

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 27 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, Douglas Burnham, Charles Cunningham, Stephen Ham and James Chaousis II Town Manager
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:**
3. **Dave & Ruth Alley:** RE: 2005 Consent Agreement – The previous landowner, Mr. Koch had entered into a consent agreement with the Town of Boothbay before Mr. & Mrs. Alley purchased the property in 2007. The Alleys have been trying to abide by the agreement but now they want to build a house on the property and they feel the consent agreement has to be absolved before they can build their house. Mr. Chaousis said he thinks they can abide by the consent agreement and still build their house. Mr. Chaousis said another consent agreement would have to be entered into to dissolve this consent agreement. It would be easier to let this one run out in 2015 like it should, if possible. Mr. Chaousis explained that if Mr. & Mrs. Alley submit plans to the CEO like anyone else would they can be treated like anyone else would. The CEO/Town can change/approve the plans to make them fit in with the consent agreement and still follow it. Once this was explained the Alley's said they were willing to try that route. Mr. Lewis said he would rather they try that first and if it did not work out then they could come back to the Selectmen to ask to have it dissolved.
4. **Minutes:** Dale Harmon made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/13/2013 meeting and Doug Burnham seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**
5. **Public Comment:** Henry Rowe talked about the Woodchucks, he said they delivered 25 truckloads of wood last week. They are entering their fifth year and have delivered a total of 295 truckloads of wood. He thanked Steve Lewis and the guys at the Transfer Station for their help.

Mr. Chaousis talked about a recent article in the Boothbay Register and apologized for some wrong phrasing he used that might have offended some people. He stated:

On Friday November 15th, 2013, the Boothbay Register posted an article "Selectmen try to keep TIF idea alive". I was quoted recommending that the TIF scale be "dumbed down". The Boothbay Register reporter wrote the article very well. It was very clear that I was suggesting simplifying the Tax Increment Financing District Development Program, or what has been referred to as the TIF. The choice of phrasing caught many eyes and the inference has been made that I was stating that the TIF was too complicated for the voters or that the voters were not astute enough to understand the TIF. The reverse is true.

The Tax Increment Financing District Development Program was written in a fashion that made it very sophisticated. Many towns have had their opportunity to present TIF districts to their voters and I believe that they exclude opportunity from TIF districts because it is easier to explain to the voters. While I understand that perspective, I don't agree. Anyone that attended the open office hours, public hearings, or informational meetings understands that the Town of Boothbay was well versed in how TIF's work. Most people left those sessions, if not in support of a TIF, very well informed on why they benefit a community.

I was stating that, if the TIF were to be reintroduced, the voters require a different product. They would require a product that didn't have as many bells and whistles. Many of the prospects would need to be eliminated because the public obviously didn't support the TIF in the form introduced. Why would they support the same plan?

Several neighbors, friends, and critics have advised me on my use of phrasing. Obviously, "dumbed down" was the wrong phrase, on the wrong topic, at the wrong time. To the people that it offended, "I'm sorry, that was not the intent."

To the people that spoke to me about my use of phrasing, "Thank you." I think we probably had a dialogue about the event and I appreciate the informality of local government. I appreciate the way that you can discuss local issues with the local elected leaders and the local appointed officials. There truly is no better form of government than local government. You probably learned relatively quickly how much I regret using that phrase but you also probably learned that I own every word that comes from my mouth. The newspaper can selectively distribute any portion of the conversation that they deem is exciting and will make news. The Selectmen and I are engaged in a dialogue about how to run a multimillion dollar public business in a transparent, efficient, and effective manner. Sometimes words will come out that we want back but they are always distributed in the fashion that the founders intended....in a transparent, conscientious, open dialogue in front of the voters.

6. Reports:

- a. Fireworks request-** Boothbay Harbor has taken over collecting the money for the 4th of July fireworks and has sent a request that will go with the budget requests
- b. FY 2013 Audit –** A hard copy was given to the Selectmen and the Auditor will be present at the 12/11/2013 meeting to discuss
- c. Board of Appeals Report –** The Board found the Mariner Tower application complete. They requested a peer review be done that the applicant will pay for and set a public hearing for 01/28/2014.
- d. Comprehensive Planning Committee –** They have spent a lot of time talking about ground water, both short and long term. The time table will be tight but they are still hoping to have something together for the May town meeting.

