

**Board of Selectmen**

Chuck Cunningham - Chairman  
Steven Lewis - Vice Chairman  
Dale Harmon  
Russell Pinkham  
Julie Roberts

**Town Manager**

Daniel Bryer Jr.



**Town of Boothbay  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Wednesday, February 28, 2024  
6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Recorded meetings located at <https://townhallstreams.com/towns/boothbay> for more in depth discussions.**

**Present:** Steve Lewis, Dale Harmon, Russell Pinkham, Chuck Cunningham, Julie Roberts and Town Manager, Dan Bryer Jr.

**Chuck called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Hearings:**

**Municipal Warrant** – Everything pertinent is on the Warrant. They included the ordinance changes which had the solar farm designation added as requested by the Board and a couple of other changes.

**Municipal Budget** – The increase is at 6.53% which is the absolute best Dan can do. The hard costs such as electricity, water etc. are just too high to adjust anything further. He was able to lock in fuel prices which is a very good thing with everything happening overseas. The vast majority of our budget is decided by the County and the school. Roughly 60% of it. Chuck commends Dan for his hard work on this. Financially the Town is in a very good place.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approve Minutes:** None

**Reports:**

All municipal papers need to be turned in by March 7<sup>th</sup>. Give yourself time in case some of the signers aren't Boothbay residents. Dan always suggests they get more than the 25 needed just in case. Chuck wants an update on the ballfield. We have a donation of \$600.00 from the Legion for the flagpole. Tom Nickerson's class at their last class reunion decided to take the remaining money they had from their class fund and give it to the BCA towards the flagpole. That was around \$400.00 total, Dan thinks they need \$1500.00 with an extra \$200.00 for solar lights to illuminate it at night. The BCA has donated three tiered bleachers. Kevin Bowler from the Garden Club has made distance signs for each portion of the field. If you hit a home run you'll know exactly what you just surpassed. That was a donation from the Garden Club. The Rotary dropped off a check for \$3,000.00 for a storage shed. The foul poles are made and just need to be installed. Kip Farrin has offered his time to help put the flagpole in. Lights are still needed in the parking lot. Dan has called the company and he's hoping it will get done soon. Chuck recommended that the Board send a letter to the company if it doesn't get done by the next meeting. Julie mentioned Tom Nickerson sent her a list of things needed for the ballfield, some of the things have already been taken care of. He feels that a lot of things can be done by fundraising. She suggests that maybe someone in the public can get a fundraising group together. Dan said they can meet at the Town Office if they need a place to meet. Julie feels they are in good shape for the season.

Dan is going to advertise again for another Public Works person in March. Mike has gone out to get accredited to be an instructor to train the new person to get their CDL license.

## **Old Business: None**

**Byron Cortez – Pride Month Proclamation Proposal** – Ed Shaw, Boothbay resident stated that if the Town is going to fly a technicolor flag he wants the Town to fly a Jewish flag in memory of all of the Jewish people who were massacred by the settlers, and it should be flown at half-mast.

Ed also brought up that years ago the Town and Washburn and Doughty made an agreement that if the Town gave them a piece of land to the shore that they would fence it in and maintain it. He doesn't see a fence or maintenance and he is wondering if the Town should get the land back.

Ed also asked what happened to the two public parking spaces that used to be by the Ocean Point Inn dock. The Board explained that it is a private pier owned by the Inn. They said they will look into the public parking spaces but they don't remember there being any.

Regarding the Pride Month Proclamation, Steve was inundated with emails and calls since the last meeting. He feels the Town flagpole is a sacred place and should only be for the United States flag, State flag and County flag. He doesn't believe anything else should go up there. That stands for unity in his mind.

Chuck said the vast majority of the people feel that it's something that the Town should be neutral on.

Dale got roughly 30 emails after the last meeting. 25 were against and 5 were for it. That isn't counting the phone calls and conversations. He had more people approach him about this topic than the round-about. Dale feels like we need a policy to only fly the U.S. flag, the County flag and the State flag, Chuck agreed.

