

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, February 26, 2014
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

1. The Town of Boothbay and Edgecomb Selectmen decided to have the Code Enforcement Services discussion in public. A lot of information was exchanged but no decisions were made. A follow up meeting is scheduled for 3/12/2014 at 6 pm.
2. **Public Session:** Steve Lewis opened the public session of the meeting at 7:00PM
3. **Pledge of Allegiance to the flag:**
4. **Wharves and Weir Public Hearing:** Joyce Richter, Map U06 lot 24, located at 22 Brewer Road, Boothbay, ME to construct two new 12'x20' floats to replace one 12'2"x24'6" float at an existing pier and moving the support pilings which hold the floats in place, on the Little River.

An on-site visit has occurred, the Harbor Master (Pete Ripley), Steve Ham and Dan Bryer Jr. attended the visit. The Harbor Master has no objections and did not see any navigation problems and recommends approval. Chuck Cunningham asked if in the future the Harbor Master could be asked to address the issue of no harm to others property in his report. Steve Ham made a motion to approve this application as presented and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor.

Becky Abbott: Ms. Abbott is going to have an equestrian center on Country Club Road; she is hoping to start building it in the fall of 2014. She would like permission to use the old land fill site as a temporary pasture until she can establish her own. She has checked with the DEP and they say it should be OK to use as a pasture. She is willing to pay for fencing and all related costs. She will rotate the horses to help prevent erosion. The Selectmen were OK with this plan as long as the town will not be held responsible for any erosion. Mr. Chaousis said there could be a clause in the lease agreement to address this issue. A lease agreement will be written up and submitted to be voted on at Town meeting.

5. **Commissioner Meserve and Administrator O'Connell, Lincoln County:** Steve Lewis said there are extravagant benefits for the commissioners and he would like to know why. In addition to their pay, they can receive full medical benefits and retirement benefits. Mr. Lewis said he felt for a position that was only a few hours per month. That was a lot to ask tax payers to pay for.

Mr. Meserve said the budget is reviewed yearly by a budget advisory committee. Steve Lewis said it is not listed in the budget. Stuart Smith, Selectman from Edgecomb, said he is on the commit and he did not know it was in there. Several other people present said they had served on the committee and did not know.

Mr. O'Connell said they have to be on board for 10 years to get the full benefits for life. He also said they have new auditors this year and hopefully things will be more transparent in the future and broken out more and this should help.

Dale Harmon said he knows the Commissioners work more than the number of hours they meet but with a full time staff person the time they put in must be less than it used to be. Dale Harmon said it is a struggle for the town's to keep health insurance for their full time employees. Mr. Harmon asked how to go about changing this benefit.

Mr. O'Connell said a letter from the Selectmen would help and if the budget advisory committee recommended changing it, the Commissioners usually listen to the committee.

Mr. Chaousis asked Mr. Meserve about Economic development, MCCED, the County Planning Commission and what is the most cost effective way of operating.

There was also a discussion around Mr. Faunce, his role and salary. He is an independent contractor for the county.

6. Public Comment:

7. Approve minutes of previous meeting: Dale Harmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the 02/12/2014 meeting as presented and Steve Ham seconded the motion. Vote: 3-0 in favor. Chuck Cunningham abstained as he was not at that meeting.

8. FY 2015 Budget:

- a. Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library** – Members of the Library board were present to answer questions. They are asking to be funded the same as last year. Steve Lewis said they had made profit from last year according to their profit and loss report and asked where the money went. Any extra money they have goes into their endowment, plus there was money that went into a matching grant for the new building that makes their income look larger. Dale Harmon said he thought they were offering a great service to the community.
- b. Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Cemetery District** – Members of the district were present to answer questions. They are asking for \$1,000 more than last year. When asked they said they did have an audit done the previous year by Mr. Brewer but because of the cost were not planning on having

one done this year. They will supply a copy of the audit to the town. The amount they are asking from the town is half the cost of mowing. It was suggested that they work with the town when they do any paving and it may be cheaper if they can get in on the town's contract.

