MINUTES

BOOTHBAY HARBOR

SELECTMEN’S MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

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

ATTENDING: Denise Griffin, Vice Chair

Russ Hoffman

Mike Tomko

Trisha Warren

Wendy Wolf, Chair

Julia Latter, Finance Officer

**Chair Wolf called the Board of Selectmen’s meeting to order at 7:00 pm.**

Pledge of Allegiance: The Board of Selectmen and members of the audience.

TOWN MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. On Manager Woodin's behalf, Chair Wolf stated that Palmer Payne, long-time volunteer on the Budget Committee (as well as a vast array of other committees) had passed away. [There was a moment of silence to honor his memory and contribution to the town.]

2. Chair Wolf announced that Chris Leeman was leaving Public Works for a new job and his position was being posted. Chair Wolf thanked Chris for his leadership and stewardship of Public Works, wishing him well and good luck on his new endeavor.

3. Vice Chair Griffin stated that for those who are concerned about those at Maine Med such as Elise Roberts, also a member of the Budget Committee for awhile and Pete Mundy they can go on the Maine Med website and send them a message for their recovery.

4. Chair Wolf stated there is going to be a Water Department meeting about rate increases at the Southport town office on Thursday, 9/20 at 6:00 p.m.

FINANCIALS:

Finance Officer Latter reviewed the financial totals with the Board stating they were slightly above where they were last year at this time. Finance Officer Latter also stated the graph will be back in the report by the next Selectmen's meeting on Monday, 9/24th.

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Selectman Hoffman **motioned** to approve the corrected minutes of the August 27th meeting. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

1. Chair Wolf stated she, Vice Chair Griffin, Selectmen Tomko and Selectmen Warren had met with the Boothbay Select Board at the Boothbay town hall on Tuesday, 9/4th to participate in a broadband discussion. This is one of the activities highlighted in the joint economic development plan developed by Camoin Associates. The meeting was to identify the top priorities shared by both towns - broadband being one of them.

Boothbay Selectman Kristina Ford and Joint Economic Development Committee member, Steve Malcom, organized a meeting talk with some knowledgeable individuals across the state about broadband (speakers were Larry Sterrs, CEO of the Unity Foundation as well as Vice President of UniTek, Mark Ouellette of Axiom Technologies.)

The group discussed goals for the region for access to broadband and how those goals could be achieved.

On behalf of the two towns, Chair Wolf asked if there was any individual interested in serving on a joint town broadband committee to step forward. (On Wednesday, the Boothbay Select Board will be asking the same thing.) The Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission staff will also help to move this issue forward. There is a grant opportunity due on October 15th with a $15,000 award that could help the towns articulate the goals and objectives to obtain broadband.

Selectman Tomko stated there needs to be a group to define their goals.

Selectman Warren felt it was a good opportunity and that they should push forward to make it happen.

2. Nancy Prisk gave a brief overview of what Southport has been doing. Nancy stated about a year and a half ago, Southport was invited to join Georgetown and Arrowsic to apply for a $15,000 grant from the Island Institute. With an additional $5,000 from each of the three towns, for a total of $30,000, they had enough money to have Axiom do an engineering design with the eventual goal of bringing fiber optics to every home and business on each of the three islands. Their next step will be to look for providers.

3. Selectman Tomko had attended a meeting of the Boothbay Lights committee at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, 9/7th at the Boothbay town office. Selectman Tomko stated if you go to boothbaylights.com you can see a map showing the best way(s) to get to the Gardens with the locations of public restrooms, where to "shop, dine + stay," calendar of events (TBD) and a merchant resource page for businesses to download logos and information about

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their business with social media links and marketing tips. There will be a "kick-off" meeting for business on Wednesday, 9/12 at 5:00 p.m. at the Opera House.

LICENSES:

(None)

ONGOING BUSINESS:

1. Nick Upham gave a fire truck procurement presentation providing the following information.

* Engine #3 has been having constant mechanical problems.
* Engine #3, while not the oldest, is twenty years old. (Engine #5 is the oldest but still going strong.)
* A new truck could be set up to make it capable for rescue, forestry and as a primary pumper (plus a mutual aid water drafting truck for neighboring towns) with safety and efficiency features.
* Has illumination features to provide more light to fight fires after dark.
* Fewer fire fighters are required to operate it.
* Pumper trucks are used a lot because they usually go to every fire.
* Engine #3 can be traded in for $20,000 to help offset the price of a new fire truck.
* There is a fire truck reserve account for future fire trucks so money does not have to be borrowed to purchase one.

