

Board of Selectmen

Charles R. Cunningham -
Chairman
Steven Lewis – Vice Chairman
Dale Harmon
Kristina Ford
Michael Tomacelli

Town Manager

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 2019
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Present: Steven Lewis, Dale Harmon, Michael Tomacelli, Kristina Ford and Town Manager Dan Bryer

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Hearing: None

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes:

Steve Lewis made a motion to approve the minutes from February 13, 2019. Kristina Ford wants them amended. Dale Harmon motioned to table it until the next meeting. Kristina Ford seconded. It is approved 4-0.

Reports:

Dan Bryer reported that the Public Works is busy repairing equipment and trucks and plowing. They are still using a lot of sand and salt due to the constant temperature changes. Instead of the water from the melting running off it gets refrozen and that is causing the icing. They are also working closely with MDOT on sections of the road that are theirs and if we need to cover, we cover for them.

Kristina Ford would like to see a comparison from the past years to see how much is being spent. Dan Bryer believes that this year hasn't been that bad because they haven't had a lot of overtime and that is what effects the budget. We haven't had as many storms as in the past years. They have had some early mornings but not the overnight plowing, sanding and salting. Steve Lewis asked if anyone is keeping track of any issues with the round-a-bout. Dan Bryer hasn't seen any issues other than the icing that is caused by the weather fluctuations. They have had problems with the icing in places that they never had problems in the past. It isn't isolated to the round-a-bout area. Steve Lewis mentioned how it is still within the one year warranty and if anything needs to be fixed, if there is a design flaw we would need to speak up now. Dan Bryer stated the area is a little narrower but we didn't really change the topography. There is really no flaw, the icing is everywhere this year.

The Business Office is still taking in tax payments. He doesn't have the percentage paid, but the Treasurer says that this has been a good year.

The Planning Board has 3 applications and 2 pre-applications. The Code Enforcement Office has 2 Building Permits, 2 Internal Plumbing Permits and 4 Planning Board Applications. We also have 1 Shoreland Vegetation Removal Permit due to the microbursts we had. The residents are having to clean

up the damaged areas. This is a good time of year for it because the ground is frozen and you can get the big machinery in. There is no erosion or run off to worry about with the frozen ground.

For Planning Board we have the following applicants.

Jon Bigelow seeks approval to renovate an existing home on an existing nonconforming lot in the Shoreland Zone.

Robert Horgan for a remodel of an existing garage on an existing nonconforming lot in the Shoreland Zone. They are trying to correct it to make it less nonconforming. It has to do with a setback issue.

COGA Holdings, LLC under the business name Colby and Gale. They are requesting a change of use for a retail office and a propane fill station at 654 Wiscasset Road.

Christopher Palmer is requesting a change of use to run a service business at 246 Wiscasset Road. Dan Bryer believes it is for a well drilling business.

Old Business: None

Outside Organization Funding:

Steve Lewis announced Katie Spencer White from The Boothbay Region Community Resource Council to present first. She handed out a copy of the budget to the Board of Selectman to look over. Holly Stover had done a presentation at the last BOS Meeting but she didn't have the financials so that is why Katie was called back in by Dan Bryer. They are asking for \$6000.00 this year, up from the \$5000.00 given to them last year. The main reason for the increase is the addition of new staff. Katie was hired as Executive Director a year ago and they also hired an Operations Coordinator. They have expanded their services to include coordinating transportation for clients. Steve Lewis stated that Holly Stover did a wonderful job presenting their information at the last meeting so they are sold. Steve Lewis thanked her for coming and explaining the need for the increase.

Steve Lewis announced Brittany Cicchetti, the Development Director, to present for New Hope for Women.

Their mission is to provide support for people in Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox and Waldo Counties who are affected by domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. They also provide educational resources to the communities. They help men, women, children and pets.

As part of their crisis intervention resources they operate a 24 hour hotline that operates 365 days a year. They have staff and trained volunteers answer the crisis line and they had 40 volunteers give almost 5,000 hours of volunteer time on the hotline last year. They also depend on their volunteers to provide emergency safe homes in mid coast Maine.

They have a staff attorney and court advocates who assist individuals who are seeking legal remedies.

They have 6 units of transitional housing which is available to families for up to 2 years and the program also includes personalized support and assistance with long term goals.

They provide community education programs to businesses and agencies so that the community can join them in providing a consistent and helpful response for those living with violence. They have violence prevention programs in area schools which help young people with healthy choices in relationships. They also operate a Batterer Intervention Program which is certified by the Maine Department of Corrections for women who use violence. They also have a New Hope employee who is in the Child Protective Services Office and they offer community support groups in all 4 counties as well as a Healing Through Art Support Group. They also offer a weekly group for women at the Two Bridges Regional Jail.

This past fiscal year they provided services to 1,475 clients, 241 clients were from Lincoln County and 21 were from Boothbay. That made for a total of 75 hours of direct services in Boothbay. At The Boothbay

Region High School 40 individuals participated in presentations on cyber bullying and 1 individual was provided with an emergency safe house night. Steve Lewis and Kristina Ford asked a few questions and the Board thanked her for her presentation.

