

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

Appointments

5:30 p.m. - Recreation Committee

5:45 p.m. - Phoebe Walker, Board of Health, CPHS update

Agenda Items

FY22 Budget

Town Clerk Appointment

Special Town Meeting Motion Review

Surplus Property, Tax Title Parcels

Regional Services

Documents to Sign

Minutes

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Select Board Member Concerns

Town Administrator's Report

Public Comment

Volunteer Recognition

Announcements

Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39 Sec.23B, contract negotiations

Attendees for Regular Session

Dena Willmore - Select Board Chair

Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member

Zachary Turner - Select Board Member

Heather Butler - Town Administrator

James Sullivan - Falls Cable

Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk

Phoebe Walker - FRCOG

Cindy Schwartz - Recreation Committee

Carol Foote - Recreation Committee

Larry Langford - Finance Committee
Paula Consolo - Finance Committee
Wendy Sweetser-Ferris - Recreation Committee
Marilyn Kelsey - Resident

Meeting

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Willmore, Select Board Chair.

Appointments

5:30 p.m., Recreation Committee Cindy Schwartz and Carol Foote of the Recreation Committee addressed the current activity of the Committee in anticipation of the Recreation Area (aka the Rec) opening in warmer weather, and the status of the pool campaign fund. The popularity of the Rec was emphasized, noting the regular use of the paths for hiking and dog walking. Families using the playground facility gave the Committee positive feedback which resulted in keeping it open as late in the season as possible.

Select Board members asked questions which precipitated discussion on resident vs non-resident fees and the possibility of inviting Shelburne to contribute to the pool's capital campaign. Ms. Schwartz and Ms. Foote responded that the Committee has considered various scenarios, and stated that Buckland residents do receive a discounted fee for rental of the facility and pool passes.

The Recreation Committee is planning on moving forward with the 2021 season, COVID permitting. They are getting forms ready, putting policies in place, and have entertained inquiries on a running group and offering pickle ball among other activities.

5:45 p.m., Phoebe Walker, Board of Health, CPHS Update - Ms. Walker explained the municipal agreement that the town has with CPHS, both in the terms of the contract and its duration. She also reviewed the MOU that Buckland signed last fall to allow for COVID related FRCOG services that are in excess of what is budgeted. Those expenses are paid with CARES money, the funding for which ended December 31, 2020. The CARES deadline has been extended due to the ongoing pandemic, so Ms. Walker requested that the Board sign an amendment to the MOU extending it to the new CARES deadline, and for an amount double the original. Mr. Turner so moved, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Agenda Items

FY22 Budget - Ms. Willmore turned the discussion over to Mr. Langford of the Finance Committee. He reported that FY22 budget is in good shape and commended Ms. Butler on her efforts. Department heads have been met with, and the Finance Committee is currently awaiting for Mohawk's capital budget.

Ms. Butler is asking for a new line in the budget to help with the expenses associated with attrition of staff. She explained the costs of employee retirement such as vacation accrual, interim personnel, etc. She would like to set aside money each year to help cover retirement buyouts, interim personnel, consultants to help with hiring processes, etc. Ms. Willmore asked if the account could be rolled over to which Ms. Butler answered that it could. Brief discussion followed.

Ms. Consolo addressed the school budget noting it will not be level funded. The budget subcommittee for February 10 had been cancelled.

Town Clerk Appointment - Applications have been received in response to the Clerk vacancy. Ms. Butler reported that town counsel confirmed that an interim appointment could be for the duration of Ms. Cerone's elected term (2 1/2 years), or until June 30, 2021, the last two years to be determined by the May 2021 election. Board discussion followed regarding the term for which an interim clerk would be appointed, interviews for the position, and the necessity to appoint as quickly as possible emphasizing that the office/position is currently unoccupied. It was decided that a Select Board meeting would be held the following week to conduct interviews, at which point a decision by the Board would be made. Mr. Turner moved that the interim clerk appointment be until June 30, 2021, and a clerk for the remaining two years be elected during May Town Election. Ms. Willmore seconded. Following a brief discussion the Board voted: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

The Board then voted to approve the Annual Town Election Warrant. Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Special Town Meeting Motion Review - This agenda item was taken out of order, and immediately followed Ms. Walker's 5:45 p.m. appointment so she could weigh in and answer any questions if necessary. The format of the town meeting was discussed, regarding whether or not PA equipment would be needed, reaching out to Falls Cable for recording, and general flow of the event. Motions for the Special Town Meeting are:

Article 1: Ashfield Street Road Construction Project - Property Easement Authorization.

Article 2: Prior Fiscal Year Bills.

Mr. Del Castilho asked if citizens were unanimously in agreement with easements relative to Article 1. Ms. Butler explained the process and efforts made to communicate with and inform those whose property is impacted. Additionally, STM warrants were mailed to all affected parties.

Surplus Property, Tax Title Parcels - The Town Administrator introduced four properties that the town has taken through the foreclosure process and all necessary preliminary court proceedings. Property owners have been notified and given opportunity to make good on taxes. Tax title attorney has recommended that these properties be declared surplus then auctioned. The first step is for Select Board to declare parcels as surplus. Ms. Butler stated that Board did not have to act immediately but could take time to

review all material and do their homework. Ms. Willmore suggested that this item be put on the next agenda.

Ms. Willmore then addressed items left at the old town garage on Conway Street, particularly a pressure washer and compressor. Mr. Turner moved to inventory the old garage, clean it up, and put excess equipment up for sale, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. During the brief discussion, Mr Turner emphasized that the inventory list should be detailed, including the condition of items. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes. Further Board discussion covered concern over the salt shed, and the need to prioritize removing men and equipment from Conway Street to Sears Street; must identify necessary steps and move forward.

Regional Services - Ms. Willmore asked Mr. Turner to reach out to neighboring towns to form an ad hoc committee to discuss regionalizing services. He will also include the Highway Department in his contacts.

Documents to Sign

Minutes - Board members reviewed minutes from January 26, 2021, both regular and executive sessions. Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve and sign, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner yes; Willmore, yes.

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting - N/A

Select Board Member Concerns - N/A

Town Administrator's Report - See documents for this meeting posted on Town of Buckland Website.

Public Comment - Marilyn Kelsey expressed her thanks to the Board.

Volunteer Recognition - Carmela Lanza-Weil was recognized for her volunteer work as a coordinator for the Medical Reserve Corps, citing her time involved and contribution to COVID-19 effort.

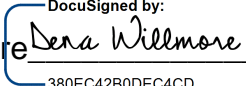
Announcements

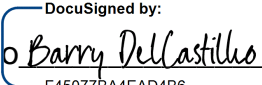
Due to COVID-19, the Shelburne Veterinary Clinic will not be holding its vaccine clinic. Also, dates for obtaining, signing, and returning nomination papers for the May Town Election were announced.

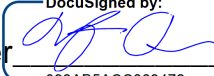
With no further business, Ms. Willmore moved to enter Executive Session under the provisions of MGL Chapter 39 Sec 23B, contract negotiations and that following the Executive Session would return to open meeting solely to adjourn. Mr. Turner seconded. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, February 23, 2021

Signed:

Dena Willmore 
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Barry Del Castillo 
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Zachary Turner 
093AB5ACC869472...