

BOOTHBAY HARBOR
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
VIA ZOOM
January 24, 2022

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

ATTENDING: Michael Tomko - Chair
Tricia Warren – Vice Chair
Alyssa Allen
Denise Griffin
Kenneth Rayle

Julia Latter, Town Manager
Kathleen Pearce, Finance Officer

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

Introductions of the Board of Selectmen.

TOWN MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Dogs need to be licensed before the end of the day on January 31st to avoid a \$25 late fee. Late fees will be assessed as of February 1st.
2. The town is seeking proposals from qualified contractors to remove, purchase, prepare and replace existing asphalt shingles with new asphalt shingles or metal roofing on the municipal building. Proposals are to be submitted, sealed, and delivered, to Julia Latter, Town Manager, no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 1st. More information is available on the town's website, in the Boothbay Register, and in person.
3. Last Tuesday Officer Gosselin began her 18 weeks at the police academy in Vassalboro. We wish her luck and success.
4. Latter updated the board on a recommendation from Chief Hasch on a full-time hire. Matthew Campbell, a retired officer from New York will be hired as a full-time officer for Boothbay Harbor Police Department. This will still leave us one officer down but will help. Campbell started FTO training today.
5. Nomination papers for town officers will be available beginning January 26, 2022. Positions available for three-year terms will be:
 - 2 Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor
 - 1 School Committee Member of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor CSD
 - 1 Trustee of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor CSD
 - 1 Trustee of the Boothbay Region Water District
 - 1 Trustee of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Cemetery District
 - 1 Trustee of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District

Nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk by 4:30 p.m. on March 7, 2022. Voting for the officers listed above will be held in the Fire Station at the Municipal Building on Friday, May 6, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Town meeting will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Boothbay Region Elementary School.

6. The presentation of the cane had to be rescheduled due to an illness in the family. Unfortunately, before the rescheduled time the recipient Evelyn Snowman passed away. A Boston Post Cane certificate will be presented to the family in her honor. Our condolences to her family.
7. Latter will be out of the office Friday, February 4th for the 5th out of 9 months of Leadership Maine. This phase will be held at the Augusta Civic Center and they will be doing mock legislation.
8. Town Clerk Michelle Farnham has been in contact with the Deputy Director from the Secretary of States' office Elections Division this past week discussing the issue for a citizen's initiative to remove fluoride from the public water supply and put the issue to vote. Due to the fact this is regarding a multiple town Water District the referendum process is a little different than typical. Information can be found in Title 22 §2656. Elections in multiple community water districts. A "multiple community water system district-wide election" means an election held in each municipality within a multiple community water district to determine whether or not to fluoridate the water supply of that system. In a multi-community water district, a request for an election may be made in either of the following ways.
 - 1) A majority of the municipal officers in a majority of the municipalities within a multiple community water system district at least 90 days before the general election.
 - 2) A petition including the number of registered voters within a multiple community water district equal to at least 10% of the total number of votes cast for Governor at the last gubernatorial election in ALL municipalities, wholly or partially within the multiple community water district. The vote will then be held at the next scheduled General Election. ("elections shall be held simultaneously in all municipalities served by the water system at the first general election following the certification of a request for an election on the issue of whether or not to fluoridate the water supply.") i.e. this year's November 8th State election. The state called both the Clerk of Boothbay and Southport as well as Rachel Townsend informing them of the process.
9. Harbor Master interviews have been completed. We will be calling for second interviews and be in contact with the Port Committee to come up with a viable candidate to present to the board.

TOWN DEPARTMENT REPORTS: NONE

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

1. Vice-Chair Warren gave a recap on the status of the school and the building committee. They have completed the second of their three-part vision meetings. Warren stated how productive she felt the meeting was. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and they are hoping to have enough information to figure out what direction the community would like to take it.
2. Chairman Tomko mentioned a couple of things regarding the county.
 - a. The final rules have been written for The American Rescue Plan (the ARPA Funds from Lincoln County). Julia will be looking through it and making sure we have all information we need on how to use the funds.
 - b. The Lincoln County Planning Commission is getting ready to accept applications for an ASK Grants, a grant used for assistance with special know-how. The \$2,000 can be used towards work on projects for economic development and community development. Tomko asked the board to think about projects that the grant might be utilized for and they could have Latter fill out the application this Spring.
 - c. There is a Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future also known as GOPIFF. They have access to federal funds that will be coming to the state. The funds will be used for energy resiliency, buildings, and green work. This information should be available soon and it might be an opportunity for us to improve town structures.
 - d. The Boothbay Harbor Housing Study's first of two reports are expected to be ready possibly later this week. Emily Rabbe from the Regional Planning Commission will be scheduled at an upcoming meeting to do a presentation.