Julie said the feedback she heard wasn't about the Pride flag but any flag. Everyone feels the Town needs to be neutral. Julie mentioned the Common is open to celebrate anything they want to there. It's A \$100.00 fee to use it. A parade can be done with a fee and the banners on the light poles can be done for a fee. Julie feels we are already inclusive and it's not really about the Pride flag.

Dan feels like a policy for only flying the U.S., County and State flag should be put into the Administrative Code. That would be the easiest and cleanest way to do it. It would be voted on by the taxpayers.

Dan will contact Mr. Cortez to let him know the Board's decision.

## **New Business –**

**Municipal Warrant and Budget-** If the Board feels all is ok with the Municipal Warrant and Budget they can make a motion to vote for it now. Steve wanted to clarify the Board passing this warrant doesn't approve all the requests. They approve them to be on the warrant to be voted on by the people of the Town at the Annual Town Meeting.

Chuck had a few people approach him that think we shouldn't pay more to the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library than Boothbay Harbor is because it is located in the Harbor. They would like to word the article to say we pay up to but no more than what Boothbay Harbor pays. Dan will look into the amount that they requested from the Harbor. Dale mentioned last meeting they wanted to remove the message, "Board of Selectmen Recommend: Approval " from all of the outside organization articles on the warrant.

Russell had someone request that any of the outside organizations not get approved for a percentage of an increase larger than what our budget increase is. The only thing is normally the budget increase isn't voted on until after the requests come in. Chuck was asked to look into the Veggies to Table request because they only asked for money from Boothbay on the peninsula. They had lowered the amount for Finding Our Voices because of that same reason last year. He feels they should treat everyone the same. The other one he questioned is the Chamber of Commerce request. He feels that should come out of the JEDC money instead of asking taxpayers for more money. The Board agreed that would make more sense because it wouldn't have to be voted on.

Steve makes the motion to approve the warrant with changes to the wording of the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library to up to but no more than Boothbay Harbor, lowering the Veggies to Table amount to \$500.00 instead of \$1500.00 and deleting Article 30 and getting the funds for the Chamber of Commerce from the JEDC funds and removing the Selectmen recommend message from all of the Outside organization articles. Dale seconded as amended.

Mike Thompson, Boothbay Resident, voiced his opinion that he believes the Veggies to Table should get the whole amount. They deliver food to Boothbay all the time, the refrigerator, the Community Center, Campbell Creek, the Library and the YMCA. Julie does agree with Mike. It is an amazing organization. They do a lot of work to supply fresh vegetables and flowers are grown to brighten people's days. If they don't have money for food they won't be able to enjoy fresh flowers and they get that chance now. Chuck feels they should treat everyone the same. They decided to leave the wording as up to \$1500.00.

Steve makes the motion to approve the Warrant as amended the second time. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

#### **Special Town Meeting –**

This is an unusual situation. It is to do with the storm damage on King Phillips Trail, Grimes, Samoset and Shore Road at Ocean Point. Dan was told that the NEMA and FEMA funds will take about eight to twelve months to actually get the money rolling. We don't have that time to wait, it's a safety issue and once the water gets turned on people will be coming. They need to get moving on the repairs. The other part is voting on taking money from the TIF for the Butler Road Project instead of taking out a bond. A good way to save the town money. 3.2 million is the estimated amount needed to repair the roads. The FEMA and NEMA funds will not cover the interest paid on the loan but changing from getting a bond and using the TIF funds for the Butler Project should make up for any interest paid out.

Russ asked if King Phillips Trail should be made one way. Chuck recommended that they authorize Dan, as Road Commissioner get together with the EMA Director and the Fire Chief and if it's in the best interest of safety they make those roads one way. He should be able to do that without coming back to the Board. Dan said if they allow him that authority he can follow up on that. Dan negotiated terms for a loan already. There will be no penalty for early payoff and the interest rate will be 5.82%.

Steve makes the motion to approve the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting to take place on March 27, 2024 at 6:00pm. Dale seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

#### **Review Warrants and Sign:**

Dale made a motion to review the warrants and sign them upon review. Russ seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.

#### **Adjourn Meeting:**

Dale made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded the motion. Vote: 5-0 in favor.