

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, September 13, 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, Julie Roberts and Town Manager, Dan Bryer Jr.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings: None

Public Comment: Denise Griffin from Boothbay Harbor is presenting to the Board and has given them a handout that she already gave to the Boothbay Harbor Board of Selectmen on Monday night and to the School Board on Tuesday night. She is present to talk about the proposed School Referendum and what she has found out. She has looked at the Middle School enrollment because the first referendum is about renovating the Elementary School. In April Boothbay Harbor had 17% and Boothbay had 47% of the 8th grade enrollment, very similar to the High School enrollment. We know the school needs renovating but we want to spend money on the right things. The point is it's lower than the 60% that we pay for the capital costs. The other towns who have the lower tuition rates have 36% of the enrollment in the 7th and 8th grade. This year our towns had a 7% increase in property taxes, if the bonds go through it would continue to increase and a yearly 7% increase for twenty years isn't sustainable. So the yearly increase along with the bonds would not only double but triple and continue to put them up higher and higher. The median income for Boothbay Harbor is 60 and for Boothbay it's around 52 to 54 years old. Most of the population is close to retirement and the average income is around \$50,000.00, not a lot per household. That number came from the Lincoln County Regional Housing Study done only a year ago. We need to be thinking of these people who may not be able to stay here if the taxes double or triple. Julie asked how many Board of Trustees meetings she has attended to see what the school needs for repairs. She said she attended many of them online and in person, but couldn't give an exact number. She has also asked for maintenance updates and has not had much response to that. She thanked everyone for allowing her to present to them. Steve asked Dan if there is any news about meeting with the Boothbay Harbor Board of Selectmen and the School Trustees. Dan is meeting with the Boothbay Harbor Town Manager, Julia Latter tomorrow as well as Tom and Laurie Perkins. They are going to approach the AOS to see what they have to say. Steve feels the meeting should be with local people like the Trustees, the people from Georgetown and other towns will not be interested in other options. No date has been decided on for a meeting with all parties. Steve thinks it should happen sooner rather than later. The problem is our AOS doesn't include Wiscasset which would be a big player if we wanted to go with a regional school. That means that our AOS would have to change so it's hard to move forward not knowing if they'd be interested in working with us. Steve is worried about our elderly on a fixed income and he believes that should be their focus. Julie wondered if they could get Steve Lorrain or the Board of trustees to come to the next meeting to go over what the needed renovations would entail. Dale thinks a tour through the school with Dave Benner would be a good idea.

There is a discussion to get the Trustees to the October 11th meeting and to go do a walk through. Chuck would like to see a schedule of bond payments from year 1 to 25. Having a solid payment schedule would help to see what we will be dealing with through the years.

Mike Tomko from Boothbay Harbor would love to come and see what they have to say and get a tour as well.

Approve Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for August 9, 2023 – Steve made the motion to approve the minutes for the August 9, 2023 Board of Selectman Meeting. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Reports:

We have Hurricane Lee on the way and Mary Prentiss with Emergency Management had a conference call to update everyone on the latest. Dan checked with our Fire Chief, David Pratt and the station will be open. They already had people reach out from the Shore Hill Campground who are concerned. He checked in with Superintendent Kaler and they will have the school open and the generators are being checked. It could land as a category 1 or a tropical depression. Models are showing it effecting the Mid-coast to Nova Scotia. Julie would like to thank all of the Boothbay Resources, Fire Department and the Boothbay Region Ambulance for their hard work. They always come together when times get tough.

Update on Clifford Park – They tracked down two individuals that vandalized the bathrooms. They are juveniles and right now they are writing a letter of apology to the Town of Boothbay and the Board of Selectmen for what they did. It was something that could have been catastrophic but it wasn't. Dale is glad the cameras worked. The Lincoln County Sheriff's Department did a great job with the case.

Dan signed the contract today with the Lincoln County Regional Planning for the work to be done with the Planning Board. The Planning Board got the work done on solar farms like the board had asked and it's only been two weeks. Steve was impressed and said they did a great job and it's very thorough. Dan said Bruce Bowler offered to come in and to do a presentation on it if needed. Dan said he hired the Lincoln County Regional Planning to mainly address LD 2003, an act to increase density because it's a very confusing piece of ordinance work. It shouldn't cost anything because Dan is putting in an application for a grant through the JEDC.

On the Capital Improvement Plan we are scheduled for a big truck for Public Works but a big truck would be at least a year out. Dan thinks they should get a small truck this year instead and order the big truck for next year. He has three prices and they range from \$52,000.00 to \$57,000.00, most likely not outfitted at that price. It would keep us in line with what they had planned. The board agrees to go ahead with that.

Old Business: None

New Business: Wharves and Weirs-

Wilde RE, LLC, Map U10 – Lot 10 located at 543 Ocean Point Road, East Boothbay to rebuild a storm damaged pier, runway and float. This is a seasonal 3' by 34' runway connecting to a 10' by 20' float. Gone through all the proper channels, no navigational issues. Russ makes the motion to approve the wharves and weirs for Wilde RE, LLC located at 543 Ocean Point Road, East Boothbay. Julie seconded. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Brian and Jennifer Graves, Map R01 – Lot 71-A, located at 45 Delano Drive for reconstruction of a 3' by 40' runway and a 10' by 20' float. All has been approved, no navigational issues. Steve makes a motion to approve the wharves and weirs for Brian and Jennifer Graves located at 45 Delano Drive. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Public Comment: None

Review Warrants and Sign:

Chuck made a motion to review the warrants and sign them upon review. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor

Adjourn Meeting: They held an executive session before the meeting. Dale made a motion at 6:45 PM to adjourn the meeting. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.