

Town of Edgcomb Select Board
Minutes
December 3, 2019; 6:00pm

Attendees: Jack Sarmanian, Ted Hugger, Mike Smith, Katie Wurtzell (recording secretary), Janet Blevins, Jack Brennan

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes from 11/19/2019 - Approved 3-0
3. Old Business
 - a. TIF
 - i. Tabled until 12/17
 - b. Lallis property
 - i. No bids received
 - c. Historical society request
 - i. Claudia presented findings from the Hammond Trust. \$4,075 is current available in fund but the mowing for the year has not yet been accounted for. Approximately \$400 available in fund after mowing.
 - ii. Jack Brennan asked if it was possible to draw down part of the principle. There is an article where 5% of the principle could be drawn down for appropriate uses. This would be ~\$5,000. This has never been done before. This decision must be made by the trustees (Selectboard).
 - iii. Ted mentioned that it might be an appropriate time to evaluate the investments.
 - d. Roof - to be completed Wednesday potentially
4. New Business
 - a. Broadband meeting, Janet Blevins
 - i. \$6800 grant has been received to evaluation want / need for broadband internet in Lincoln County (six towns included). Two surveys - one for businesses and one for individuals. Are there gaps in internet? There is an emphasis on businesses, schools, and school children. If Edgcomb wants to move forward with survey, there are no fees. There would be a digital survey and a mail survey.
 - ii. Phase 2 (post-January 2019) will be Axiom approaching internet providers to see if there can be a change.
 - iii. Jack believes this is a very worthy issue.
 - iv. Roy Potter, fire chief, said that this is a big issues for the fire station, particularly in regards to reporting (difficulty with current connection).
5. Planning Board, results of marijuana survey
 - a. Tabled until next meeting so Planning Board can be in attendance
6. Fire Department
 - a. Bill Witzell provided copy of November report
 - b. Roy Potter mentioned that there has been an issue that fall clean up (leaves) did not occur due to snow, this is causing issue with snowblower.
 - c. Roy / fire department has wish list that he would like to submit to the Capital Improvement Committee. Because this hasn't yet been formed, selectboard recommended to send to budget committee instead. One example is increase

communication capabilities. Roy is also looking into who owns the two cell towers in town and if they can gain access. Another is the exhaust recovery system.

- d. New fire truck is under construction and will arrive early/mid March.
 - e. Jack Brennan mentioned there is a Department Head meeting upcoming (Jan 7, 6pm) that would be a good time for departments to bring wants / needs.
7. Budget Committee, Jack Brennan et al
- a. Jack acknowledged how lucky the town is to have such a great budget committee.
 - b. Jack presented meeting schedule which will be posted on the website. Some scheduling has changed since last year due to some lessons learned.
 - c. This is the 3rd year of the initiative to balance the budget.
 - d. Many towns have been lobbying the state government for state increases in education. It is hopeful that with the new governor this could increase and benefit Edgecomb.
 - e. New bus cost.
 - f. Transfer station costs potentially increasing. Jack B asked selectboard if they feel as though they have been kept in the loop regarding Fiberight. Recycling market has also changed. Mike mentioned that he feels that the town should not have to pay into Lincoln County Recycling and some money could be saved there.
 - g. New salt shed for road commissioner
 - h. Fire department needs and wants
 - i. Jack B believes that the wage for the fire department should be increased.
 - i. County tax continues to increase.
 - j. Excise tax on boats / role of the harbormaster - is that plan completed?
 - k. Ambulance service has changed and has been working well.
 - l. There has been an increase in non-profits needing help from town. All nonprofits need to be validated before they can be considered.
 - m. From 2010 to 2017 taxes have increased substantially, more so than other towns in Lincoln County.
 - n. Jack B asked what the mandate from the selectboard is?
 - i. Jack S - How to best control budget?
 - ii. Mike S - What is the cost of living % increase currently? Is it possible to keep tax increase at or below that?
 - iii. Ted H - He'd like each the budget committee to really encourage the department heads to consider each line item and if it is still necessary.
 - o. Questions from Budget Committee:
 - i. Two years ago we discussed sign in front of the fire station. Selectboard said that they are looking at running in through the TIF, they should know next week.
 - ii. How to engage the public more?? Jack B said he is often encouraging people to come to meetings, especially those concerned about rising taxes. Jack S said people need to come forward with their issues and more people need to get involved. Jack B said that they are adding a presentation for the 2019-20 budget to Edgecomb citizens. Janet mentioned that a good approach is to team up with school.
 - iii. Concern - Does the selectboard feel as though there is enough regular contact with the Department heads? Ted said it would be great to have more, it always helps. Mike said some committees it is more necessary than others.
 - iv. Community outings and events - Budget committee has also discussed outings and events though it is outside their job description. Lincoln County 2020 big historical event is upcoming.

- v. Selectboard vs Select Board – which is correct?? A real conundrum.
- 8. Warrants
 - a. General Warrant #12
 - i. School payroll: \$42,348.86
 - ii. School payables: \$79,452.57
 - iii. General expenses \$39,677.35
 - iv. Total: \$161,478.78
 - v. Approved 3-0.
- 9. Public Comment
 - a. Traffic Issues - Jack Sarmanian
 - i. Jack said emails of complaint regarding speed and traffic have continued. Jack wrote letter to the editor to the Boothbay Register – how can the town control people's actions? We need to keep reminding the community of their responsibilities and social morality.
 - b. Charlie Brown Christmas Tree Competition - Ted Hugger / Janet Blevins
 - i. Friday Dec 7th judges show up to survey. There will be some carolling. Awards will be awarded at 6pm. Tree decorating is on Thursday and Friday - still time to sign up!!
 - c. Roy Potter
 - i. Can we make a town email list? They would help with surveys, emergency info, etc.
- 10. Adjourn - 7:19pm