

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2023 5:30 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall
Also Available Via Zoom**

Listing of Topics

Appointments : Sewer Commissioners - FY23 Sewer Warrant

Agenda Items

Town Election - Annual Town Election, June 6th

Shared Police Services Inter-municipal Agreement

Public Safety Committee Recommendations

Documents to Sign

Contract & Grant Documents

Pavilion Rental Agreement

Permits & Licenses

St. Joseph Parish Tag Sale

Hat & Sock Memorial Day Parade Permit (retro)

Summer Day on the Buckland Common

Minutes & Warrants

April 25 and May 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2023 Accounts Payable Warrant

May 23, 2023 Payroll Warrant

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 & Upcoming Meetings

Attendees

Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Chair
 Clinton Phillips - Select Board Vice-chair
 Lawrence Wells - Select Board Member
 Heather Butler - Town Administrator
 Dana McNay - Falls Cable
 Mary Bolduc - Select Board Clerk
 Cynthia Schwartz - Recreation Chair/Pool Committee
 Pamela Guyette - Director of Assessing/Pool Committee
 Cara Leach - Treasurer/Collector Town of Buckland
 Joan Livingston - Resident/Candidate for Select Board

Meeting

Mr. Del Castilho opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Appointments

Sewer Commissioners - FY23 Sewer Warrant - Ms. Leach explained that the Select Board had previously signed off on the sewer rate, and now must sign the warrant to complete the process. Mr. Phillips moved to sign the FY23 Sewer Warrant in the amount of one hundred eighty thousand, nine hundred and seventy three dollars and thirty five cents. Mr. Wells seconded the motion; vote in favor was unanimous.

Agenda Items**Town Election - Annual Town Election, June 6th -**

> Constable vs Police Officer - Town Clerk, Karen Blom, wished to have a final decision made by the Select Board as to whether a Constable can work the election or if it has to be a police officer. She anticipates that the constables will be asking and she wants to be able to say it was a Board decision. Mr. Phillips stated he spoke with Chief Bardwell; since constables have fallen victim to police reform, both Mr. Phillips and the Chief recommend using police officers to cover the June 6th election, and Chief Bardwell has two officers scheduled for coverage. Discussion followed on constable positions, elected vs appointed, and new police reform training requirements. The cost of police coverage was also discussed and although officers will receive detail pay, every effort will be made to not charge the election budget at that rate. No vote was taken.

> Talking Points for Override Ballot Question - Mr. Del Castilho prepared a statement on behalf of the Board regarding the Proposition 2 1/2 Override Ballot question. He presented the statement to Board members, stating he had edited to avoid crossing the line into advocacy; Ms. Butler agreed he had accomplished that goal. Mr. Phillips moved to accept the statement written by Mr. Del Castilho as the Select Board's statement, seconded by Mr. Wells. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Shared Police Services Inter-municipal Agreement -

Brief discussion addressed the inter-municipal agreement and history of the Buckland Police Department which according to archives dates to 1901. Suggestion was made that perhaps a commemorative patch might be designed to honor that history. Mr. Del Castilho moved to sign the Shared Police Services Inter-municipal Agreement, seconded by Mr. Wells. Mr. Phillips commented on what an outstanding job the committee did throughout the process which culminated in the agreement. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Public Safety Committee Recommendations

> Speed Limits on North Street - A list of signatures of upper North Street residents was submitted requesting to lower the speed limit to 25 MPH. Discussion followed regarding procedure, and traffic flow in North Street. Mr. Wells moved to reduce to 25 MPH the speed limit on North Street, from Rt. 112 to the posted 20 MPH speed limit area of North Street. Mr. Del Castilho seconded the motion and vote in favor was unanimous.

> Street Lighting - Ms. Butler stated that anyone still wanting a shield for the new LED streetlights to please submit/re-submit their request.

