

Board of Selectmen

Steven Lewis, Chairman
Dale Harmon, Vice Chair
Douglas Burnham
Charles R. Cunningham
Stephen W. Ham

Town Manager

James D. Chaousis II



**Town of Boothbay
Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2014
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Present: Steven Lewis, Dale Harmon, Douglas Burnham, Charles Cunningham and James Chaousis II - **Absent:** Stephen Ham

1. **Call Meeting to order:** Steve Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00PM after a TIF workshop.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Public Hearing** – Stephen Arkley, Map R-3 Lot 3-9, located at 14 Mudflat Alley, North, Boothbay, ME to construct a 5'x100' fixed pier with a seasonal 36'x3' runway and a 10'x20' float oriented parallel to the shore, with a skidway for hauling the float, on the Back River.

Doug Burnham and Dan Bryer attended the wharves and weirs hearing and saw no problems with this project. The Harbor Master gave a written statement that he did not see any problems. Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve this application as presented and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.**

Next, the Selectmen discussed (out of order) the first item under #6 FY 2015 budget, Employee benefits:

Dale Harmon said when the Selectmen met with the staff they were receptive to the changes in Health Care but not to the proposed changes in retirement and he would suggest making the Health Care change and not the retirement change this year.

Steve Lewis said maybe not cut the retirement this year, but to ask the employees to pay some as well as town when the times comes to discuss this again.

Chuck Cunningham agreed and said to leave the retirement alone for this year, but ask the employees to pay some when this is reviewed.

Doug Burnham made a motion to adjust the employee health insurance from the POS A to POS C as soon as possible and not to change the retirement at this time and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.**

Fran McBrearty said he and his wife felt this was disturbing news. He said that an adjustment in benefits loss takes a long time to heal. They would rather see zero dollars given to outside agencies than take away any benefits from the employees. Maybe even fight the school budget harder to keep the money for benefits.

4. **Approve minutes:** Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/11/2013 meeting and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.**

5. **Boothbay Region Ambulance Service:** Steve Lewis recused himself from this item.

Rob Ham was present and gave a presentation of the BRAS financial situation. He presented the Selectmen with a handout, among other things he mentioned how many times what number of ambulances were out on calls, close to 50% of the calls are going to Midcoast. If it is not critical they can take the patient where they want to go and this time of year, a lot of patients have doctors at Midcoast and want to go there. There are different types of calls in the summer and there will be less going to Brunswick. They are still doing transfers (taking residents from Miles to other locations). They still need subsidy payments from the towns. He reported their budget expenses are about where they thought they would be. They are doing orientation and training with new people, so they can cut back on Overtime. They had a grant for training. Mr. Ham mentioned that the local road crews have done a good job helping with the roads during the recent storms.

6. **FY 2015 Budget:** The budget timeline was discussed. Department heads will be invited to the next meeting.

Capital Improvements were discussed, projects slated to be done this year include a new Plow truck with dump body (replacing the 5500 with an International) Turnout gear for the BFD (may get a grant and not need) and the Mapping Project. This will take more than the \$140,000, will have to tap into reserves, there is \$200,000 in the reserves now.

Mr. Chaousis said next year needed will be \$80,000 for a used tanker for the Fire Dept.

There was a discussion about what types of trucks are needed.

GA – put in \$10,000 each year and always come up under budget so this should be left as is.

Combined Services – the total of this is up .2%, legal was flat funded, advertising/printing/postage/telephone is up about 1.9% and building & grounds is down 5%

Debt Services is wrapping up and down 5.4%

Insurance is up 4%

Board to review and organize funding requests.

7. **Reports::**

- a. **BRLT Donation** – a donation was received from the BRLT for \$2,570

- b. **Coulombe Donation to Fuel fund** – Mr. Coulombe donated \$10,000 to the fuel fund

- c. **Boothbay Harbor Sewer District Public Hearing** – there will be a public hearing on 01/26/2014 to talk about an upgrade to the pump station. The sewer district can pass the charges on to their customers for upgrades.

- d. **LCRPC, Maine Eastern Railroad** – they may make passage to Brunswick and Camden, there is talk of making this into a Multi-Model Program and

want to talk about how this could affect Boothbay. Steve Lewis said he wondered how you judge if this will benefit Boothbay.

- e. **MMA campaign** – The MMA executive committee is on the campaign trail to explain what Revenue Sharing is. Unless there is legislative action, this will go away, Boothbay currently get about \$60,000 from this. It is most likely that it will go away.
 - f. **Lincoln County Budget** – there is a 5% increase in the budget. Chuck Cunningham suggested inviting the commissioners to a Selectmen’s meeting to talk about it.
 - g. **Department Head Report** –
 - i. PWD has been busy with the roads, they have done a good job and now this week are tending to the minor repairs that need to be done to almost every truck. They have used about ½ of the winter resources and are only 1/3 of the way through the winter.
 - ii. Assessing will have a report around commitment time
 - iii. CEO, this office is busy there are two Planning Board meetings this month and two appeals this month.
 - iv. The Business Office is busy with yearend processes, Dogs must be licensed by the end of this month. The tax-acquired list will be ready by the middle of March and it will be time to decide which lots go out to bid.
 - v. **Mid-year financial report:** Mr. Chaousis gave this to the Selectmen in a handout, he talked briefly about the expenses being where they were expected to be. He also talked about the undesignated funds and the percentage of revenue that has been collected.
 - vi. **Website design:** There has been money set aside in the budget for Audio-Visual upgrades and Mr. Chaousis would like to use it for a new website through a program called Virtual Towns and School. The guy who does the current website could do the new one. This would allowed the meetings to be taped and could then be embedded in the website and stream them almost as soon as they are over. Mr. Chaousis suggested the town buy a camera and microphones and keep them at the town office even if the meetings are taped by Channel 7. Staff and Volunteers could be educated to put the info on the website to get it on there quicker. Mr. Chaousis to bring dollar amounts to the next meeting.
8. **Old Business:**
- a. **Goal & Objectives** – this was not discussed tonight
 - b. **BRAS Budget Committee Request** – Steve Lewis recused himself again for this discussion.

Rob Ham said the responsibilities for this position will most likely change drastically after July 1, 2014. The bi-laws will most likely change and this appointee will be made a member of the Board of Directors and will be much more involved than currently.

Dale Harmon said both candidates who applied are good candidates and he suggested the board interview them in private before the next meeting before making a decision.

- c. **Cross River Property RFP** – Mr. Chaousis said he and Nick from the Land Trust would like both boards to meet and discuss on 02/12/2014. Doug Burnham is not in favor of giving any land to the land trust, he feels they have enough land already. Steve Lewis said he wants the land used and it should be up to the voters to decide.

Chuck Cunningham said what the land trust is proposing is what the people originally voted they wanted when they voted to keep the land.

- d. **Tax Increment Financing Development Plan** – Mr. Chaousis will do some work on this plan as discussed in the workshop from earlier tonight.

- e. **Policy on Administrative/Appointed Boards and Committees** – The policy was reviewed, no action needs to be taken at this time, some changes may need to be made in the Admin Code.

Steve Lewis suggested that there are times when non-residents should be allowed on ad hoc committees.

Chuck Cunningham said the committees should be all residents but others allowed at meetings and to have a say.

Dale Harmon said maybe this should be left up to the discretion of the Selectmen and non-residents allowed under exceptional circumstances.

9. **Public Comment:**

- 10. **Review Warrants and sign:** Chuck Cunningham made a motion to review the warrants and sign them and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.**

- 11. **Adjourn meeting:** At 9:30 Chuck Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.**