

**BUCKLAND SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Buckland Town Hall
17 State Street
Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 5:30 p.m.**

Barry L. Del Castilho

Barry DelCastilho

Zachary J. Turner

ZJ Turner

Dena G. Willmore

Dena Willmore

Attendees: Barry Del Castilho, Dena Willmore, Karen Blom, Heather Butler, Paula Consolo, Herb Guyette, Ciara Hayden, Marilyn Kelsey, Larry Langford, Raymond Lanza-Weil, Cindy Schwartz, James Sullivan (Falls Cable), Marti Taft-Ferguson, Phoebe Walker

Zack Turner opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m., which was held via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

Appointments

1. Robert Morse, Clesson Brook Road, Re: Senior Tax Relief, Employee Nepotism Policy

Mr. Morse was not present. Zack Turner reported he had correspondence that stated he would prefer to meet with the Board in person at a later date.

2. Agenda Items

a. **Operations/Questions - Continued** - Herb Guyette reported Buckland is still doing well as to the number of confirmed cases of Covid19; there are eight confirmed cases, and our residents are doing a good job of social distancing and doing their part flatten the curve. He said he has placed another order for masks and other PPE from MEMA. He said there is still no indication from the Governor when the state might reopen but since there are spikes in some states that have reopened that is fine with him.

2. **Public Spaces** – Marti Taft-Ferguson said she put up signs provided by FRCOG in public spaces such as the Recreation area and state forest parking area regarding social distancing and safe practices. She is also working on a flyer that can be given to business about how residents can get face masks. She reported there is a port-a-potty and a hand washing in the village now because the Town's only public restroom is located in the Town Hall which is closed to the public until further notice.

Zack Turner suggested that business owners need a representative for the Task Force; they meet Mondays at 11:00 a.m., and should contact the Town Administrator if interested in serving.

Herb Guyette and Marti Taft-Ferguson left the meeting at 5:49 p.m..

b. Town Meeting

1. **Confirm Date and Confirm Location** - Phoebe Walker spoke to the Mohawk Administrative Office about having the Annual Town Meeting in Mohawk's parking lot. She suggested leaving the Warrant open for a few more weeks or having two warrants and continue the meeting to the next day if it rains. Dena Willmore moved to have the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, June 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., and a rain date of Sunday, June 14, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.. Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

2. **Review Warrant** – The Select Board will review the Warrant.

Heather Butler will call Bond Counsel about putting off debt payments and keeping our credit rating good. She advised it is preferable to pass a budget, perhaps level fund everything. Another option is a one-twelfth budget. If things look better in September, we could have a Special Town Meeting.

After further discussion the Select Board voted to change the ATM to June 27, 2020. Dena Willmore moved to have the Annual Town Meeting on June 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the Mohawk Parking Lot; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

Phoebe Walker left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

c. **Annual Election**

1. **Confirm Date and Location** – The Select Board discussed the need for a Town Election. Town Clerk Janice Purington said the state Elections Office is requiring that a Town maintain at least one physical polling location the Town Clerk will do what she can to encourage the use Absentee Ballots to reduce the number of people coming out to vote in person. Other social distancing procedures will be put into place to protect voters and election workers. Janice also said she will likely seek a waiver from the state to reduce the number of election workers. Barry Del Castilho moved to set the Annual Election for Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at Buckland Town Hall; Dena Willmore seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

Janice Purington left the meeting at 6:50 p.m..

1. **Appointments – Cindy Schwartz, Buckland Recreation Committee Re: Summer Camp Program** – Cindy Schwartz reported the playground is temporarily closed to protect residents from the spread of Covid19. She said the Commission is moving forward with the capital project at the Pavilion and has contracted with Doug McCloud complete the concrete floor. Cindy said pavilion rentals that were booked for May and June have been rescheduled to late August/September, and we may need to limit the number of people at the rentals. We could not use the Sheriff's office clean-up crew this Spring and will work with Kyle Cannepari instead. Cindy reported that Leah Phillips has announced that the recreational little leagues are cancelled and that Jeremy Kingsbury will be doing renovations on the concession stand. There is no update on the 501 3C status from the IRS and the Commission has decided to hold off on fundraising for now. Regarding camp, we have an amazing camp staff. We need to know the guidelines and try to make it work. Heather Butler said Karen Polito said there will be guidelines for small recreation and sports programs. Dena Willmore said if we must use double staff at camp, it could be eligible for Cares Act funds. Heather Butler said if it is not already funded, it could be an unfunded expense.

Cindy Schwartz left the meeting at 7:00 p.m..

d. **Four-Town Loan Fund, Small Business Micro Grants** – Heather Butler said Greenfield economic development staff have initiated a new Four-Town Loan Fund Program that will make approximately \$60,000 in existing CDBG Funds available in the form of forgivable loans to micro businesses in Greenfield, Montague, Shelburne and Buckland. There will be a public hearing to repurpose the funds, which would be administered by the Franklin County CDC, on Wednesday, May 13, 2020. Butler asked whether the Select Board would support the Town's participation in the program. She also noted there is \$47,000 in CDBG matching account available and suggested the Board consider using \$15,000 of it to add to the \$15,000 that would be available from the Four-Town Loan Fund for our local businesses. Dena Willmore moved support of the loan program and further moved approval of the expenditure of \$15,000 from FY20 General Fund CDBG Matching Fund Line Item (159) for the purpose of applying the funds to a supplement available funds anticipated from the existing Four Town Revolving Land Fund to be repurposed for the purchase of

creating a new Covid Small Business Forgivable Loan Fund to be administered through the Franklin County CDC.; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

3. **Documents to Sign**

a. **Nilman Road Culvert Replacement Grant – Division of Ecological Resources** – Dena Willmore moved to sign the letter; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

4. **Town Administrator Updates** – None.

5. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** – None.

6. **Public Comment** – Complimented the Rec Committee for holding off on fundraising. Public should get a copy of the projected Senior Center Service District; section 7 appears to give a Board of Managers enormous powers.

7. **Volunteer Recognition** – The Busy Bee Mask Makers

At 7:12 p.m., Dena Willmore moved to adjourn; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m..