- c. **Boothbay Region Ambulance Service** – Steve Lewis recused himself for this discussion. Rob Ham and Scott Lash were present to answer questions. Mr. Ham said they are tracking close to where they thought they would be. The amount of their budget and what they are asking is not a formal dollar amount yet, but it is close and should be approved before the next selectmen's meeting. They discussed grants they have received and a proposed new community service. Chuck questioned if they got their fuel from the Boothbay Depot and they do.
- d. **Boothbay Region Reuse and Disposal District** – Steve Lewis recused himself for this discussion. Chuck Cunningham is the appointed rep to this board. The District's budget is up 1.9% over last year. They lost a contract for demolition with the wood pile and now have a new one but it pays only half the price of the hold one. The district has a new bookkeeper and there are some lines that were off in the budget previously that are now accurate. They were under budget in their fuel last year.
- e. **Other** – Reviewed revenue projections and trends report, Mr. Chaouis explained the Real Estate value is based on no growth. He thinks the mil rate will be the same as last year.

9. Reports:

- a. **BOA** – They have been asked to consider reconsideration of their decision on the Marriner Tower application and will hold a meeting on 03/04/2014,
- b. **Bicycle Coalition of Maine** – Bike Maine 2014 will be stopping in Boothbay this year.
- c. **FD Forestry Grant** – The fire department received a \$1,600 grant.
- d. **Website Report** – Laurie, Heidi and Jim are working on this, they have met with a designer and should have a template by the next meeting.
- e. **Cross River Property** – Mr. Chaouis said his work on this is complete and it is now time for a meeting of the Selectmen and the Land Trust board to review a draft deed. A meeting was scheduled for 03/13/2014 at 6:00PM.
- f. **Department Reports** – Mr. Chaouis presented the Selectmen with a Land use draft copy from the Comp. Plan committee. The Foreclosure status report was discussed. 95.2% of property taxes have been collected so far. Snow removal has been over expended. The salt suppliers have said the next load of salt will be up by 30% but the town is supposed to be on a fixed price. Steve Lewis said if anyone has seen Mr. Chaouis at the fuel depot getting fuel, he is supposed to be doing so. Part of the contract with Mr. Chaouis allowed for \$350 per month for transportation and he has asked to be allowed to take fuel instead and this is saving money for the town by doing it this way. The Public Works Department is working on floats. Art Dunlap's wife passed away and the town sent flowers and a

card. Nomination papers are available from the business office. Mr. Chaousis said he has brought in a financial consultant to help on Investment policies and strategies.

10. Old Business:

- a. **Tax Increment Financing Development Plan** – A few edits have been made to that plan and new better maps are being worked on. Steve Lewis pointed out that no businesses are being financed; this is being done to shelter money. A schedule of public hearings was discussed; some of the hearings will be in conjunction with Planning Board and Selectmen meetings. Steve Lewis said he would like to see all local speakers at these meetings, no one from the outside.
- b. **Annual Town meeting** – The Selectmen were given a copy of the proposed zoning ordinance amendments, they have already been reviewed by legal. Steve Lewis said the he had spoken with Mike Tomacelli who said a lot of change was made to the sign ordinance and Mr. Lewis commended the great work done on this. A draft copy of the warrant was given the Selectmen to review, the lease with Kiscckstart stables will need to be added. Steve Lewis suggested that number 5 be reworded to clarify it and make it easier for people to understand.

11. New Business:

- a. **Ulmer fund** – Gabriel Purrin has requested \$1,500 for a class trip. Chuck Cunningham made a motion to give Mr. Purrin \$1,200 with the understanding that Mr. Chaousis will contact the school to make sure the trip is legit and that Mr. Purrin still has to work on fund-raising. Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor.

12. Public Comment: John Trees asked about recycling plastic at the transfer station. Steve Lewis said that they now have to pay to get rid of all plastic except for #2 so they will not be accepting other plastics.

Steve Lewis said how nice he thinks the Register on line is.

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

14. Executive Session pursuant 1 MRSA § 405(6) (D): Chuck Cunningham made a motion to go into executive session and not to return to public session at 9:50PM. Dale Harmon seconded the motion. Vote: 4-0 in favor.