

Board of Selectmen

Chuck Cunningham - Chairman
Steven Lewis - Vice Chairman
Dale Harmon
Russell Pinkham
Julie Roberts

Town Manager

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

Recorded meetings located at <https://townhallstreams.com/towns/boothbay> for more in depth discussions.

Present: Chuck Cunningham, Steve Lewis, Dale Harmon, Russell Pinkham and Town Manager, Dan Bryer Jr.

Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings:

Preliminary Budget:

Going over the numbers Dan found we needed to bump up sewer, water, heat and maintenance. The estimate from the Turf Doctor for Clifford Park was a little over \$8,000.00. O'Donnell and Associates also had a \$4,000.00 contract increase and that's the first time we have had an increase from them in seven years. The budget went from 6.78 to 7.26 and he has gone over it and doesn't think he can get it any tighter. Most of the increases are in table 6 in Buildings and Grounds. It went from \$13,500.00 last year to \$21,500.00 for repairs and maintenance and that would be with the Turf Doctor proposal. We haven't had a full season with the pavilion so he went a little higher and he can always lower it next year if the numbers aren't where they thought it would be. Steve asked what we budget now for paving. Dan said around \$160,000.00. Steve says he doesn't think anyone wants a budget increase but in this day and age he doesn't think there is any other choice. Chuck asks if raising fuel from 32 to 40 is enough. Dan thinks it is but he will know closer to the end of the fiscal year, that is why it is so hard to figure it now.

Preliminary Warrant:

There are 38 articles in this warrant. We have an ARPA request and a TIF request. The TIF request is looking to change the area of the TIF and also a request for a bond issue. Dan did remove the article that said at the end of the fiscal year that they could make adjustments from one budget line to another if needed. He couldn't get the proper verbiage for that. Dan feels like it's going against the budget the taxpayers voted for. Dan would like to work within the confines of what the voters approved. Chuck asked how long it would take to get the verbiage. Dan was going to propose he could get it by the November election or if something came up for June he could have it by then. Chuck agrees they should not be able to take anything out of the undesignated fund without a vote by the people. There are two different articles about carrying money forward, one for engineering of the Hardwick Road and the other is regarding the JEDC funds which made it possible to hire Shri Verrill for environmental work. It doesn't make sense to put it back into undesignated funds since we are in a very good place right now.

Municipal Warrant Request:

Jon Ziegra, manager of the Boothbay Region Water District is presenting to the board. He brought Marcia Wilson his Admin Manager who has worked in that capacity for three years in case Chuck has any budget questions. They received a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding their tri-annual inspection which is a big deal in the water world. They had zero deficiencies and this is the second time they have had a tri-annual with zero deficiencies. He is very proud of that and wanted to let the

board know. They need to raise their debt limit because their debt limit was set in 2021 with the original formation of the Boothbay Region Water District. Twelve million is what they were given. Costs have gone up and the debt limit is how they can do the big projects. Taking on debt also makes you eligible for a considerable amount of grant money and there are a lot of grants available right now. They are just trying to keep up with inflation. Debt is only used for system improvements and not for operating costs. They pay off around an average of \$500,000.00 in debt a year. They are at nine million in debt now. Their charter says they need to get a vote from all the municipalities they serve. They have three, Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Southport. They would like to do it at Town Meeting time because Boothbay and Boothbay Harbor are very close in timing. Southport would have to have a special election. The ballot question is, "Do you favor changing the debt limit of the Boothbay Region Water District from \$12,000,000 to \$19,000,000?" They need an aggregate number of people to pass this. Jon thanks them for taking it on.

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes: None

Reports: We have a large storm coming and they are down one plow driver so Dan asks if you can stay inside, please stay inside. If it looks iffy the Town Office will close down so the plows can focus on the roads or depending on the timing it could be a late start.

Old Business: Outside Organization Requests.

Spectrum Generations. Shawn Forkey the Regional Center Director for Knox, Lincoln, Southern Kennebec, Sagadahoc, Brunswick, Harpswell and Cumberland County is requesting \$1,540.00 for the services they provide to the Town of Boothbay. They have provided services to 44 unduplicated residents of Boothbay. They do not provide Meal on Wheels in Boothbay but they do provide Aging and Disability Resource Counselors and that's where the majority of their services came from this year. That includes the SHIP program which is the State Health Insurance Independent Program. That includes Medicare, Medicaid and finding services and providing services to any community member reaching out to them that has a need. Their specialists spent 74 hours with 32 of the 44 unduplicated individuals this past year. Total amount of services provided was \$11,658.00 and they are asking the town for \$1,540.00 to offset the costs. They are federally and state funded and two thirds by grant programs federally and state wide and it's up to them to fund raise for the remaining one third of their operating costs. All of their services are free. Steve asked how they came up with the amount. He explained there is an algorithm they use that takes into account the amount of people helped and the hours put in. The board thanked him for coming.

Steve suggests they go over the rest of the Outstanding Organization Applicants. The Community Resource Council went from \$7,500.00 to \$25,000.00. Steve feels that is quite a large increase. He knows they do a lot for the community but he feels \$15,000.00 would be a good amount for them instead of the \$25,000.00. Everyone agreed.

The Railway Village is a new applicant. Dan commented it is for the Founder's Day event they are planning and it's a onetime ask. Everyone would have free entry to the event.

Finding Our Voices is a new request as well. Boothbay is the only town they have requested money from. Russ points out the organization is in Camden and they aren't asking Camden for funds. Steve believes \$4,000.00 is a lot. They all decide on \$500.00 and they can come in next year for a presentation.

Lobsterman's Association was given \$1,000.00 out of the Selectmen's Reserve to help in the off season. They all decide to go with giving them \$5,000.00. Russ commented that lobstering is the backbone of this town. All agreed.

The Waldo Community Action Partners is new and Steve didn't see anything in their literature that helped this town. They decide to remove them.

Lincoln County Dental's application was received but it wasn't notated on the list. Dan said they are asking for \$3,000.00 which is the same as last year. Dan said he will make all the changes.

Steve made the motion to approve the budget and the warrant for the May 1st Town Meeting for the Town of Boothbay with the corrections needed and to add the Water District's request as well.
Dale seconded. 4-0 in favor.

New Business:

Municipal Appointment – Animal Control Officer, Betsy Pratt.

Steve makes a motion to approve Betsy Pratt for the Animal Control Officer for the Town of Boothbay.

Russ seconded. 4-0 in favor.

Public Comment: None

Review Warrants and Sign:

Chuck made a motion to review the warrants and sign them upon review. Dale seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0 in favor

Adjourn Meeting: Chuck made a motion at 6:22 PM to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion.

Vote: 4-0 in favor.