

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 22, 2013
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

Present: Dale Harmon, Douglas Burnham, Charles Cunningham, Stephen Ham, Town Manager James Chaousis, Steven Lewis joined the meeting at 7:00PM.

1. Executive Session: Douglas Burnham made a motion to go into executive session 1 MRSA 405(6) A to interview BRAS Budget Committee candidates and Steve Ham seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor. (Steve Lewis was not in attendance)

The Executive Session ended at 6:45PM and the Regular Public Session was opened at 7:00PM by Chairman Steve Lewis.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

3. Public Comments: James Chaousis said there was a hearing in Augusta today about Revenue Sharing and he was there and testified. He read the statement that he made and encouraged everyone to support the bill LR2721 to keep Revenue Sharing.

4. Approve minutes: Dale Harmon made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/31/13 and 01/08/2014 and Chuck Cunningham seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor

5. Bob Faunce – Maine Eastern Railroad Project: Mr. Faunce said in December the State was approached about offering at least seasonal rail service to the Midcoast. Passengers would be able to take the DownEaster to Brunswick, and then within a half hour get on the Maine Eastern Railroad to Wiscasset or Rockland. The question became the question of what else they could offer people to get them to use this service. They are talking about having a shuttle to take people from the train in Wiscasset to the Boothbay Peninsular then a second trolley to take people from place to place in the region. The train and shuttle to the Peninsular would be all one ticket. They would like to test the waters on this project this year. It is not a tourist project but a transportation project. This project comes with a \$45,000 price tag. They need to raise \$9,000 to get grant money to make this work. Lincoln County Commissioners, the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission, and Boothbay Region Chamber of Commerce have each already pledged \$1,000. Mr. Faunce is asking Boothbay to give \$2,000. Chuck Cunningham asked if this money could be taken out of the Selectmen's contingency fund if they decided to give money to the project. Mr. Chaousis said it could come out of that fund or be put on a warrant. Mr. Cunningham next asked if this was an annual request or a one-time request. Mr. Faunce said this summer would just be a trial and he is not sure yet what the answer is. After a brief discussion among the Selectmen Chuck Cunningham made a motion to take the \$2,000 out of the Selectmen's contingency fund and give to this project and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

6. Joint Services with Edgecomb: Stuart Smith, Edgecomb Selectman, was present for this discussion. Mr. Chaousis said that he has talked with Mr. Smith about the possibility of the Boothbay CEO providing the same service for Edgecomb, combining them together. He said this would increase the workload by about 10%, there would be no increase to salaries, all the files would be kept at the Boothbay office, and very little extra resources would be needed. The Boothbay Town Manager would be responsible for personnel; there would be no administrative support to Edgecomb unless requested. The proposal is to

do this on a one year trial basis and then review after one year. Edgecomb would pay a base rate of \$5,000 plus plumbing fess, this would total about \$12,000 in revenue for Boothbay. Steve Lewis asked about permit fees and who gets these. Mr. Lewis also asked about the little "extra resources" and what they might be, Mr. Chaousis said that would be stuff like paper and copying, etc. Steve Lewis next asked about Mileage and said that could add up if the CEO goes to Edgecomb. This was discussed; they talked about paying the CEO in fuel, about Edgecomb paying for the fuel, etc. Steve Ham said he thought this could be a win-win for both towns if it was done right, it would be a great opportunity. Stuart Smith said that Edgecomb would be willing to change the building and plumbing fees to make it easier. Dale Harmon asked if the staff had been consulted and if they were OK with this proposal. Mr. Chaousis said the staff had been consulted and were OK with the proposal. Chuck Cunningham said it was a great concept, but would have to carefully looked at and Selectmen would need to be ready to explain to the voters because they will ask if we need two CEO's which the town has, how can they take on the extra work. To try this proposal for one year would not need to go before the voters that would only need to be done if it was a multi-year contract. It was decided to have a joint meeting with Boothbay and Edgecomb selectmen; it was scheduled for 6:00PM on 02/26 before the regularly scheduled Boothbay Selectmen's meeting.

7. Reports:

a. IDK Communications Report – This report has been received and a copy was given to the Selectmen, it is a public document but the Selectmen were encouraged not to discuss it before the Board of Appeals meeting on the topic.

b. Lincoln County Budget – Mr. Chaousis has had some correspondence with Mr. John O'Connell about this and Mr. Meserve will be invited to attend the Selectmen's meeting on 02/26/2014. Steve Lewis would really like to have all three commissioners attend. He has recently learned they get full insurance coverage and since they only meet twice a month, he feels that is excessive and he would like to hear from them about why this is. Mr. Chaousis will extend the invitation.

c. BRLT Cross River Property – Mr. Chaousis has been communicating with Nick from the BRLT and would like to schedule a time for the two boards to meet and discuss. A meeting was scheduled for 6:00PM on 02/12/2014 before the regular Selectmen's meeting.

d. MDOT River Road ledge removal – a notice has been received from MDOT about this project.

e. Department Head reports – The Business office is still working on end of year stuff and dog registrations. Lien information will go to the attorney for review, and then the 45 day notices will be sent out. Public Works is busy working on equipment to get it back in shape. The CEO is busy with meetings; another Board of Appeals meeting is scheduled for next week. The Assessing department has nothing to report. Mr. Chaousis talked about the AV Proposal, he has met with the electrician and Channel 7 and thinks the project can be done for the \$10,000 that was earmarked and asked permission to go forward with the project. The Selectmen said to proceed.

