

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 November 13, 2013
7:00 PM
MINUTES**

1. **Call Meeting to order:** Chairman Steve Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. **Present:** Steven Lewis, Dale Harmon, Charles Cunningham, Douglas Burnham, Stephen Ham and Town Manager James Chaousis II
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Public Comment:**
4. **Approve Minutes of Previous meeting:** Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes of the 10/23/2013 meeting and Doug Burnham seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**
5. **Reports:**
 - a. **CSD Trustees Meeting –** A Freedom of Access Act request has been filed with the CSD for more information. The Selectmen went, voiced their concern/displeasure and now want to know how to move on and avoid this from happening again. Steve Lewis said he feels the lines of communication have got to improve – maybe the school / boards/ trustees/ town officials can get together and brain storm, get some ideas flowing on how to create free flowing communication. Some of the trustees were present to discuss this issue. Chuck Cunningham suggested a start might be for the trustees to share their agenda's and meeting minutes with the towns. The Selectmen said they left the meeting last week without all their questions answered but have had conversations since then with various people and have gotten a lot of answers since the meeting. Douglas Burnham said that one thing he asked for at the meeting was copies of the bids and that he has not gotten yet. One of the trustees said he would get that to Douglas. Chuck Cunningham said he could not attend that meeting but when he asked Eileen King for information, she immediately provided him with the information he asked for. Dale Harmon likes the way the future is going with communication but can't just forget the way this happened. One of the trustees said that some grants have been applied for to help pay for the courts. Chuck Cunningham made a motion to rescind the Freedom of Access request and Steve Ham

seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-1 in favor.** Douglas Burnham cast the one negative vote.

- b. **Mike Tomko** – Mike Tomko, Boothbay Harbor Planning Board Chair, and Denise Griffin, Boothbay Harbor Selectperson, talked about the Boothbay Region Vision Project. This is being done with grants \$2,000 from the Lincoln County Regional Planning and \$1,000 from Boothbay Harbor. They are doing a Vision Study, they would like to create a common logo for the whole region that could be used, similar to the “I love NY” logo. They currently have draft value statements that were created by a whole group of local people who are interested in the project. They are interested in input from anyone who is interested.
- c. **Board of Appeals Report** – The Board of Appeals at their last meeting decided the Marriner Tower application was not complete and will meet again next week to see if it is complete. When it is complete a hearing date will be set. A letter from Sally Daggett to the Appeals Board on various court rulings was shared with the Selectmen.
- d. **Special Town Meeting Report** – All the town articles failed. The zoning ordinances will be separated and re-looked at and ready to be put back on the ballot in May. It is important they be separate articles. Dale Harmon said he would like to change the TIF some and revote on it again before April. Chuck Cunningham cautioned that if it is asked again too quickly it will be shot down, just as happened with the sewer and water a few years ago. This led to a discussion about the money in the TIF, what it could be used for, if it could be taken out, if it could be put into the General fund, etc. There was also a discussion around if the money created by an increase in taxes created by the Country Club could be better used in the General Fund to help all people in the town off set their expenses/taxes. There was a discussion on if the TIF is re-introduced should it be made smaller, just the Country Club or stay the same size. It was mentioned that one business across from the Industrial Park is already wanting to expand. There was also a discussion on if this was done whether it would be a referendum question again or an open town meeting and how to get the word out and how to education people on what it really is. Steve Lewis said he would like input before going forward with anything. He would like to know what people think. He suggested a survey on multiple sites asking people what they think. The survey would be simple, ask people if they would like to see just the TIF article (simpler version) brought to vote again, ballot or referendum and what town they live in. If Boothbay residents overwhelming say yes to wanting to vote again on this, then the town should go ahead, if the residents of Boothbay say no then it should be dropped. The survey should be on the Town’s website, Facebook, The Register, as many places as it can be posted. Mr. Chaousis was asked to find out what the last date to hold a vote on this would be to be able to meet the April deadline.

- e. **Comprehensive Planning Committee** – Their last meeting was cancelled, they are looking at some information on low impact development area
 - f. **Goals & objectives** – this has gotten pushed aside again, rescheduled for 6:30 on 11/27/2013 before next Selectmen's meeting
 - g. **Department Head Report** – No meetings this week as Mr. Chaousis has been on vacation. The Maine Forest Service would like to place a moth collection box on the common. A thank you was received from the Getting Away group. The employee health insurance is going up 4% for 2014.
6. **Old Business:**
- a. **GA Ordinance Appendices A-F** – Chuck Cunningham made a motion to approve the MMA recommended GA ordinance appendices A-F and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**
7. **New Business:**
- a. **Ulmer Fund** – Heidi put together a spread sheet so the Selectmen can now see how much money is in the fund and how much has been spent and when. There is also a new application. Dale Harmon made a motion to approve the application of Thomas Cornell for \$1,000 from the Ulmer Fund to be used for the German American Partnership and Chuck Cunningham seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**
 - b. **BRAS Budget Committee Request** – Traditionally one of the Selectmen have been appointed to this committee but a member of the community has come forward and asked to be appointed to this committee. Mr. Frosty Leonard said he is from this area; he was born here, grew up here and has the skills and expertise that is needed to be on such a committee. He feels this is an excellent time to open this committee up and have an outside party onboard, especially after St. Andrews closing and the costs increasing. Robbie Ham said he has no problem with this; there have been times in the past when there was no interest at all in this. The Selectmen said they had no problems with this or with Mr. Leonard. Chuck Cunningham said that if they are going to open this opportunity up to someone outside of the board they should let the public know and see if there is anyone else who is interested to be fair.
 - c. **Social Media Policy** – Recently Mr. Chaousis blocked someone (Laurie Knowlton) because he felt the comments were getting a little out of hand. After a discussion with Ms. Knowlton he unblocked her from the site but this has brought up what should and should not be put on the town's face book page. Before the recent town meeting it had political content on it. Steve Lewis said he felt it should contain information only – no comments and no political information. Chuck Cunningham, suggested information only with a comment saying if you have questions, contact the town manager at Or one of the Selectmen at and leave it at that. There was a conversation about blocked comments, generic settings, etc. Ms. Knowlton was present and talked about what was on it, how she felt being

blocked, etc. Ms. Knowlton has a page called Boothbay Region Online which she has had to temporarily take down because of negative feedback she has gotten recently over political comments around the Boothbay events. Ms. Knowlton said she was hurt by something that Mr. Chaousis said to her online. Mr. Chaousis apologized to her and she accepted the apology. Mr. Chaousis has put together a lengthy Social Media Policy, Chuck Cunningham suggested that there should also be something in the Personnel Policy about employees not giving out Boothbay's opinion, which needs to come through official channels. Steve Lewis also suggested that it will need to be reviewed by the legal department.

8. Public comment:

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

10. **Adjourn Meeting:** Chuck Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**