MINUTES

BOOTHBAY HARBOR

SELECTMEN’S MEETING

 SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

ATTENDING: Russ Hoffman, Vice Chairman

Mike Tomko

 Wendy Wolf

 Tom Woodin, Town Manager

 Julia Latter, Finance Officer

**Vice Chairman Hoffman 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:

1. Reminder that the next meeting in October falls on Columbus Day so it will take place on Tuesday, October 11th instead.
2. Some dates to remember for the November election.
	* Currently - Absentee Ballot applications are available for anyone wishing to request a ballot be sent to them when available.
	* October 11th - Ballots will be available for anyone wishing to vote absentee in person at your local town office. Applications still available for ballots requested by mail or to be taken out of the office.
	* November 3rd - Last day an absentee ballot may be requested without Special Circumstances.

[Applications are available at the town office by contacting Michelle Farnham, Town Clerk or Trish Fallon, Deputy Clerk at 633-3671 or by going to the website [www.maine.gov](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.maine.gov%2F&h=nAQEH3SYzAQEnT6zjPh1gYUKefXubDvcfPRMtbz3XM7lfTA&enc=AZPrkSbvTl0DgV0iDHkuPkoIRpYyVGdBR2QUyT0sRjjMpVZqMmtZ3PlrH_C3f5LjaB1bgAt5rHuMzuRzMELyenLKo97t0-7_Yhc2TxVnZ4NRt8zDmF0a7YTR32jRoRrf4oRoYKieQh5Zppy_Yi59QJb0AeArtSgVHD0sW9G-6sskdVg7fVapKDqJ_QMAA-x9LDxt6P7BrkOssXuFw1htEZAD&s=1) to apply online.]

SELECTMEN REPORTS:

Selectman Wolf reported that the JEDC had met the previous week and is now missing a representative from Boothbay Harbor. This person has to be a resident of Boothbay Harbor and they would have to solicit someone to fill that space. The banners had been put over the roads entering and leaving town to advertize the Boothbay Festival of Lights to compliment Gardens Aglow.

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Selectman Wolf stated Bob Faunce of the Lincoln County Region Planning Commission had attended their meeting to talk about a grant opportunity and was there this evening to present it to the Board of Selectmen.

Selectman Tomko added that Green Tree Events would be doing another workshop at the Opera House tentatively on October 7th to talk about the plans that have been put in place for the festival.

Vice Chairman Hoffman stated he wanted to respond to Palmer Payne’s question about home health care by the Ambulance Service at the previous meeting. Vice Chairman Hoffman explained a number of things.

* The program being referred to is called the Community Para-medicine and has been operating for about 3 years.
* The goal of program is to share the workload of the District Nurse and other organizations by monitoring patients who are referred by their Primary Care Physician…a program of preventative care that might avoid what could be an emergency ambulance call later on.
* The service is a benefit to BRAS as it provides familiarity of the staff with local patients as well as additional experience with medical issues.
* BRAS got into the program by writing a grant and receiving funding from the Doree Taylor Foundation.  [Additional funding has come from another grant that Lincoln Health wrote so that to date, nearly all expenses are covered by grants.]
* The BRAS fly car was purchased with grant money and is used for these calls so ambulances are not tied up.
* Labor is provided by BRAS staff during down time between calls.
* This activity is not covered by Medicaid so when grant money runs out expectation/hope is that the value will be realized and reimbursement funds will be available. [Maine Care is currently considering reimbursing. A Minnesota version of Maine Care has saved $16M using a similar program so current results are positive.]

Palmer Payne credited Mary Neal for making them aware of the Doree Taylor Foundation and expressed regret that she is no longer on the budget committee.

FINANCIALS:

Finance Officer Latter reviewed the financial totals with the Board, confirming their auditor would give their report at one of their meetings in October.