Documents to Sign

Contract & Grant Documents

> Pavilion Rental Agreement - Cynthia Schwartz and Pamela Guyette gave a presentation regarding revised/updated Recreation Area Pavilion rental application procedures, including general rules and conditions, fees, and insurance/special licensing & permits. Ms. Guyette gave an informative and comprehensive overview of the research done to arrive at the new regulations, with an emphasis on the need for liability insurance coverage. Discussion followed covering other facets of pavilion use: trash, recycling, alcohol liability, signage, policing the area, and security deposits. One and two million dollar liability insurance coverage was decided upon for pavilion rental. No vote was necessary or taken.

Ms. Schwartz updated the Board on the status of the construction project stating that the pool deck was going in the day of this meeting, tiling is complete, siding of pool house and epoxy floor are half done, and filling of the pool is scheduled. It was suggested that the end of the week of June 4 would be a good opportunity for Board members to attend a pool/contractor meeting, visit the project site, and view the progress first hand.

> Permits & Licenses

St. Joseph Parish Tag Sale - See motion below.

Hat & Sock Memorial Day Parade Permit (retro) - See motion below.

Summer Day on the Buckland Common - See motion below.

Mr. Phillips moved to sign all above permits and licenses, seconded by Mr. Wells. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. All permits/licenses approved.

> Minutes & Warrants

April 25 and May 16 , 2023 Meeting Minutes - Not available, No action.

May 23, 2023 Accounts Payable Warrant, May 23, 2023 Payroll Warrant - Mr. Phillips moved to approve the May 23, 3023 Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants, seconded by Mr. Wells. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

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

There were no items not reasonably anticipated.

Select Board Member Concerns - There were no Select Board member concerns expressed.

Town Administrator's Report - Ms. Butler reviewed for the Board the One Stop Development Grant Program, its function, and the projects Buckland had submitted for consideration. Of the projects remaining (brown fields project did not qualify) Ms. Butler advised advancing the Charlemont Road and Salt Shed projects. Grant applications are due by Friday, June 2, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Mr. Phillips moved to approve the Chair to sign said grant applications by the deadline Friday, seconded by Mr. Wells. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Ms. Butler also stated that the Bicycle Park committee had submitted a letter of support for signature by the Board for a grant by T-Mobile. Ms. Butler recommended that they return to the Board for review as they have continued to accrue funding for their project.

Public Comment - Joan Livingston asked if there are plans to re-paint the crosswalk in front of McCuskers Market. Ms. Butler replied that yes, there are.

Volunteer Recognition - Recognition was given to all Memorial Day parade and celebration organizers and participants. Mr. Del Castilho stated that it was heartwarming to see the attendance and participation.

Announcements & Upcoming Meetings - Annual Town Election, June 6, 2023; Select Board Meetings June 13 and June 27, 2023; Ice Cream Social hosted by Council on Aging, June 14, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. in alleyway next to Town Hall.

With no further business or announcements, Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wells. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Select Board Clerk, June 13, 2023

Signed:

Jean Livingston
Barry Del-Castilho 

Clinton Phillips 

Lawrence Wells 

BUCKLAND SELECT BOARD STATEMENT ON JUNE 6th OVERRIDE BALLOT QUESTION

Revised (BD 5/30/23) to avoid crossing the line into advocacy.

Final proposal on pages 3 and 4.

The Override

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 6th, the taxpayers of Buckland approved by a wide margin a budget for Fiscal Year 2024, as recommended by the Finance Committee and Select Board. That budget contains a deficit, that is, it requires more property tax support than is allowed within the limit of so-called Proposition 2½, which is a two and one-half percent increase in the property tax levy. By law, a community cannot budget a deficit in excess of that limit without voter approval.

As a result, the vote at Buckland's Annual Town Meeting to approve the budget requires a ballot question for a vote by the registered voters of the Town at the Annual Town Election on June 6th. This question asks whether or not to approve an override of Proposition 2½ to assess an additional \$151,262 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding Buckland's operating budget for FY24.