- e. **FY 2015 Budget** – Mr. Chaousis gave the Selectmen a timeline for this. There will not be a Selectmen’s meeting on December 25th 2013. Henry Rowe asked about the Town allocation of funds for record keeping of old records.
 - f. **Goals & Objectives** – The Selectmen and Town manager met before tonight’s meeting to discuss this. A report will be generated for the next meeting.
 - g. **Special Town Meeting Timeline/survey** – If a STM is held in March a warrant would need to be signed 01/08/14 if by referendum and 02/03/14 if by open town meeting. Mr. Chaousis said the survey really was inconclusive. Chuck Cunningham thinks they should take 12 months and do this right if they going to do it again. Steve Lewis thinks it is too soon to do it again. Eric Wood asked if the town lost control over the entrance to the road to the Country club and Mr. Chaousis said yes, that is out of the Town’s hands now. There was a discussion on if there was enough time to do education between now and January, with the holidays, plus how to change the TIF if changes were to be made to it. Dale Harmon said he would like to see people in the community sell it to others in the community. It was mentioned that staff are taking the heat for this topic. Steve Ham said he thought this should be reintroduced as soon as possible because it is the right thing to do. Steve Ham made a motion to reintroduce the TIF for a vote in March by referendum vote, warrant to be signed on 12/11/2013 , the credit enhancements to be taken out, Economic development director taken out and infrastructure of roads be done with TIF money put in and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-1 in favor.** Chuck Cunningham cast the one negative vote, saying it is just too soon. Steve Lewis said he would prefer to have nothing else on the warrant put this one question.
 - h. **Department Head report** - PWD was out sanding recently, they have the Christmas lights up and are ready for winter. The CEO is still busy. The ICE BEAR is here. Foreclosures happen on 12/18/2013, about 30 of them. Dog licenses are now available. Assessing is getting ready for a Bette audit, the mapping project is underway. Santa will be here Saturday. The Town Office will be closed on Christmas Eve as well as Christmas. The town has received the local road check. There is a survey out for the vision/logo of the region project.
7. **Old Business:**
- a. **BRAS Budget Committee Request** – Steve Lewis recused himself and Dale Harmon took over this part of the meeting. The ad for anyone interested in the committee has been in the newspaper for 1 week. Mr. Leonard has also expressed an interest in the Port Committee. Mr. Leonard said he would have time to do both if given the opportunity. Steve Lewis, as a member of the audience, stated that BRAS is in the process of changing their government structure with a bylaw change. He stated that the change would create a governing board with town appointee because of the large subsidy coming from the towns with the

hospital closure. Mr. Leonard asked if it was BRAS's intention to create a special district like the Refuse District. Steve Lewis answered that it was not their intention at this time but the governing structure would resemble a district and it may be entertained in the future. Chuck Cunningham made a motion to appoint Mr. Frosty Leonard to the Port Committee and Steve Ham seconded the motion. **Vote: 4-0 in favor.** It was decided to let the ad for the BRAS committee run in the newspaper another week and look at it again at the next meeting.

- b. **Social Media Policy** – Steve Lewis said he thought the policy was too in depth. Chuck Cunningham said he thought the comments were going to be disabled on Facebook, if that is done the policy should not be needed, it is too much. The Selectmen said do not go forward with the policy.
- c. **Spirit of America Nominee** – A nominee was skipped in 2013. It was decided to make an announcement each year at the annual Town Meeting.

8. **New Business:**

- a. **Giving Tuesday Declaration** – Valerie Young, Bigelow Labs, contacted the Selectmen with a declaration she would like them to sign making the Tuesday following Thanksgiving Giving Tuesday. Boothbay Harbor is supporting this. After reading the resolution, Chuck Cunningham made a motion to pass the resolution and Steve Ham seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**

9. **Public Comment:** Steve Lewis made the comment that he loves how this board can talk things out and functions. Even though they don't always agree, they still talk things through and work together as a team.

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

11. **Adjourn Meeting:** Chuck Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM and Dale Harmon seconded the motion. **Vote: 5-0 in favor.**