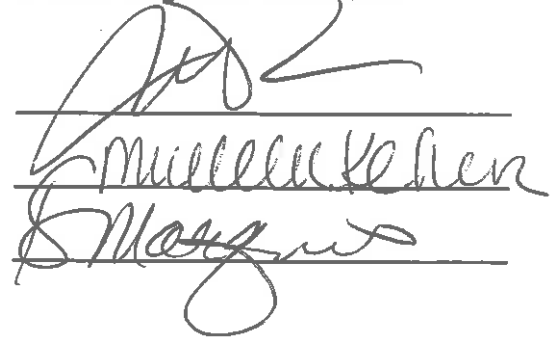


**Selectmen's Meeting
Town of Bowdoin, Maine**

March 19, 2018

A true record is recorded:



Two handwritten signatures are written over two horizontal lines. The first signature is above the line and the second is below it.

Present were:

**Marc Bernier
Michelle Keleher**

6:30 PM Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

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

- A letter from first grader, Caleb Chase, from Bowdoin Central School thanking the Selectmen for our recycling program and asking if there is anything the children can do to make our Town cleaner
- A/P & P/R Warrant 6
- Selectmen's minutes for March 5 and March 12th
- General Journal #1
- Job description and agreement with Dennis Douglass, CEO and LPI, who started working today
- Public awareness letter from Maine Natural Gas
- An e-mail from a resident on West Rd regarding his mailbox being taken down by the plow (This will be referred to the contracted plower for that street.)
- MSAD 75 notices of meetings and agendas for March 20th and March 22nd
- A copy of a letter from Androscoggin Bank to George Bernier advising that they will be sending him an anonymous survey shortly to give opinions on how they may serve the Town better.

Other Business:

Mark Conrad, Business Manager from MSAD 75 and Kim Totten, School Board member who is also on the budget committee, came in to discuss the MSAD 75 budget for 2019 and its process. Mr. Conrad explained that the Superintendent submits his recommendations and the Board of Directors then goes through each item to determine which can be reduced or which need to be increased. Mr. Conrad talked about the proposal by the Superintendent to establish a new preschool program at a cost of \$163,287. He said the State would cut subsidies by more than \$213,000 if the school does not provide preschool services. Marc said he feels it would make more sense for the State to subsidize private preschool programs to give more children a chance for preschool.

Regarding the Superintendent's proposed budget reductions, an item to eliminate a Special Ed position which is currently vacant, brought questions from Michelle who feels that is not an area to cut a position. She said it is nearly impossible to find substitute teachers for Special Ed and a class of Special Ed students of 5 can seem like a class of 30. Kim Totten said the Board does keep a close eye on conditions in a class room and would quickly look for some support if it were requested by a teacher.

Mr. Conrad said the proposed increase for 2019 is approximately 2.76% but this is just a beginning estimate. He stated the Town will see roughly a \$700,000 increase in 3 or 4 years when the bond for the new school kicks in. Marc expressed his concern about the continuing increases year after year whereby towns have to hold back on other Town necessities to pay for constant school increases.

Marc thanked Mr. Conrad and Kim Totten for coming to the meeting.

Guy Lebida who was at the meeting to talk to the Selectmen because he is running for the State Legislature, also had questions for Mr. Conrad and talked to the Selectmen about other issues concerning the tax burdens on property owners. He talked about a need to get more companies to move into the State to improve the economy, but also a need to decrease taxes to make it profitable for companies to come here. He told the Selectmen to call him at any time and he will be glad to come in. Marc told him to feel free to come in at any time.

Carol asked the Selectmen to talk about salaries. Marc told Michelle that we had to increase one salary because the minimum wage went up in January. The Selectmen said they will discuss salaries at the meeting on the 26th when all members are in.

Clyde had questions about differences between the two proposals for networking. Marc told him to ask Maine Stream to define some of the items, and they will discuss them on the 26th.

Adjournment: At 7:55 PM, Marc made a motion to adjourn, Michelle seconded and the meeting adjourned.