JEDC Update:

Andy Hamblett, the Co-chair of the JEDC is following up after Dan Bryer did a quick overview at the last BOS meeting to update the Selectmen regarding where the JEDC is going from here. There has been talk about the relevance of the group. They have had internal discussions about transitioning into a nonprofit group.

Andy Hamblett feels that the JEDC is a very important conduit for the towns to work on initiatives together. They have reduced the amount they are asking from the towns to \$17,000.00 so they do not get funds they will not use. They have come up with wonderful initiatives in the past such as the Camoin Report and The Festival of Lights. They have been helping The Harbor Lights Committee to become self-sufficient and they are about a year away from that.

The Broadband component that Kristina Ford has written a grant for is another opportunity to help the two towns work together.

The housing group is a subset of the JEDC. They are going to hire an outside consultant to do an inventory and they can utilize JEDC funds to be able to do that. They have an allocation in the budget but it does come down to the towns to confirm the spending of the funds.

The JEDC is an entity that is town supported that looks to harness volunteers and representatives from both communities to do work to become a group that drives economic development. They need to start bringing more people on board.

Kristina Ford suggested it would be good to bring in someone that could define what is needed for the affordable housing. Get someone who is a real expert on affordable housing who would get the demographics of this town and the economic situations and give a list of what could work here. Andy Hamblett stated that both towns have said that workforce housing is a priority but no one has really come together to make it happen. Dan Bryer is working with three different developers, the idea is to find favorable situations acreage for "x" amount per acre and factor in a well and septic. They are looking into stick built, ranch style homes on heated slabs that are affordable to build. It is feasible to do with covenants in place. As this moves forward they will be bringing a lawyer in to draw up covenants. They are preparing to get a presentation together so they can go to outside service organizations for help. You need to find an investor who isn't out to make the maximum profit and an investor who believes in the concept of affordable housing. The dream is that it would become self-sustaining. They need a clear and concise plan to get investors.

Budget and Warrant Discussion:

Dan Bryer had a couple of updates on the warrant. Article 28 speaks about parcels of land that now compromise Route 27. Basically they are easements that need to go back to the DOT. The explanation on this is you either vote to give them back or they take them from you by eminent domain. This is what happens at the end of a project. Dale Harmon explained that basically DOT had to get easements from all the property owners to do work on their property. So this is us giving the work permits they had back to the DOT upon completion. This is all regarding the Round-A-Bout Project.

Article 29 has to do with the easement with CMEGE because of the lawsuit against the Town of Boothbay. It is basically the last part of the consent decree that said this was going to be under the Land Trust per view, however if there is ever any legal division the Town of Boothbay can step in and champion the cost. Kristina Ford stated that she is worried because there is no Conservation Easement. Dan stated they are still working on the Conservation Easement at this time. They are working with DEP, the Land Trust and CMBG. It is in the warrant because the people have to decide if they want to be the 3rd party in this.

This is saying that the Town of Boothbay can step in if they do something wrong within the conservation easement.

Steve Lewis recommended that for the budget discussion they will wait until Chuck Cunningham is present at the next meeting.

They discuss the Manager, Dan Bryer's salary increase. They had an **Executive Session (MRSA 405(6)(a) Personnel Discussion)** at the last BOS meeting and when they came out of the **Executive Session (MRSA 405(6)(a) Personnel Discussion)** they voted to increase Dan Bryer's salary from \$72,000.00 to \$76,000.00 per year. This will go under Town Manager in the budget.

Dan Bryer had one more thing to add to the warrant. He had discussed the great job that Scott Campbell had done working with FEMA and securing the funds from the November 17 storm. The auditor said it would be good practice to add verbiage that says you can carry forward these funds as you do improvements to the designated areas. It is earmarked for that specific area, a big chunk is designated for Shore Road.

Broadband Discussion:

Kristina Ford has made a lot of progress but she needs advice. After talking to the people at the Island Institute and learning about ConnectME she realized the surveys were intended for towns that had never really thought about broadband. Because our towns already know about broadband she feels the surveys would be a waste of time. She is thinking that by having hot spots around the community it would allow people to experience the broadband and then they would want it in their homes. The grant we got from NCF is to expand the use of broadband for the purpose of enhancing economic development. There is further discussion about the hotspot idea.

Michael Tomacelli believes they need to find out what we have before we decide what we want. Dale Harmon suggested having High School students go to certain houses with a form to fill out to see what people have in certain areas of town. It would make sense to go to dead end areas to see what people have out of reach of the main corridor. It would need to be announced. Dan Bryer reminds everyone that the High School students have mandatory Community Service hours they need to do to graduate. Steve Lewis brought up Project Graduation and having the students do the questionnaires to raise money to put into that fund.

Kristina Ford stated they would have to include the summer residents who might stay a longer amount of time if they had better internet. Michael Tomacelli stated to include businesses too.

Public Comment: None

Review Warrants and Sign: Steve Lewis made a motion to review and sign warrants. Kristina Ford approved the motion, Dale Harmon seconded. It is approved 4-0.

Steve Lewis made a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm, Kristina Ford seconded. It is approved 4-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea D Lowery, Deputy Town Clerk
March 6, 2019