

Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom

Listing of Topics

1. **Appointments** - 5:45 Nancy Dole, merchant concerns
2. **Agenda Items -**
 1. Reorganization
 2. Apple Valley Internet Drop Fees
 3. Boards and Committees
 1. FY21 Annual Appointments
 2. Citizen Advisory Committee
 4. Village Area Issues, vandalism, graffiti & public restrooms
 5. FY20 End of Year budget Transfers
 6. 2 Sears Street ext. request, surplus property
3. **Documents to sign -**
 1. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District MOU - FY21 Hauling Fees
 2. Town Administrator's Vacation Request
 3. Minutes
4. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting
5. Town Administrator's Report
6. Public Comment
7. Volunteer Recognition
8. Announcements
9. Executive Session: Possible Litigation, not to return to open session.

Attendees: Dena Willmore, Select Board
Zack Turner, Select Board
Barry Del Casthilo, Select Board
Heather Butler, Town Administrator
James Sullivan, Falls Cable
Marti Taft- Ferguson, Buckland BOH
Nancy Dole, Resident and Business Owner
Marilyn Kelsey, Resident
Janet Sinclair, Resident
Bill Knittle, Resident
Mary Bolduc, Boards Clerk

Meeting -

Zack Turner opened the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

1. **Appointments** - Nancy Dole, merchant concerns _
 1. Nancy Dole addressed the select board as a citizen and a business owner. She expressed concern over lack of public restroom facilities in the downtown/business district, citing the image it projects of our town, and the inconvenience to visitors who have traveled a distance to be here. She proposed 1) that if Bostley was not willing to replace the vandalized porta-potty, then perhaps another contractor could be used with the possibility of protection by security cameras or a chain link fence to be locked at dusk, or 2) Restroom in Town Hall to be open with someone to clean and maintain it, or 3) Cooperation with Shelburne side of bridge, specifically noting the handicap accessible restrooms in the Village Information Center. Nancy recommended the possibility of sharing the expense of maintaining and sanitizing those accommodations.
 2. Dena reported that the issue had been addressed by the COVID task force and they are concerned. She will take back to task force for further consideration. Nancy inquired about any emergency funds that might be available. Heather spoke to the financial aspects of a porta- potty, the previous one being funded by CARES. She further expressed concern for liability incurred by the town and/or contractor. Heather also stated she could not agree to Town Hall being open, even with a restroom attendant, She is willing, however, to entertain the possibility of a security camera with police viewing should another porta-potty be arranged.
 3. Marti Taft-Ferguson reported the position and discussions of the Board of Health relative to public restroom facilities, specifically the vandalized porta-potty. She pointed out they are hard to maintain to CDC guidelines, and that all aspects of town/residents must be safeguarded. The Board of Health is continuing to monitor/consider on a day to day basis.
2. **Agenda Items** -
 1. Reorganization - Select Board members addressed reorganization of the Board. Barry Del Castilho moved to nominate Dena Willmore to become Board Chair. Motion was seconded by Zack Turner. Dena accepted the nomination. Barry Del Castilho voted in favor of the motion, followed by Dena Willmore and Zack Turner also voting in favor of the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Zack turned chairing the meeting over to Dena. Dena moved that Barry Del Castilho be the Select Board Vice Chair. Motion was seconded by Zack Turner. Barry voted in favor of the motion, followed by Zack Turner and Dena Willmore voting in favor of the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Apple Valley Internet Drop Fees -
 1. Board discussion regarding costs and logistics of internet drop fees in Apple Valley included:
 1. Range of costs and reimbursement for residents.
 2. With the likelihood of further remote learning for 2020-2021 school year, it is important for homes with school age children to have

internet access. Collaborating with schools will be pursued; use of CARES funds must be connected to need for students.


3. What about families with no children facing large fees? Further Board discussion continued on decision to live rurally and the costs involved, vs responsibility of town reimbursement.
 4. Dena suggested the topic be addressed at next meeting with more definite financial information available and after speaking with the school.
 5. Heather stated that reimbursement for this project does not allow for town to pay up front. Residents must submit bill for costs incurred to be reimbursed.
3. Boards and Committees -
1. FY21 annual appointments - Board members discussed the list of appointments including those willing to continue to serve, those not willing to continue, and new volunteers. Following discussion, Dena recommended to delete the name of Sandy Cardinal from the Agricultural Commission, add Lois Bascom to the Counsel on Aging, and Tuyet Linh LaFleur to the Board of Registrars. Zack moved to accept Dena's recommendation. Barry seconded the motion. A "yes" vote indicated a vote in favor of the motion; Zack Turner voted "yes", Barry Del Castillo voted yes, and Dena Willmore voted "yes". The motion carried unanimously. FRCOG Planning Representative Alternate was set aside to confer with Michael Hoberman. Jon Wyman is also willing to serve.
 2. Citizen Advisory Committee - Zack Turner proposed the idea of a 10 to 12 person committee composed of citizens not currently serving on other boards/committees. The purpose would be to address concerns of Buckland in a round table format, and would create a new avenue for residents to approach other Buckland boards and committees. Dena asked Zack to put his proposal in writing. Barry Del Castillo and Heather Butler shared that Amherst, Athol, and Concord all had such citizen advisory committees, and Heather recommended reaching out to those communities for input. Zack Turner may be emailed with suggestions or to volunteer.
 4. Village Area issues, vandalism, graffiti & public restrooms -
 1. Vandalism of porta-potty already discussed in Nancy Dole appointment,
 2. Heather asked, relative to comments by Nancy Dole and Marti Ferguson, what message can be sent to reinforce that vandalism will not be tolerated. Heather also reported that through a small grant, purchase of outdoor seating along State Street will be possible.
 3. Town is working with Floodwater on outdoor seating, and West End Pub is scheduled to open Wednesday, July 15 at 3:00 p.m.
 4. Select board members further discussed vandalism, particularly at Buckland Recreation Area, and noted that if vandalism at the Rec Area recurs, access to the area may have to be restricted.
 5. Mask compliance was discussed.