Nick confirmed the proposed fire truck would fit in the fire station and that it is considered the same as a battleship. Nick also confirmed the lead time for delivery is 330 days because it is custom made for the buyer and there is also a backlog.

Nick explained the 100% performance bond applied on the contact means when the new truck is delivered, they guarantee Engine #3 will still be exactly the same as it is now for trade in.

Nick stated "If full acceptance tests are required..." on the contact means when they get the new truck they will try it out then sign off on it...sort of like the final inspection. Nick confirmed the firemen will take the course offered to learn how to use it. Nick also confirmed the contract is good until September 15, 2019.

Chair Wolf stated the new fire truck was priced at $425,000 less the $20,000 trade in for a total cost of $405,000. The fire truck reserve account has $396,862.75 in it which will result in a short fall of $8,137.25. Nick Upham stated he will take that amount out of his fire department **equipment** account.

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Nick Upham confirmed to Cory Tibbets that the $8,137.25 would be coming out of his equipment account rather than his maintenance account.

Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to sign the **purchase order** to buy the new fire truck for $405,000. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the **transfer** of $396,862.75 from the investment reserve account for the purchase of the fire truck. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

Finance Officer Latter stated the investment reserve account is replenished by $30,000 per year.

2. Lincoln Health President and CEO, Jim Donovan with Lincoln Health Vice President and Director of Development, Marketing and Communications, Scott Shott, were there to provide information about health care trends and the Maine Health merger.

Jim Donovan stated that due to new technology, outpatient care is replacing inpatient care. Lincoln Health functions on three fronts: Outpatient care, senior living as well as long-term care and hospital care. It is expensive for rural healthcare systems since Medicare and Medicaid constitutes about two thirds of the gross annual revenue to provide care. Commercial insurance comprises only 27%.

Jim Donovan also pointed out a shortage of Lincoln County healthcare's workforce. The average age of 41% of their workforce is 50 years or older and about 23% of their nurses are 60 years or older. Lincoln Health is forced to use contract labor from out of state to fill positions they are not able to fill. Lincoln Health has programs to "grow their own" employees to combat this but it has become difficult to attract young people.

To make up the difference, Lincoln Health has developed a regionalized system by a merger of hospitals into a single organization so they can leverage resources and share costs. The first hospital was St. Andrews Hospital in 1997, followed by Miles Hospital six months later. During the past two years the merger has increased to 15 hospitals called MaineHealth, making it the third financially strong system in New England after Mass General and Yale New Haven.

Chair Wolf asked how our region will be represented and not lost in the new governance configuation.

Jim Donovan responded this was a common concern; that finding a balance between financial strength and ability and governing strength and ability is their primary goal.

Cory Tibbetts expressed concern about losing St. Andrews Hospital.

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Jim Donovan responded that St. Andrews and Miles represent the two campuses of Lincoln Health. Jim stated that people have to get used to the idea that outpatient care has surpassed inpatient care, the nature of the new technology, to receive better and less expensive care.

Chris Kenniston wondered if urgent care at St. Andrews could become 24 hours.

Jim Donovan responded that not enough people go to the hospital between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. to make it financially possible. During those hours people with medical issues dial 911 instead.

Jim Donovan confirmed to Tom Cotter that the difficulty in getting people to enroll in school to become health care professionals is a national problem. Finding faculty is part of the problem.

Sue Toscher wondered how electronic medical records would be handled between so many facilities. Sue also stated her husband recently had chest pains and wanted to go to Miles but they were full so he ended up further from home at Mid Coast Hospital which was not convenient for family and friends.

Steve Toscher, Sue's husband, stated when they got to Mid Coast Hospital he was not put into a room until Mid Coast Hospital got all of his information.

Jim Donovan responded that Mid Coast Hospital is not part of MaineHealth and have a different set of electronic records . Jim stated that Epic Systems Corporation helps to close the gap with non-MaineHealth facilities.

Jean McKay commented that what happened to the Toscher's would not be a good thing in the winter.

Jim Donovan again mentioned dialing 911 as a better choice than going to Urgent Care.

