

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Meeting Via Zoom**

Appointments

5:30 p.m. - Representative Blais, Senator Hinds
6:00 p.m. - ACO Follow Up, Bray Road

Agenda

Designation of Polling Place.
FY22 Budget, Use of Free Cash.
Outdoor Seating.
Town Boards and Committees, Official Meeting Posting Location Proposal.
Council on Aging Appointment, Tony Jewell.

Documents to Sign

Minutes
Curb Cut Application, 2 Union Street

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

Attendees

Dena Willmore - Select Board Chair
Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member
Zachary Turner - Select Board Member
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator
James Sullivan - Falls Cable
Kyle Dragon - Animal Control Officer
Natalie Blais - Representative, First Franklin District
Jon Gould - Hill Town Community Liaison, Office of Senator Adam Hinds
Paula Consolo - Finance Committee
Larry Langford - Finance Committee
Raymond Lanza-Weil - Finance Committee

Karen Blom - Interim Buckland Town Clerk
Clinton Phillips - Resident
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
Marilyn Kelsey - Resident

Meeting

Ms. Willmore, Select Board Chair, opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Appointments

5:30 - Representative Blais and Senator Hinds (represented by Jon Gould) -

Representative Blais greeted the Board, expressing her efforts to meet regularly with local town governments to update them on the goings on at the state level and to hear their concerns and wish lists. Ms. Blais gave an overview of recent activity at the State House including legislation and committees of which she is a part, and initiatives of particular interest to rural communities. She asked the Board for their particular interests, and after surveying the members, she responded to their inquiries and wish lists. Representative Blais covered in detail issues concerning broadband and communication, police reform, the Student Opportunity Act, inequities caused by zip codes, transportation, shared services, and reform for payment in lieu of taxes for state owned property to correct the inequity in the amounts received by rural communities vs those where real estate values have increased at a disproportionate rate. Mr. Gould addressed reimbursement for regional school busing and the work Senator Hinds is doing to ensure that only those districts needing reimbursement receive it. He also spoke to required police training and efforts being made to not penalize rural communities whose budgets will be impacted by new regulations.

6:00 - ACO Follow Up, Bray Road - Animal Control Officer Kyle Dragon reported that no conditions previously set forth have been met, thus dog owners are in violation of orders. Since no further complaints have been made indicating that dogs may be contained, Mr. Dragon recommends sending a letter stating that if not in compliance by a specified date, dogs will be removed from the premises. Mr. Dragon further explained the procedure for seizing the dogs under Mass GL Ch 140 Sect 157, and the options the owners have under those conditions. He also stated the steps the town can take going forward and the future possibilities for the dogs if permanently seized. Ms. Willmore moved to follow the recommendations of ACO Dragon, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes. Relevant documents are available as attachments to this agenda on the town website.

In accordance with the MOU regarding select boards to designate one representative and one alternate member to the Regional Animal Control Advisory Board, Ms. Willmore moved to appoint Mr. Zachary Turner as representative. Mr. Del Castilho seconded the motion. Mr. Turner moved to appoint Ms. Heather Butler as alternate, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote (for both representative and alternate): Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Agenda

Designation of Polling Place - Interim Town Clerk Karen Blom presented a list of poll workers for the May 4 Election and stated the need for a police officer to be hired for the second shift; regular constables are either unavailable or unable to serve due to conflict of interest (family member on the ballot). Ms Blom also stated that voting would take place at 1 William Street, second floor of the Buckland Town Hall, and explained sterilizing procedure prior to election. Mr. Turner moved to accept the proposed list of poll workers, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

FY22 Budget, Use of Free Cash - Mr. Langford of the Finance Committee began the discussion by introducing the costs associated with the need to expand trash pick-up in town. To keep Buckland attractive for its residents and tourists, more frequent emptying of public trash cans is necessary. To further explain this issue Mr. Langford turned the floor over to Mr. Lanza-Weil of the Finance Committee who had introduced this idea to the Committee at a previous meeting. Mr. Lanza-Weil stated that excess, uncollected trash is not good for the character, health, and sanitation of the town. He presented a spread sheet to illustrate the appropriations to cover additional work hours and overtime wages for the highway crew to achieve this goal. Board discussion continued covering the days necessary for weekend pick-up due to the fact the highway department works four ten hour days during the warm weather. Further discussion of free cash included engineering costs and grant match expenses, the Personnel Reserve Account, any deficit in the snow/ice account, and a \$150,000 contribution to the Buckland Recreation Area pool to be paid by a combination of free cash and the stabilization fund.

