

**BUCKLAND SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Buckland Town Hall  
17 State Street  
Tuesday, June 9, 2020, 6:00 p.m.**

Barry L. Del Castilho



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Zachary J. Turner



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Dena G. Willmore



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Attendees: Barry Del Castilho, Dena Willmore, Zack Turner, Lisa Blackmer, Karen Blom, Heather Butler, Steve Daby, Marilyn Kelsey, Larry Langford, Whit Sanford, 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**

**Whit Sanford, GSFABA, Re: Commonwealth Places Grant** – Whit Sanford reported GSFABA qualified for a \$30,000 Mass. Development Commonwealth Places Grant, and GSFABA will be required to raise matching funds *via* crowdfunding which will take place between July through September. The grant will establish an Economic Recovery Fund for use in the two towns and will implement the Downtown Revitalization Project by July 1, 2021. Businesses surveyed need money to retool businesses and for hand sanitizer, facemasks, etc.. The GSFABA Steering Committee will meet to parse out the \$30,000. The CDC will match the money.

Whit Sanford left the meeting at 5:45 p.m..

**COVID-19 Situational Updates**

b. **Board of Health, Marti Taft-Ferguson** – Marti Taft-Ferguson reported it has been quiet health-wise. The last case reported to the Board of Health was May 30, 2020. For Phase 2 of Reopening, there have been no complaints. There was a potential complaint about not wearing a face covering and enforcement. First step is education and a verbal warning, next a written warning, and a series of fines.

Marti Taft-Ferguson left the meeting at 5:57 p.m..

2. **Agenda Items**

a. **CARES Act and FEMA Reimbursements** – Heather Butler said we will apply for items not covered by FEMA (FEMA is reimbursing for PPE, the port-a-potty and other like items). The CARES Act is more for what is needed if there is a second wave of COVID-19. A goal is to

organize technology for staff working remotely. We should be at 100% immediately. FRCOG identified needs for additional staffing in the Public Health Department. CARES will supplement that activity.

b. **Approve Town Election Warrant** – Barry Del Castilho moved to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant; Dena Willmore seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

c. **Approve Town Meeting Warrant** – **a. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget** - The Annual Town Meeting is Saturday, June 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in the Mohawk Regional School District parking lot. Heather Butler said Town Counsel recommends voting Articles 1 – 14 as a “must do”. Articles 15 is at the Select Board’s discretion; Article 16 is funding for Stabilization; she recommended passing over Article 16. Article 17 is grant match for the Franklin County CDC microgrant program. Linda Overing will speak to this next week about DHCD unexpended CDBG funds we would reprogram for the loan program. Article 18 is the Conway Road improvement authorization for the Select Board to move forward with right-of-way and easements. Heather Butler will check with Chief Hicks regarding the \$10,000 radio replacement program to communicate with other police departments. Regarding the COLA, Karen Blom suggested holding off until the fall Special Town Meeting. Lisa Blackmer said MMA is predicting a 19% decrease in State funding. Barry Del Castilho suggested making the COLA retroactive. The Senior Center budget may be less as it is not open for activities. Dena Willmore moved we approve the Warrant as presented except Article 16 which will be removed; Barry Del Castilho seconded. Roll Call: Dena Willmore – yes, Barry Del Castilho – yes, Zack Turner – yes.

d. **Conway Street TIP Project** – Heather Butler said Nitsch Engineering will walk through the project with Steve Daby and Dan Fleuril tomorrow. We have a revised set of plans marked where easements are going to be. We will get feedback from the residents. There will be a virtual Public Hearing and an additional round of feedback from residents before moving forward to 75% the first week in July. Then we will do an RFP for an appraisal for several easements. The funding source is Chapter 90.

e. **Continue Discussion Regarding Planning for Retail and Restaurant Businesses on State Street (COVID-19 Task Force)** – There is a meeting Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in front of Town Hall. We encourage business owners to get businesses going and move some activities outside.

3. **Documents to Sign** – See 2a.

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

5. **Town Administrator’s Update** - a. **Town Hall Re-Opening Plan** – We are planning a soft re-opening on Monday, June 29, 2020. There will be no public bathrooms available. We will assess the traffic in the building. We plan to fully reopen after July 4, 2020. The Offices will be closed and only by appointment with staff members. Heather Butler reminded residents to take their recycling to the Transfer Station as prices will increase on July 1, 2020.

6. **Public Comment** – Marilyn Kelsey said three staff members at the Senior Center have increased their hours since the Director left. Zack Turner read the attached statement.

7. **Volunteer Recognition** – Norman Daby for retrofitting Town Hall doors and shields for the Annual Town Election.

At 7:26 p.m., 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 7:26 p.m.