FINANCIALS: Overview of financials given by Finance Officer Kathleen Pearce.

MINUTES: Approval of January 10, 2022, meeting minutes. Approved 4-0. (Selectperson Griffin absent from the meeting).

LICENSES: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: Latter asked for approval for a purchase order for parking pay stations (kiosks). Latter presented the board with the information regarding the Flowbird Parking Pay Stations. A motion was made to approve the purchase order for \$47,144 for Flowbird Parking Pay Stations and to fund a portion of the purchase out of the economic development budget line for \$41,436.56 and the remainder of the funds, \$5,707.44, to be expended out of the budgeted contract service/professional service line for the installation, training, and programming of the pay stations. Motion seconded and unanimously approved. Approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Footbridge Renovation Project update - Latter spoke to William Gartley from Gartley and Dorsky today and he is working with Geoff Smith, Code Enforcement Officer regarding permitting. Latter will update the board with results.
2. Covid discussion – Lincoln Health has published their first newsletter “News You Can Use” outlining the latest on CDC recommendations. A copy will be posted on our website under COVID-related information. (Copy attached).

PUBLIC FORUM: Vice-Chair Warren mentioned the upcoming storm and asked if the town office will be open for a warming station. Latter mentioned we will do the best we can do with the COVID situation and if they do open it will be advertised for people to know it is available.

WARRANTS: Motion was made to approve the warrants upon review. Motion seconded and unanimously approved. Approved 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. MRS Title 1, Chapter 13, § 406 (C), Discussion of acquisition of real property.

The board came out of the executive session at 8:05 p.m. under MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, §406 (C), Discussion of acquisition of real property. No decisions were made.

A motion was made to authorize Julia Latter, Town Manager and Tax Collector, to convey the property at 53 Kenneyfield Drive back to the property owner on record as of January 24, 2022, for consideration of all taxes and costs that are due to the town. A motion was made and unanimously approved. Approved 5-0.

2. An executive session was held under MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, §405 6 (A), Personnel.

The board came out of the executive session at 8:52 p.m. under MRSA Title 1, Chapter 13, §405 6 (A), Personnel. No decisions were made.

MOVE TO ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m. after unanimous approval. Approved 5-0.

LincolnHealth

News You Can Use

January 25, 2022

The Latest on Masking

Masking has been a controversial topic since the pandemic began, and as the Omicron variant continues its surge, masking recommendations have changed. The US CDC recommends the use of a NIOSH-approved KN95 or N95 respirator as the best protection. It says the surgical/procedural mask should be the lowest level of public protection.

Cloth masks should not be used, as they offer no protection against the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

No Need to Confirm At-Home Test Results

If you purchase an at-home testing kit, like BinaxNOW for example and you test positive for COVID-19, there is no need for a second test to confirm the result. You should follow [recommended quarantine guidance](#) from the US CDC and treat yourself as being positive. If your symptoms worsen, contact your primary care provider.

Boosters Provide Better Protection

Current data show that if you are fully vaccinated and boosted, you decrease the likelihood of being hospitalized or experiencing intense symptoms of COVID-19 by an additional 35-45 percent.

You can get boosted at the LincolnHealth clinic. Visit our Facebook page for the current clinic hours. Walk-ins are welcome.

Asking Our Patients for Patience

In this time of surging COVID cases, the lack of available hospital beds, overcrowded Emergency Departments and employees testing positive for COVID, we have been forced to adjust our normal way of doing business.

There typically are longer waits in our primary care offices; Emergency Departments, crowded with patients who need a hospital bed or a psychiatric placement bed elsewhere, are experiencing high volume and longer wait times. If you are scheduled for surgery that requires an overnight stay, we may have to postpone it until a bed becomes available.

Our team continues to do heroic work, and the long hours and extra shifts are far more tolerable when patients are understanding and accepting of the current landscape.

Please do your best to practice patience and kindness.