

Board of Selectmen

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

Town Manager

Daniel G. Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, February 08, 2023
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

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

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearings:

Preliminary Budget:

There is a 6.78 increase with electricity, fuel prices and adding another person under Dan for Public Works is the reason why. We will have to put another \$8,000.00 into buildings and grounds due to the Turf Doctor quote for Clifford Park. The \$8,000.00 shouldn't increase it too much.

Preliminary Warrant:

Most of the things on the Warrant you will see annually but we did have to fill two spots on the Cemetery District because Stanley "Swing" Lewis is retiring before his term is up. We will have a two year term and a three year term to vote on. The outside organizations are all on there and ready to be finalized. He has a couple he hasn't heard from yet so he is saving their spaces. He is waiting on the official language for the TIF and the ARPA request.

DW Moore, DBA Cabbage Island Clambake, Map R09 – Lot 15, Cabbage Island, Boothbay renewal of a Restaurant License I, II, III, & IV. All taxes are paid and they have no violations. Steve makes the motion to approve the renewal. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Public Comment: None

New Business: Outside Organization Requests.

Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library-

Joanna Breen, the Executive Director of the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library is presenting to the Board. They have increased their request to \$71,000.00 which is a 10% increase to cover everything from programming to staff salary and benefits and inflation. They have also added another part time person at the front desk. They have increased their fundraising 50%. Retaining their staff is their biggest concern. Eventually they would like to be self-sufficient and be able to run on money from the endowment fund draw. She thanks the town for their continued support.

Boothbay Region Ambulance Service- Robbie Ham is presenting to the Board. He introduces their new full time Chief, Dan Gardner. He moved here from Texas in September and has been instrumental at taking the day to day operations and organizing everything and that has allowed the Board of Directors to function like they should. They decided on a lofty fundraising goal this year and it looks like they are going

to reach their goal. Their staffing has been where it should be. Fuel, electricity, vehicle costs and salary are all the reasons for an increase in their request. They have raised their rates to help with the costs and renegotiated a contract with Anthem. They thank the Board for their time.

Boothbay Region Community Resource Council – Holly Stover, Director of Operations is presenting to the Board. This all began in 2004 and they incorporated in 2012. The Community Navigator, Hannah Corkum is the entry point to get people the help they need she has been with them for almost four years. They have 3 paid staff, 30 volunteers for the Woodchucks, 30 volunteers for Boothbay Rides to drive people to appointments and help people who can't afford to pay for transportation. They also handle 2 heating programs and have seen more people than they ever have before. The Woodchucks delivered 55 cords of wood last year. They have the Food for Thought Program which Mike Maxim coordinates, he buys food and packs it up as full lunches for the kids the schools know need food. The Addiction Program had a very tough year. They lost 4 people to opioid related deaths and 3 to alcoholism. The Community Fridge is used daily, it is never locked and people can go in and get things they need at any time. They will be putting heat in the building. Set for Success supplies back packs full of supplies for the kids each new school year. They also write grants and help people in need get housing. They can supply the security deposit and first month's rent to get them started. They raised the amount of their request because of inflationary costs. They also help people apply for LiHeap, Snap Benefits and even help people do their taxes. They don't take State or Federal money because it is very restrictive. General Assistance is much more restrictive but they work together. They spend money on local people and they are grateful for any amount they receive.

Finding Our Voices – Eve Jamieson, who is a volunteer is presenting to the Board. Their founder is Patrisha McLean, she couldn't make the meeting tonight. Domestic violence is an epidemic in Maine. They have 44 survivors featured on their posters and bookmarks, including Governor Janet Mills. They have given out \$75,000.00 from the Get Out, Stay Out Fund to help women leave their abusive partners. They have support groups in jails and are starting up new services all the time. They don't take any State or Federal funds because it is too restrictive. She has been able to help two people in Boothbay.

The Boothbay Railway Village - Holly Stover, Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Boothbay Railway Village is presenting to the Board. Her father worked for George McEvoy and helped build the place in the 60s. A Founder's Day Event has been held every year and they do it around George's birthday which is August 30th. They want to open up the Village for the whole community with free entry and free train rides. They want it to be a big community event. People don't realize the history there. The Boothbay Town Hall is there and people voted for Abraham Lincoln in that building, they voted to split into two towns in that building. This is a one-time ask.

Maine Lobsterman's Association – Troy Plummer, Board Member is presenting to the Board. Troy thanks the town for their donation of \$1,000.00 in May. They are suing the Federal Government which is not cheap. We have 60 Fishermen in Boothbay and that could go down to 5 or 10 if these rules go through. They got a six year delay but the Federal Government has not changed the way they are coming up with the rules. Any money the town gives would go specifically for the legal funds. They are asking for \$10,000.00 and hopefully it won't have to be a yearly ask.

The Boothbay Region Development Corporation – Erin Cooperrider is back to present to the Board. They have been working with Sebago Technics, The Boothbay Region Water District and The Boothbay Harbor Sewer District to come up with a number to ensure they will not have to return to ask for more funds. They want to raise their ask from 1.25 million to 1.5 million. They revised the budget to include an addition for funding of a substation. It would be necessary to bring three phase power to the location. They are still looking for grant resources. They will have 162 units total if the changes are done to the ordinances from LD2003. These are taxable buildings and will bring a significant amount of tax income to the town. The sewer and water extension will benefit the town greatly. Dan said he would adjust the amount.

Municipal Appointments – Michael Thibodeau for the Board of Appeals and Shri Verrill for the Planning Board. Steve makes a motion to approve the appointments. Russ seconded the motion. Vote 3-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of minutes from the January 11, 2023 meeting. One correction to add, "as well as" regarding the removal of Windjammer Days from the holiday list. Steve makes a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor.

Reports: Dan went to the school meeting last night. They talked about insurance claims and it's very hectic right now. They were very thankful of the seniors taking a leadership role. It was a well attended meeting.

Public Comment: Steve wants Dan to check into the solar panels.

Review Warrants and Sign:

Steve made a motion to review the warrants and sign them upon review. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor

Adjourn Meeting: Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor.