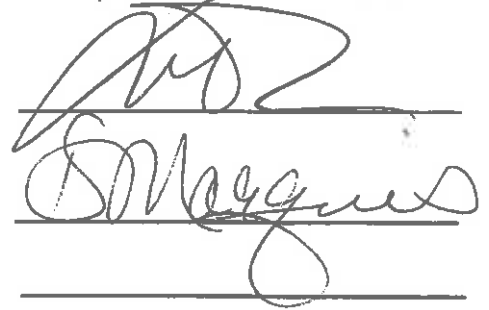


**Selectmen's Meeting  
Town of Bowdoin, Maine**

**July 16, 2018**

**A true record is recorded:**



**Present were:**

**Marc Bernier**

**Deborah Marquis**

The meeting was held at Bowdoin Central School to discuss the status of the Bowdoin Internet Committee with respect to expanding cable and internet coverage to under-serviced and non-serviced addresses within Bowdoin.

**6:30 PM Pledge of Allegiance**

**Administrative:**

**Present:** Seth Berry, Maine House of Representatives  
John Lewis, Representing the Town on the Cable Internet Committee  
Mark Ouellette, Axiom Representative  
30 Residents of the Town

**Administrative:**

- The Selectmen signed and/or reviewed the following:
- Journal Entry # 16
- Checking and Sweep Account reconciliation for June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Seth Berry read a proclamation to the Selectmen recognizing the Town of Bowdoin which is celebrating its 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation. This was sponsored by Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc County and Representative Berry of Bowdoinham. He presented the Selectmen with a certificate which reads as follows:

**STATE OF MAINE**  
Be it known to all that  
We, the Members of the Senate and  
House of Representatives,  
Join in recognizing  
the Town of Bowdoin  
which is celebrating its 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation. We extend  
to all the citizens of Bowdoin our congratulations on this anniversary;  
And be it ordered that this official expression of legislative sentiment be sent  
forthwith on behalf of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature and the people of the State of Maine  
Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of June 2018, at the State Capitol, Augusta, Maine
- Signed by: Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate; Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House, Heather J.R. Priest, Secretary of the Senate, and Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House.

- Seth Berry said Maine is 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation on broadband use. Some specific reasons we urgently need it are jobs, the educational gap, health care (remotely checking in), and farming. He co-sponsored 2 bills, one of which is still in progress. One of the proposed bills is \$100,000,000.00 for planning and infrastructure grants. He said there is bi-partisan support though does not believe the governor would support more than \$20,000,000.00. There are also bills in the U.S.Senate to increase funding for infrastructure and planning grants. Federal standard for internet speed is 10 Mbps upload and 10 Mbps download speed.
- Mark Ouellette believes fiber is the best though most costly option for the Town. He estimated it would cost approx. \$3.6 million to bring fiber to every home in Bowdoin. He said there are various ways of funding the fiber project though the likelihood of there being grants available for Bowdoin are slim as the Town is not considered underserved. The State has limited funds at this time. He estimated \$700,000 of the \$3.6 million would be for permitting/make ready and pole replacement. He also estimated the connection to each home would be approximately \$1,000.00. Mark stressed that with a fiber project the Town would own the infrastructure and be in a better position to make decisions on who would be the provider for the Town.
- John Lewis said Comcast has recently upgraded existing customers with fiber to the poles. Comcast also estimates the cost to expand service will be less due to the recent upgrade. There are currently 251 un-serviced homes in Bowdoin. Comcast estimates as long as they are able to start the project by September 2018 they will be able to complete the expansion to the remaining homes within a year with an estimated cost of \$500,000.00. Comcast stated they may be able to complete the expansion with the Town paying a very small percentage of the \$500,000, maybe as little as \$25,000.
- The Town already submitted letters to other providers before the franchise agreement expired though none of the other companies, including Spectrum were interested in servicing Bowdoin. It was explained other cable companies are not interested in purchasing the existing equipment from Comcast.
- The townspeople asked many good questions.
- **All present for this meeting seemed to agree that this project should be viewed as a major infrastructure expense that is necessary to bring the Town up to technical standards needed in today's world.**
- **The Selectmen and speakers seemed to agree that working in parallel to investigate all avenues is a good idea.**
- **Other suggestions include contacting other nearby towns to work together with us, also getting a petition together in the Town to send to the State.**
- **The Selectmen advised the residents that they are continuing to work on this and will continue working toward gaining enough information to bring before a Public Hearing as soon as possible.**

**Adjournment:** 8:20 PM The Selectmen thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Karen Mayo for opening the School for the meeting. Mare made a motion to adjourn, Deb seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.