

**BUCKLAND SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Buckland Town Hall  
17 State Street  
Tuesday, May 26, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

Barry L. Del Castilho

Barry DelCastilho

Zachary J. Turner

ZJ Turner

Dena G. Willmore

Dena Willmore

Attendees: Barry Del Castilho, Dena Willmore, Zack Turner, MJ Adams (City of Greenfield Community and Economic Development Director), Lisa Blackmer, Heather Butler, Steve Daby, Margaret Olin, James Sullivan (Falls Cable), Marti Taft-Ferguson

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

1. **Appointments, COVID-19 Situational Updates**

- a. **Emergency Management Director, Herb Guyette** – Herb Guyette was unable to attend.
- b. **Board of Health, Marti Taft-Ferguson** – Marti Taft-Ferguson reported it was a quiet weekend; there was one new case on May 15, 2020. The cumulative total of cases is nine. The latest case was asymptomatic and has been released from isolation. There is some confusion as to whether face-coverings are required outdoors – they are not if social distancing is observed. Some businesses are in the process of re-opening. St. Joseph's Church had services in compliance with guidelines. The Mohawk Trail Regional High School graduation is this Sunday with Board of Health approval of their plan. Facemasks are being stockpiled for Annual Town Meeting.

2. **Agenda Items**

- a. **Approve Town Election Warrant** – The Warrant was tabled at the request of Ms. Butler.
- b. **Fiscal Year 2021 Budget** – Heather Butler reported the Senior Center will not be reassessing their Fiscal Year 2021 budget due to increases in Health Insurance. Zack Turner requested we formally ask for a review of the Senior Center Budget because of the closure of the building and limited programming. Dena Willmore asked that there be a separate article for the Senior Center budget. There was a discussion about what happens with surpluses in the Senior Center budget. Dena Willmore moved we ask the Shelburne Senior Center to review their Fiscal Year 2021 budget; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

There was a discussion regarding the MTRSD assessment and whether we should vote it down. It was Ms. Willmore's opinion that we should not approve the budget. Turning to the Town's Operating Budget, Heather Butler said the cuts she recommended are resulting in our ability to provide service throughout 2021; there is no *status quo* expectation. Dena Willmore said it will allow us to open the doors and do the most necessary things. There was further discussion about finding efficiencies within our budget and by working with other towns to reduce duplication of services.

- c. **McKnight Scholarship** – Barry Del Castilho moved to award the \$500.00 McKnight Scholarship to Ashley Walker; Dena Willmore seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes. Lisa Blackmer reported it was specified in documents from 1930 that the funds be kept in a local bank. There was a sense of the Board that we want to go to the State

House to seek authority to invest the funds in a broader list of securities than just a local bank. Ms. Willmore agreed to review the file and draft a letter which can be reviewed at our next meeting.

d. **Conway Street TIP Project** – Zack Turner said we are still on the 2021 list, and we must get the easements taken care of. Heather Butler said the major hold up was holding the Public Hearing. DOT has virtual Public Hearing guidance. The engineers will work with the residents regarding their concerns. There will be an article for Annual Town Meeting to proceed with getting right-of-way and easements; we will keep the residents updated.

e. **Municipal Aggregation** – Heather Butler reported we are working with Dynergy regarding consumer notification materials. She has been in contact with Eversource and National Grid, and documents have been sent to Eversource. People could meet with Colonial Power Group, Inc., about specific concerns; This is an opt out program – residents will automatically be enrolled unless they opt out. The Select Board felt a joint press release with all thirteen towns would be beneficial. We will also try and arrange a meeting with Colonial here at Town Hall where individuals can come in and meet with the company. Margaret Olin asked what will happen after forty-one months and Ms. Butler, while not certain, believes the contract will go out to bid again. Regarding the fixed rate for the next thirty-six months, timing is great right now.

f. **Four-Town Loan Fund** – Heather Butler said there will be an article in *The Greenfield Recorder* tomorrow; information will be on the Town website for local businesses to get information to apply for funds. There will be no need to repay the loan.

g. **Regional COVID Recovery Microenterprise Assistance Program** – This will be administered by the Franklin County CDC. We would be working with several communities to apply with specific CDC funding specifications for economic development and business bailouts. MJ Adams, City of Greenfield Economic and Development Director, said they invited twenty-six towns to participate, and the deadline is June 12, 2020. Regarding the four-town loan program, businesses will have had to been in business since September 2019, income qualified, can apply for \$5,000. Regarding the Franklin County COVID Recovery Microenterprise Assistance Program for eligible small businesses and has an income qualification, money will not be available until later in the summer. The City of Greenfield is the signatory for the four-town loan fund. Attendance at the virtual Public Hearing on May 28 and 29, 2020 is encouraged. Dena Willmore moved that the Town of Buckland participate in the Franklin County COVID Recovery Microenterprise Assistance Program; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

MJ Adams left the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

### 3. **Documents to Sign**

a. **William Street, Phase 2 Change Order #3** – There was an issue with water; Zack expressed concern about paying for the conduit problem, wondering if they followed with the Dig Safe. Heather Butler will check. Will have them resubmit regarding the ornamental light.

b. **FRCOG Highway Contract Approval Letter** – Dena Willmore moved we sign this contract; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

4. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** – Heather Butler said the CDC has released guidance for small camps; the Recreation Committee will review and get back to the Select Board. Raelene Lemoine will not be the Camp Director this year. Barry Del Castilho moved to support this decision; Dena Willmore seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

5. **Public Comment** – None.

6. **Volunteer Recognition** – Dena Willmore recognized P.J. Herbert who is organizing a Memorial Day gathering at the Historical Society.

At 6:47 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 6:47 p.m..