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Selectman Wolf **motioned** to approve the September 12th as amended. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Motion passed 3 – 1 Abstention.**

LICENSES:

(None)

ONGOING BUSINESS:

(None)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Merritt Blakeslee gave a slide presentation about the condition of West Harbor Pond and the siphon.
* The pond is dying biologically due to lack of dissolved oxygen needed to sustain aquatic life reaching depths below 12 feet.
* The pond has always been subject to the infiltration of salt water which is heavier than fresh water so settles to the bottom of the pond.
* From 1880 onward, two siphons kept the pond free of salt water below the twenty-two foot mark, the depth of the siphons.
* The larger siphon was removed sometime after the turn of the last century.
* In 2008 the smaller siphon began to fail until it was determined to have completely failed in 2009.
* There was a belief at this time that the siphon merely controlled the level of the pond.
* In 2011 the town and DOT entered into an agreement with DOT lowering the concrete of the smaller dam on the west side of the larger dam while the town would regulate the water level of the pond through the use of a gate with removable boards.
* The pond association had been monitoring the water quality since 2008 and in 2013 determined the salt water layer had expanded from the twenty-two foot level to the thirteen foot level displacing even more fresh water from the pond.
* Last month Chris Higgins, Boothbay Water District, suggested they contact Ted Berry Company who determined after a photographic examination that the siphon was not crushed or obstructed with debris but a break in the pipe twenty-six feet from the valve cover was discovered.

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* The Ted Berry Company claims to be able to repair the break by installing a small piece of high density polyethylene inside the cast iron pipe.
* Making the repair will require a number of permits and engineering design.
* The association is prepared to pay as much as necessary but wish to ask for financial assistance from both the state and local levels.

Selectman Wolf made a reference to what happened to Sherman Lake and noted if West Harbor Pond should drain out property evaluations would be affected, so the town has a vested interest in protecting the pond from a moral as well as a financial standpoint.

Bob Faunce, who had been at the meeting in 2011, stated there were a number of circumstances that affect this situation. First, this the only salt/fresh water site in the state. In order to qualify for federal funding there has to be a transportation aspect to the project which this lacks. DOT would have to use state dollars if the dam lets go and was an emergency situation but to dam up a fresh water stream, which it would then become, is almost impossible. If this had been a strictly fresh water pond there would have been funds readily available.

Merritt Blakeslee stated he felt they could get the pond back to what it had been, given time. Merritt concluded they’d be delighted to come back with an update of their progress.

1. Bob Faunce provided information on a Smart Growth Grant which might lead to a parking audit for the downtown area.
* Would provide no cost technical support for a parking audit.
* Would be a joint application with Damariscotta.
* Due on October 6th.
* The Joint Economic Development Committee has endorsed applying for the grant.

Selectman Wolf regretted that Town Manager Woodin had been on vacation when they’d become aware of the grant opportunity because ordinarily they’d prefer to have a chance to find out the participation level for the key players of the town such as Manager Woodin, Chief Hasch, Public Works and any other who work for the town who might be affected.

Bob Faunce responded they’d train citizen volunteers such as business owners, who would be tied to the town, to carry out the audit.

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Vice Chairman Hoffman confirmed there would not be a huge time commitment for the town’s employees to conduct the audit.

Selectman Warren **motioned** to endorse the application for the grant. Selectman Wolf **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

1. Appointment of Police Sergeant Pat Higgins

Manager Woodin explained that Sergeant Pat Higgins was retiring so Annalee Rosenblatt and the Union had to draw up provisions for hiring back an employee who was retiring because it was not included in the employee contract, so they were asking the Board to rehire Sergeant Higgins effective October 1st. Selectman Wolf **motioned** to hire Sergeant Higgins back. Selectman Tomko **seconded**. **Unanimous approval**.

PUBLIC FORUM:

(None)

WARRANTS:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:02 pm under MRSA Section 405 (6) (A) - Personnel Matters.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:12 pm. No decisions were made.

MOVE TO ADJOURN:

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:13 pm.

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