Andrew Gudroe stated at a recent football game a player with neck injuries had to be sent to Miles.

Jim Donovan stated that both Miles and St. Andrews are part of Lincoln Health.

Dave Racicot, a retired physician, stated he'd been against St. Andrews becoming part of Lincoln Health from the beginning and still objects to not having 24 hour health care there.

Chair Wolf stated she was hearing a lot of concerns from members of the community. Chair Wolf had asked Lincoln Health to be more visible in the Boothbay region, especially so they could hear the fears and concerns of the community. This evening was supposed to be more of an informational presentation but clearly there needs to be a broader community discussion.

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Ingrid McBride described a medical concern she had back in March which caused her to go to Urgent Care where she was asked where she wanted to go. She chose Miles Hospital who diagnosed her condition as the onset of cardiac arrest so they sent her to Maine Med where she had a quadruple by-pass operation. She was thankful that she got to Urgent Care before 8:00 p.m. because, not knowing how serious her condition was, she would have just stayed home.

Judy Stone stated closing the hospital worked counter to attracting families to the region. Also as a older community, having a hospital is essential. Judy claimed that Epic is designed for hospital billing.

John Seitzer asked if someone could go to a Life Flight location to be taken to a hospital. [The answer was "no."]

Darrell Gudroe was confused about being told "they have a hospital when they don't."

Jim Donovan responded that **Lincoln Health** was the hospital.

Cory Tibbetts made an analogy about generals sitting in a war room who realize they are going to lose a certain number of soldiers if they go into battle but order them to do so anyway because they are considered to be expendable.

3. William Brewer gave his audit presentation next, touching on some of the highlights. It was a clean audit with no management issues.

Selectman Tomko asked how the town was doing with the investment fund.

William Brewer responded that it was difficult to compare with prior years because the interest rates fluctuate. It is also affected by the amount of expenditures, which the town had been very conservative about.

Selectman Hoffman wondered about the overall health of the budget.

William Brewer responded the balances on pages 16 + 17 of the annual audit report, which compare figures from 2017 with those from 2018, show the budget to be in better shape than the previous year.

Chair Wolf thanked William Brewer for such a thorough job.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chair Wolf, on behalf of all the Select Board, thanked everyone who had come to the August 27th Public Hearing, that had preceded the regular Selectmen's meeting. The Select Board had withdrawn the referendum vote based on the majority of comments that were not in favor of it that evening.

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The Select Board had also heard the plea for the town to pull together and not be fractured by this issue, but to find a compromise to allow them to move forward in a way that satisfies the desire for economic development as well as to stay true to the Comprehensive Plan.

PUBLIC FORUM:

1. Patty Minerich stated at the Public Hearing, on behalf of the people who had signed the petition she had presented to the Select Board members, she had asked for Bob Faunce to be brought back into the planning process concerning the east side but had not heard back.

Patty also asked about the prospect of hiring a professional planner that the Joint Economic Development Committee had been talking about. [Chair Wolf responded bringing Bob Faunce back would be under the purview of the Planning Board who are still determining their final proposal. Chair Wolf explained the JEDC discussion about having a professional planner is in a different context, for example looking for someone to develop a Harbor Master Plan, as part of the overall economic development strategy in the region.]

2. Sue Toscher wanted to thank the people in Boothbay Harbor for their passion and stated the Harbor is a jewel.

3. Steve Toscher wondered who determines if the town needs a planner. [Chair Wolf responded it would be a decision made by the Select Board in concert with what is in the budget.]

4. John Seitzer asked if funds had been set aside for a town planner. [Chair Wolf answered that there is money being set aside in the budget for two years. It is not intended for a full-time employee. Bob Faunce was compensated for the work he did from that account.]

5. Darrell Gudroe felt they needed a "community" planner instead of a "town planner."

[Chair Wolf agreed that dialogs should be between the towns.]

6. Jean McKay wondered what happened to the channel markers that were supposed to go in the harbor in July. [Nick Upham responded the channel markers had been ordered and would go in as soon as they arrived...probably by October 1st.]

WARRANTS:

Vice Chair Griffin **motioned** to approve the warrants upon careful review. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval.**

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. under MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13 (1), Section 405, 6 (A) - Personnel Matters.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:08.

No decisions were made.

MOVE TO ADJOURN:

The meeting was **adjourned** at 9:09 p.m.

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