8. Old Business:

a. BRAS Budget Committee Request/ BOD appointee - Steve Lewis recused himself from this discussion and reminded everyone he was not present during the interviews of candidates earlier this evening. Dale Harmon said the board interviewed both candidates earlier this evening and they are both good candidates. Steve Ham made a motion to appoint Nathaniel (Frosty) Leonard to the BRAS Budget Committee and Chuck Cunningham seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor.

b. Tax Increment Financing Development Plan – Mr. Chaousis presented the Selectmen with a spread sheet listing properties to put in the proposed TIF; some properties need to be trimmed of to make it the right amount. It was suggested to take off the entire town owned properties.

c. Policy on Administrative/Appointed Boards and Committees – Mr. Chaousis presented this to the Selectmen with changes made based on the conversation at the last meeting. There was a discussion about non-residents being on committees. Dale Harmon said he understood not being on standing committees but he could see the time when the Selectmen should have the option of appointing non-residents to ad hoc committees. Chuck Cunningham said he disagreed, if there was a regional concern, there would be a regional committee such as the recent St. Andrews Task Force. He thinks non-residents should be allowed to attend and have a say but not a vote. Steve Lewis said that maybe tax paying non-residents should be allowed on ad hoc committees and Chuck Cunningham said they should be the same as non-residents, allowed to attend and voice their opinions but not vote. Stuart Smith said in Edgecomb they have non-residents attend in an advisory capacity but are non-voting members. Dale Harmon said

he wanted Boothbay to be out front in making Boards Community friendly but he is Ok with leaving things the way they are as long as non-residents have a say. It was decided to leave the policy saying residents only on committees. Mr. Chaousis raised the question of employees being allowed on committees, they are not currently allowed. He talked about how with the Comprehensive Planning Committee it would have been nice to have a long term town employee on the committee. Chuck Cunningham said again they could serve as advisors and not have a vote. Steve Lewis said he wasn't opposed to employees being on committees as long as they meet all the other criteria although he does not want them on boards as he can see that could be a conflict. Chuck Cunningham suggested this be given to the Administrative Code review committee to make recommendations.

9. New Business:

a. Friends of Midcoast Maine Proposal – TIF education – Mr. Chaousis said he has talked with Jane LeFleur from Friends of Midcoast Maine and Nancy Smith from Grow Smart Maine and they have put together a proposal to provide education on TIF's. He said this could be a benefit as the information would not be coming from the government but it is not a free service. Steve Lewis said he feels if non-local people talk about this it could hurt the project. He feels the TIF will pass this time. Dale Harmon said he liked the idea but doesn't think the town could sell it to the people, having to spend more money on the project could make matters much worse.

b. Lincoln County ACO proposal – The Selectmen said no thanks, we already have an ACO.

10. FY 2015 Budget – Mr. Chaousis reviewed the list of requests from outside agencies:

Boothbay Region District Nursing requests \$9,948, which is less than given last year, Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

American Legion Post 36 requests \$300, Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Midcoast Maine Community Action request was denied as they have not been funded by Boothbay in the past.

Boothbay Region Fire Works fund requests \$3,000, the same as last year, the Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Channel 7 requests \$20,000 the same amount as last year and the Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Boothbay Harbor Library request \$45,000 the same as last year – the Selectmen said they would like to talk with them.

Woodchucks requests \$600, there was no request last year but have funded in the past and Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Cemetery District requests \$15,000, slightly more than last year; the Selectmen said they would like to speak to them.

Spectrum Generations requests \$500, they have not been funded by Boothbay in the past so this request was denied.

Healthy Kids requests \$1,800. This has not been funded in the past, but Stuart Smith president of the organization was present and said they do not receive any Federal or State funds. He explained this is really the child abuse/neglect council on Lincoln County. The Selectmen said to put this request on the warrant.

Community Band request \$600 and the Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Boothbay Region Historical Society request \$2,000 the same amount as last year and the Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Boothbay Region Senior Citizens request \$1,000 the same amount as last year and the Selectmen said to put this on the warrant.

Lincoln County Dental requests \$1,500, they have not been funded by Boothbay in the past and the Selectmen denied the request.

Steve Lewis said that last year the town received a donation from Lincoln Health and they said there might a donation this year as well and asked Mr. Chaousis to call them and see if there would be a donation.

Mr. Chaousis next reviewed Department Budgets –

General Government does not have a lot of changes from last year, the Admin line is down 2.4% due to the pending changes in Health Insurance, the CEO budget is up slightly but not as much as last year, the whole budget is down about 4%. Steve Lewis asked what % increase was considered for raises and Mr. Chaousis said the average is 3%.

Public Works Budget – this is up 1.9%, there is an increase in tires, supplies and repairs/maintenance(5%) as well as snow removal (due to increase in salt) Mr. Chaousis said he feels the road crew is doing a good job. Mr. Chaousis said the road improvements line is flat funded. There will be an increase in fuel costs, about \$2,000. Steve Lewis said there was a surcharge to others using the depot and that was scheduled to go away and he asked about using it instead to build a canopy which would be a great benefit to those using the depot, especially the road crew during bad weather.

Fire Department – they will be asked to come to the next meeting to talk about their budget requests. Outside organizations as well as BRAS and BRRDD will be asked to come to the 02/26/2014 meeting to talk about their requests.

There was a brief discussion that the BRLT proposal should be voted on by secret ballot. There was a brief discussion about ballots, open town meeting voting and referendum voting.

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 9:45PM and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.