Many residents have been inquiring about the benefit to the town for the inconvenience caused by filming, as well as the town's plans for spending the money earned from that project. Ms. Butler presented the idea of creating a revolving fund with the following village improvement options for expenditure of those monies: flowers to beautify planters in front of town hall, ideas for further enhancing the alleyway between Town Hall and Buckland Pizza, a water bottle filling station, and increased trash clean-up/disposal as suggested by the Finance Committee. Mr. Turner moved to create a revolving account for the money paid to the town for the recent Dexter filming, seconded by Ms Willmore. Motion was tabled to work on language, and will be continued at the April 27th meeting. Ms. Butler explained that town counsel had arrived at language to fit the parameters of creating a revolving account; she will contact counsel to confirm language.

Mr. Turner moved to approve the two capital articles for BSE and Mohawk; Mr. Del Castilho seconded. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes. Articles are available as an attachment to this agenda on the town website.

A change in the Town Clerk salary needed to be voted upon by the Board. Discussion followed with Ms. Blom, interim town clerk, offering her views on appropriate salary and educational requirements for the position. Ms. Willmore moved to adjust the salary to \$25/hour, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Outdoor Seating - Option for outdoor seating for Buckland restaurants has expired. To re-establish that option, Ms. Willmore moved to allow outdoor seating until 11/1/21, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, Yes; Willmore, yes. Ms. Butler will contact each restaurant owner to advise them of the vote on outdoor seating.

Town Boards and Committees, Official Meeting Posting Location Proposal - Ms. Butler presented a proposal to make the town website the official posting location, with the condition that it also be posted at Town Hall. For the sake of open meeting law compliance, the Town of Buckland website is most suitable. Posting at Town Hall will be timely, but not necessary to meet open meeting law. In support of the proposal, the fact that school and senior center postings and agendas are all online was cited. Topic will be discussed at next meeting.

Council on Aging Appointment, Tony Jewell - Mr. Del Castilho moved to appoint Mr. Tony Jewell to the Council on Aging, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Documents to Sign

Minutes - Board members had reviewed minutes for the March 30, 2021 meeting. Mr. Turner moved to accept. Mr. Del Castilho seconded with the stipulation to correct "N/A" to read "Not Discussed" regarding FY22 Budget agenda item. Vote to approve with correction: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

Curb Cut Application, 2 Union Street - Brief Board discussion recognizing that the request is not a zoning issue. Mr. Turner moved to approve the curb cut application for 2 Union Street, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes; Willmore, yes.

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

Mr. Turner shared the survey he created to poll area towns to gauge their interest in shared services, and in what format they might like to accomplish that end; district, formal or informal partnership. There was a brief Board discussion. Mr. Turner will send out the survey and bring findings to the Board for discussion once surveys are returned.

Ms. Butler announced local rabies clinics for dogs and cats. There will be a clinic held at the Shelburne Falls Fire Station on State Street, Saturday, April 24th.

Select Board Member Concerns - There were none.

Town Administrator's Report - See attachment to this agenda on the Town of Buckland website.

Public Comment - Marilyn Kelsey commented on the flurry of activity in town due to filming and thanked the Board for addressing ways to use the money from the filming to benefit residents.

Volunteer Recognition - Whit Sanford was recognized for her hard work on the Christmas Decorations for the village.

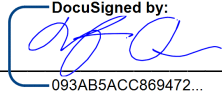
Announcements - With no announcements and no further business, Mr. Turner moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Willmore. Vote: Turner, yes; Willmore, yes. Mr. Del Castillo had previously logged out of the meeting, therefore not present to vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, April 27, 2021

Signed:

Dena Willmore 380EC42B0DEC4CD...

Barry Del Castillo F45077BA4EAD4B6...

Zachary Turner 093AB5ACC869472...