

BOOTHBAY HARBOR SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2023

In addition to these typed minutes, video recordings of all Selectmen's meetings can be viewed at BRCTV and audio recordings at the Boothbay Harbor Town Office.

ATTENDING: Michael Tomko - Chair
Kenneth Rayle - Vice Chair
Mark Gimbel

Julia Latter, Town Manager

Chairman Tomko called the Board of Selectmen's Meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

TOWN MANAGERS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The Street Light Conversion Project will occur between September and the beginning of October. There is a projected savings of 1.3 million over the 20-year expected life of the fixtures. There is a transitional agreement with Realterm Energy for the street lights that are currently out and will be fixed soon.
2. Ken Rayle will continue as a Lincoln County Budget Advisory Committee member, as he has for the past two years.
3. The library programs and technology manager will hold a one-day event with the Town of Boothbay Harbor called "Touch a Truck" in the town's parking lot. This event will take place on a Saturday between mid-October and early November.
4. Town Manager Latter will meet with MDOT to discuss possibly repainting 4 or 5 crosswalks for safety.
5. Hammond Mechanical has recommended that both boiler pumps in the town office be replaced immediately. With the labor and piping, this will cost \$9,000 of our \$10,000 repair and maintenance budget, but it is a necessity that cannot be avoided.
6. The Commercial Street restrooms closed down last Thursday and Friday for touch-ups. The walls and doors were painted, new smoke detectors were installed and mirrors were ordered.
7. Using ARPA funding approved last year, a new carpet has been installed throughout the town office. The same funding is intended to be used for new windows.
8. Jay Hasch will leave public works at the end of this month and is commended for his hard work and time. The town seeks a new heavy equipment operator/laborer with public works, a new shellfish warden, and police officers. Advertisements are out, and applications are available online and at the town office.

TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Mike Tomko mentions a fire had occurred Sunday, July 30, which was responded to by members of the Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor, and Southport fire departments. The board of selectmen has received a letter of thanks from the family and would like to offer respect and gratitude to our department.

SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:

1. Mark Gimbel and Ken Rayle visited the Lewis Park Property on Summit Street to begin thinking about what we could make of it as a part of their goal to improve public assets.
2. Due to recruitment difficulty and recent personnel issues, the Boothbay Harbor Coast Guard Station will temporarily be placed on a 28-day non-mission-capable status. This will take effect August 16th through 31st and September 5th through 15th. In distress, boaters should use VHF channel 16 or call the sector commander.
3. The school board and trustees voted to pass on a proposed \$89,000,000.00 bond for voting this coming November.

FINANCIALS: Finance officer Kathleen Pearce sent the AP to the board of selectmen. Numbers are currently being reconciled for the Footbridge Project.

MINUTES: Motion to approve the July 24, 2023 minutes, as written; approved 3-0.

LICENSES:

1. Motion to approve the renewal application for a liquor license, Malt, Wine, and Spirits, Boothbay Harbor Oceanside Golf Resort, 35 Atlantic Ave; approved 3-0.
2. Motion to approve the renewal application for a liquor license, Malt, Wine, and Spirits, Schooner Appledore, 22 Commercial Street; approved 3-0.
3. Motion to approve the renewal application for a liquor license, Malt, and Wine, Boothbay Region House of Pizza, Inc., 185E Townsend Ave; approved 3-0.
4. Motion to approve the renewal application for a liquor license, Malt, Wine, and Spirits, Spruce Point Inn Resort & Spa, 88 Grandview Ave; approved 3-0.
5. Motion to approve the renewal application for a liquor license, Malt, Wine, and Spirits, Footbridge Brewery LLC, 25 Granary Way; approved 3-0.
6. Motion to approve the renewal application for a special amusement license, The Opera House, 86 Townsend Ave; approved 3-0.
7. Motion to approve the renewal application for a special amusement license, Footbridge Brewery, 25 Granary Way; approved 3-0.
8. Motion to approve the renewal application for a special amusement license, Spruce Point Inn., 88 Grandview Ave; approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Boothbay Region Housing Trust-Cynthia Watson:** Cynthia Watson, treasurer of the Boothbay Region Housing Trust, comes with an update on affordable housing. She announces they have been awarded a \$21,000 grant from county commissioners. Applications are being accepted at this time and are available online at www.boothbayregionhousingtrust.com and at the town offices in Southport, Boothbay Harbor, Boothbay, and Edgecomb.
2. **Charles E Sherman American Legion Post's Jim Singer/Phil Chapman-Veteran's Banner Proposal:** Jim Singer and Phil Chapman present the idea of hanging 30x60 vinyl banners on telephone poles in the region to honor our veterans between the months of May and November for the next three years. Motion to accept the proposal as presented to display

the American Legion banners per the presentation made by Jim Singer and Phil Chapman; approved 3-0.

3. **Port Committee Appointment:** There is a motion to accept Matt Carter as the first alternate on the Port Committee, term ending June 30, 2025; approved 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Footbridge Renovation Project Update:** The float and runway have been installed, and lighting is still being worked on. The a-frame is almost complete off-site, and there will be a brief closure when it comes time to install it. We have received temporary signs to be installed for numerous safety precautions.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. The Board discusses a project to occur on the swing bridge connecting Boothbay Harbor. As we get more information, the public will be notified.
2. The Board acknowledges the concern over the new lighting at Fisherman's Memorial Park. The individuals in charge of the park have discussed putting up glare shields for safety reasons. Town Code does not cover LED lighting, and nothing can be done now; however, there has been a discussion with planning board chair Tom Churchill to address the issue.
3. Boothbay Harbor resident Steve Carbone asks Police Chief Snyder how the recruitment of officers is going and when coverage from Lincoln County will end. Snyder says we have hired two new officers and is scheduled to go to 2 more job fairs within the next couple of months. Coverage from Lincoln County will end on September 30, and Snyder is working on a backup plan in case there is not enough staff at that time.
4. Carbone asks Town Manager Latter roughly how much the Footbridge Project has cost. Latter says it was roughly 1.3 million, to which MDOT put in a quarter million dollars.
5. Boothbay Harbor resident Denise Griffin discusses the proposed school bond referendum. Griffin points out that enrollment has declined significantly in the past ten years, with a square footage 600 per student. Griffin points out that the \$89,000,000 school bond will increase our mil rate by 3.31%, roughly a 37% increase.
6. Boothbay Harbor Summer resident John Scogan emphasizes his concern with the lighting at the Fisherman's Memorial Park. He then asks if the volunteer firemen have to go to the firehouse before they go to the fire, to which Town Manager Latter answers that it depends on their position. He then adds that he has noticed we consistently have a couple million dollars in the bank at the end of each fiscal year. Latter explains that we have an undesignated fund balance that, according to our code, we need three months of operating expenses for emergency purposes.
7. Boothbay Harbor resident Carrie Langlois says there should be a way to measure LED to wattage. She believes that even with a glare guard, the light at Fisherman's Memorial Park will be intrusive.
8. Boothbay Harbor resident Robert Gill believes that the light at Fisherman's Memorial is a safety issue and does not follow the code.
9. Town Manager Latter emphasizes that she has been working with Fisherman's Memorial and the Church to solve this problem. She has also talked with legal to see if any enforcement action can be taken if we do not get these shields, to which they answered no

because it is not in our code. She makes it clear that we will be working on a revision of the code.

10. There is a lot of discussion within the public about possibilities for the lighting situation and how it can be resolved.

WARRANTS: Motion to approve the warrants upon review; approved 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 8:45 PM; approved 3-0.