Minutes of Meeting
December 18, 2024
Board of Selectmen
Town of Long Island
(NOTE: All Selectboard meetings are recorded and available on the town website.)

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

Attending: Joseph Donovan, Chair; Selectmen John Burke and Marie Harmon, and Brian Dudley, Town Administrator; Amy Tierney, Town Clerk. In addition there were seven (7) Zoom viewers.

Selectmen previously reviewed the weekly Town Warrants.

Chairman Donovan introduced the island's new state representative, Christina Mitchell, who then gave some brief remarks.

Old Business

The Selectmen reviewed the minutes of the last meeting.

- It was Moved (Harmon), Seconded (Burke) and Voted to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of December 04, 2024 (Motion passed 3-0).

Communications

Selectmen reviewed communications since the last meeting. There were communications from/on: An update of town maps on the East End regarding a previously-designated right-of-way.; The good response of the town's winter plowing during the recent storm.; The Finance Committee meeting of December the 10th.; An update on the implementation of the new state law regarding mandated personal family leave.; Housing.; An update that a total of 58 deer have been taken during this season so far.; and, An unpermitted fireworks display off South Beach.

Town Administrator Updates

1) Housing: The YRHC met on December the 17th. A draft summary report of activities for this past year will be prepared for the Board of Selectmen.
2) Waterfront: The Ponces Landing repairs started December the 12th.

   Ponces does not qualify for the Maine Department of Economic & Community Development grant funds totaling $2,000,000 for business recovery and resilience from last winter's storms.

3) Storm Updates: Brian has now signed off on the VFW stair replacement from the January storms with both FEMA and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).
4) Brian and Janice Avignon participated in the orientation program with GPCOG on the Resilience Fellow on December the 17th.
5) Brian forwarded a letter of support for the application for the Wildfire Management grant application between Chebeague and Long Islands.
6) Brian worked with the state accountant on the Johnson's Boatyard The working waterfront grant reimbursement for the Johnson Boatyard has been received. The Treasurer will process and forward to the recipient.
7) Brian and Amy had a second interview this week with a prospective Code Enforcement Officer to replace Jim Nagle following his retirement. They believe that he would be a good CEO for the town. He is scheduled to visit this Friday.
8) Brian forwarded an executed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Maine Health StrengthenME grant program for $3,500. The grant funds will be used for physical, mental and/or social needs within the community.
9) Brian met with Samantha Hart, the Executive Director of the new Maine Office of Community Affairs in her Augusta office. Discussion topics included navigation of State departments, grants and compliance issues for storm damages, waterfront infrastructure needs and workforce housing.
10) Brian met with Senator Pierce on Monday, December the 9th to update her on various island projects.

11) Brian has received an inquiry as to the vacant Harbormaster position and has forwarded background information and answered the questions raised by the prospective candidate.
12) The MDOT Local Roads Center will be holding a seminar on road drainage in the winter.
13) Brian sent another reminder notice out regarding the submission of draft budgets and CIP requests by January the 7th.

Code Enforcement Office Updates

The CEO will be in this week. There are several building permit applications to be approved. This will be the last week for the current Code Enforcement Officer as Jim Nagle is retiring.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Updates

Dog registrations are due.

Wellness Center Updates

The visiting nurse was on the island today. The annual on-line auction raised over $14,000.

The board discussed with Lisa Kimball the implementation of the new state mandate requiring paid family leave and the sharing of the 1% payroll tax that must be levied. The current FY25 operating budget contains the town's share of this expense.

Lisa noted that the current accounting system does not allow for separate treatment of different categories of employees. The application of the tax reduction for this new law must be applied equally to all employees. There can't be two separate contribution rates, i.e., one for school employees and another for town employees.

- It was Moved (Harmon), Seconded (Burke) and Voted for the town and school to pay half of the required Personal Family Medical Leave Act (PFMLA) total tax of 1% with the remaining half being deducted from covered employees pay.

Board/Committee/Project Updates

Mark Greene updated the work of the Year Round Housing Corporation (YRHC).

Joe Donovan updated activities at Casco Bay Lines (CBL). The new Peaks Island boat is expected in the spring of 2025. The down the bay boat group met again.

Meetings/Hearings

There were no meetings or public hearings.

Public Comments

Mark Greene noted the good work of the permitted deprivation hunters in achieving a high deer-taken count this year.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is Wednesday, January 15, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted
Brian L. Dudley, Town Administrator