6. Resident Bill Knittle reported graffiti/spray paint near 93 North Street, asked who is responsible for its removal, and who to contact in future. Either the town crew or a local vendor with a power washer will remove graffiti and Heather Butler is person to contact in such cases.
5. FY20 End of Year Budget Transfers -
 1. Heather screen shared the Budget Transfers report, followed by discussion/explanation of various entries.
 2. Transfer requests were addressed. Barry Del Castilho moved to approve requests, and motion was seconded by Zack Turner. A “yes” vote indicated a vote in favor of the motion. Zack Turner voted “yes”, Barry Del Castilho voted “yes”, and Dena Willmore voted “yes”. Motion carried unanimously.
6. 2 Sears Street ext. request, surplus property -
 1. Zack Turner disclosed that interested buyer is a relative.
 2. Discussion followed on current costs to town for owning said property, possible future uses if town ownership continues, and wetland ramifications of all scenarios. Concern expressed over work done and expenses incurred on town garage and the possibility of any damages to what has been accomplished there. Conversations must be had with several parties (buyer, Steve Daby, Conservation Commission, etc.) before decision can be made.
- 3. Documents to sign -**
 1. Franklin County Solid Waste Management District MOU, FY21 Hauling Fees - There was no discussion. Zack Turner moved to approve and sign. Barry Del Castilho seconded the motion. A “yes” vote is in favor of motion. Zack Turner voted “yes”, Barry Del Castilho voted “yes”, Dena Willmore voted “yes”. Motion carried unanimously.
 2. Town Administrator’s Vacation Request - Heather Butler explained the timeline for her vacation request. Zack Turner moved to approve the request, seconded by Barry Del Castilho. A “yes” vote is a vote in favor of the motion. Zack Turner voted “yes”, Barry Del Castilho voted “yes”, and Dena Willmore voted “yes”. Motion carried unanimously.
 3. Minutes - Minutes were not available yet to be signed.
 4. Items not reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 hours in Advance of Meeting - N/A
 5. Town Administrator’s Report -
 1. Heather Butler reported activity at Buckland Rec, including completion of pavilion concrete floor, perimeter of crushed stone, and negotiations for DOT millings to create turn around area and additional parking.
 2. A surprise for 2020 graduates has been planned but not disclosed.
 3. Nilman Road culvert - Heather filed for two small bridge grants, with other funding also available. Project is attractive to Senator Hinds who agreed to put project in 2021 bond bill. Brief discussion on costs/funding.
 4. Heather has been asked by FRCOG to serve on the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization as West County representative . With approval of select board, she will accept.
 6. Public Comment -

1. Marilyn Kelsey is interested in serving on citizen advisory committee.
2. Janet Sinclair inquired about town policy regarding recording of Zoom meetings, followed by brief discussion.
3. Marti Taft Ferguson of Buckland Board of Health reported on recent orders regarding reusable bags. Reusable bags are again able to be used and the ban on plastic bags is now in effect. Zack stated that continuing use of plastic bags should not be open ended, an end date should be determined. Marti replied that merchants should have the chance to use bag stock they have ordered, nothing that pandemic has been difficult for retailers. Dena asked for bags to be put on next meeting agenda.
7. Volunteer Recognition - Dena recommended Ben Murray for recognition for his years of service on the Finance Committee and work on spread sheets.
8. Announcements - N/A
9. Executive Session - Possible litigation, not to return to open session. At 7:40 p.m. Dena asked for a motion to go into executive session. Zack Turner so moved, seconded by Dena. A "yes" vote was in favor of motion. Zack Turner voted "yes", Barry Del Castilho voted "yes", and Dena Willmore voted "yes". Motion to go into executive session passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, July 28, 2020

Signed

Dena Willmore 

Barry Del Castilho 

Zack Turner 