MINUTES

BOOTHBAY HARBOR

SELECTMEN’S MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2016

ATTENDING: Denise Griffin, Chairman

William Hamblen, Vice Chairman

Russ Hoffman

Tricia Warren

Wendy Wolf

Thomas Woodin, Town Manager

Julia Latter, Finance Officer

**Chairman Griffin 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’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* They had received a check for $430 from the Boothbay Region Land Trust as a voluntary payment to the town, based on the state of Maine’s “Open Space Land Use” program. The Board voted unanimously to accept the check.
* Laurie Bouchard is planning to attend the January 25th meeting to discuss revisions to their personnel manual. [The final draft they’d received has changes indicated in red.]
* Animal Control Officer, Betsy Pratt, has resigned. Her husband, Dave Pratt, has been her back-up and would like to take her place. [To be voted on under NEW BUSINESS.]

FINANCIALS:

Officer Latter reviewed the financial totals with the Board, confirming they were on target with both revenue and expenses.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Chairman Griffin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the (revised) November 23rd and the December 14th Selectmen’s meetings. Selectman Wolf **motioned** to approve the minutes (with the revision). Vice Chairman Hamblen **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

(None)

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Chris Higgins, Boothbay Harbor Sewer District, announced the District had been awarded a $20,000 grant from NOAA to study the impact of storm level rise in the Harbor.

* The award money would be administered by the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission in increments of $5,000.
* The consensus of the Board was that the Fish Pier, Foot Bridge with Parking Lot and Whale Park would be affected.
* The consensus of the Board was also that protection of private property should not be covered by taxpayers’ money.
* The Sewer District is requesting a representative from the Board of Selectmen to be on their steering committee to help conduct the study (which should take approximately 3 - 4 meetings).
* Vice Chairman Hamblen, who has a degree in ocean engineering, volunteered to be on their steering committee.

B. Robbie Ham, Boothbay Region Ambulance Service, stated their budget process had started and he did not believe there was anything new or controversial about it.

* They have been very busy this winter and so far it has not been weather related.
* Selectman Wolf suggested looking into the use of more energy efficient heating methods.
* Need to replace another ambulance, keeping in mind the need to downsize in the future.

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C. Appointment of Dave Pratt as Animal Control Officer. Selectman Wolf **motioned** to approve the appointment. Vice Chairman Hamblen **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

D. Selectman Wolf asked for discussion of some issues for the JEDC (Joint Economic Development Committee).

* The excitement of a committee working on economic development has motivated a number of volunteers to join.
* Business owners will be contacted by members for input about what they believe to be the pros and cons of economic development in the region.
* Need to form task committees to interpret land use codes for a common ground between towns for the sake of promoting economic development.

Vice Chairman Hamblen suggested focusing on fewer projects at a time such as broadband, which is important to the infrastructure of the region, and handing off others to appropriate groups such as the Planning Boards.

Vice Chairman Hamblen added that they need to keep in mind there are some fundamental differences between the towns.

Mike Tomko reported that the members of both Planning Boards are willing to study their codes to see how they can be adapted to make economic development easier to take place.

Selectman Wolf mentioned that at the last JEDC meeting Mike had shared the work that had been done by previous committees to treat the peninsula as a region, with branding and the tagline, “Surround Yourself.”

Selectman Wolf thanked the people on the JEDC, including the volunteers, who meet every two weeks at the Y and have put a lot of time into it. She hopes for more commitment from Southport and eventually Edgecomb.

PUBLIC FORUM:

(None)

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WARRANTS:

Selectman Wolf **motioned** that the warrants be approved upon careful review. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session, MRSA Title 1, Section 405 (6) (C) - Use of publicly held - tax acquired property at 7:50 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. No decisions were made.

MOVE TO ADJOURN:

Selectman Wolf **motioned** to adjourn. Selectman Hoffman **seconded**. **Unanimous approval.**

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:38 p.m.

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