

**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 14, 2015  
7:00 PM  
MINUTES**

1. Call Meeting to order: Steve Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.  
**Present:** Steven Lewis, Dale Harmon, Douglas Burnham, Charles Cunningham, Stephen Ham, James Chaousis Town Manager and Dan Bryer CEO
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Hearings:**
  - a. **Matthew Carter**, Map U07 lot 9A, located at 640 Ocean Point Road, East Boothbay, ME to construct a 16'x30' gear storage platform with a 12'x20' rope house for commercial fishing. This will connect to the existing pier by a 5'x25' wooden walkway, on the Little River. There was an on-site visit on 12/12/14. There is a letter from the Harbor Master in the file saying there are no objections to this application. There is a letter from an abutter in support of the project. This application has already been approved conditionally by the Planning Board. *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve this application as presented and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*
  - b. **Dana & Melissa Whitely**, map R01 lot 10A, located at 400 Barters Island Road, Boothbay, ME to construct a PT wood 4'x6' access platform, 4'x20' access stairs, 6'x25' pier, 3'x26' ramp, 10'x16' float and a 6'x25' timber frame float haulout on the Back River, Lewis Cove. There has been an on-site visit for this application. There is a letter from the Harbor Master saying he sees no objections to this project. *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve this application as presented and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*
4. **Public comment:**
5. **Minutes:** *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes of the 12/10/2014 meeting as presented and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Doug Burnham abstained as he was not at that meeting.*
6. **Town Manager Resignation and Transition Plan:** Mr. Chaousis read his resignation to the Board and outlined a suggested transition plan. Mr. Chaousis

last day of employment with the Town of Boothbay will be 03/13/2015 and his last working day will be 02/27/2015. *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to accept Mr. Chaousis resignation with regrets and with thanks for the good job he has done. Steve Ham seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*

Steve Lewis read a statement he had prepared thanking Mr. Chaousis for the job he has done and wishing him well in his new position.

Mr. Chaousis suggest the board consider Dan Bryer Jr. as interim Town Manager. After a brief discussion *Dale Harmon made a motion to appoint Dan Bryer Jr. as interim Town Manager to start on 03/02/2015 and to compensate him at the same rate as the current town manager. Steve Ham seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.* Mr. Chaousis will work with Dan for the next few weeks to help make the transition easier.

There was a discussion on which organization to use to search for a new Town Manager. *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to use MMA to search for a new Town Manager and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*

The Board briefly reviewed the letter from Attorney Daggett about the transfer of Tax Collector and Treasurer that she had prepared last time these positions changed.

## **7. Reports:**

- a. FY 2015 Midyear Financial Report** – Mr. Chaousis gave a presentation of the midyear financial report, he said the bottom line is good, the Town is at a 58% collection rate and most departments are at 50% or less on expenditures.
- b. CSD Charter meeting** – Mr. Chaousis and Steve Lewis met with the school trustees and their counterparts from Boothbay Harbor. The legal expense to address the charter will be around \$7500. The cost share is not to Boothbay's advantage. Steve Lewis said he would like to see a cap placed on the percentage. Mr. Lewis would like to meet with the Boothbay Harbor selectmen to talk about a cap, he knows they are probably not in favor of this move but is hoping they can reach a compromise.
- c. Governor's Budget analysis** – Mr. Chaousis reminded the Selectmen to keep an eye on this as it would eliminate revenue sharing and could have a big impact on Boothbay.

## **8. Old Business:**

- a. Review Committee applicants** – It was decided to table the Joint Economic Development Committee appointments. Seven applications have been received for the Clifford Park Development Committee. *Dale Harmon made a motion to appoint all seven applicants plus Steve Lewis to the Clifford Park Development Committee and Chuck*

*Cunningham seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Steve Lewis abstained as he was one of the applicants.*

- b. Public Works Pick-up replacement** – Mr. Chaousis presented the Selectmen with a chart showing prices from four dealerships and recommended the GMC from O’Conner’s. Although it is not the lowest price, it is the same as the current truck and they like it. *Dale Harmon made a motion to award the bid to O’Conner’s for \$35,345 plus the cost of an extended warranty and to give authority to Mr. Chaousis to negotiate an extended warranty. Chuck Cunningham seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*

**9. New Business:**

- a. Property foreclosures** – After a brief discussion *Doug Burnham made a motion to put two properties 1691 and 1065 out to bid and Dale Harmon seconded the motion.* It is expected that both of these properties will be paid before any sale takes place. Chuck Cunningham had questions and *Doug Burnham withdrew his motion.*
- b. Budget deliberations** – The budget is going to stay mostly flat lined this year. Mr. Chaousis gave a brief presentation of each department’s budget. Some of the high lights were: Administration will go up 4.9% mostly due to the cost of Health Ins. Public Safety is asking to raise the Firefighters pay by \$1 and to raise the stipend paid to the three Harbor Masters. The Public Works budget is down 3% and the GA is down 20%. The Capital Improvement line is flat. The total FY 2016 budget is \$1,968,172.92 which is an increase of \$31,761.50 or 4.6%.

As things are pretty much going to stay flat, the Selectmen said they do not see the need to bring in the Departments heads this year. The budget can be seen on the website.

- 10. Public comment:** Frank Fassett asked why the Town Manager is leaving. He reviewed what he felt were Mr. Chaousis achievements the past four years and said he wanted to know if any attempts were made to keep the Town Manger and if so what were they. Both Steve Lewis and Dale Harmon said the board had met with Mr. Chaousis in a closed Executive Session and they cannot discuss what was said in that meeting, their hands are tied. Mr. Chaousis said there was talk of renegotiating his contract. Dale Harmon said there is a difference between what they want to say and what they can say. Steve Lewis said he would only say that Mr. Chaousis had support from the board but not unanimous support.

- 11. Review Warrants and sign:** *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to review the warrants and sign them and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*

**12. Adjourn Meeting:** *Chuck Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.*