Background

Buckland, like so many towns in Western Massachusetts, emerged from the pandemic only to be hit by the combination of higher costs due to inflation, continued flat growth in revenues, and new State mandates that come with increased costs. This came on top of our history of many years during which Buckland was able to hold the line on property taxes (which comprise 88% of its revenues) within Proposition 2½ by relying on state aid and new growth to cover our expense increases. Finally, as new growth continued to be modest and proposed increases in vitally needed State aid to rural towns like Buckland have not happened, Buckland can no longer hold the line. Increased costs and relatively flat growth in revenues over the past several years has meant limiting Buckland's investments in personnel and infrastructure, a difficult annual financial balancing act which has meant pushing back on requests for needed increases in funding for Town services. **As a result** ~~To provide necessary and overdue increases in funding for the provision of essential services,~~ Buckland's Fiscal Year 2024 budget finally contained a deficit of \$151,262.

The Budget

Three areas of increased expenses are worth noting. First Town Meeting voted to change Buckland's police services. In order to meet the requirements of police reform and provide more consistent coverage, the Town approved a shared services model with the Town of Shelburne, one in which Buckland will be assessed a portion of the total two-town police cost, or \$334,264. If this shared services model had not been approved by Town Meeting, the projected cost for a Buckland Police Department to meet the requirements of police reform would have been about \$30,000 more than the shared policing model, and it would have provided less coverage.

Town Meeting also voted to increase the Town's Public Works budget to reflect the costs of fully staffing the department and the increased costs of supplies and equipment. This key department has been understaffed for many years, and the Town has paid the price through less well-maintained roads and equipment.

Town Meeting also voted to increase the budget to reflect the increased costs of building maintenance, an increase in the disposal of solid waste, a dramatic increase in cyber security insurance, an increase in recreation expenses with the reopening of the swimming pool,

and an increase in salary expenses. Buckland has a good team in place, ~~we must ensure that we can continue to attract and retain the best talent available~~ **and hopes to sustain it** in a tight, competitive labor market

The Basic Choice

The approved budget, with its deficit condition, has presented the voters of Buckland with a difficult choice to make at the polls on June 6th:

- On the one hand, should the Town preserve the delivery of important services by approving a Proposition 2½ override to cover the budget deficit?
- Or should the Town instead balance the budget by making **significant dramatic** cuts to Town services **and personnel**?

If approved on June 6th, the override of Proposition 2½ for \$151,262 would result in an increase in the tax rate, which based on last year's numbers and looking at all the factors for this year, is estimated to be about \$0.55 per \$1,000 of value.

If voters don't pass the override on June 6th, the Finance Committee will go back to the drawing board and prepare a budget for Fiscal Year 2024 that will be balanced by making **significant** cuts ~~in Town services and personnel~~, in the amount of \$151,262. That revised budget would then have to be voted on at a Special Town Meeting called for that purpose.

BUCKLAND SELECT BOARD STATEMENT ON JUNE 6th OVERRIDE BALLOT QUESTION

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Town of Buckland Recreation Area Pavilion Rental Application

66 Ashfield Road, Buckland

Thank you for renting the Buckland Recreation Area Pavilion. Important information below outlines reservation procedures and the Rental Terms and Conditions for the use of this facility from the Town of Buckland. Please contact the Town via phone (413)625-6330 extension 1, or by email, adminassist@town.buckland.ma.us if you have any questions or concerns regarding the provided information.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

To reserve a date, renters must submit a completed application to the Town of Buckland. Security deposit and rental fees must be paid within two weeks of the requested rental date. Application approval will be confirmed through email.

- Receipt of application by the Town of Buckland is a request and does not automatically constitute a facility reservation
- Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older

GENERAL RULES & CONDITIONS:

The Town of Buckland is proud to offer outstanding, smoke-free facilities at the Buckland Recreation Area Pavilion.

Pavilion rental hours are 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Time reserved must include set-up time, time decorating, and take-down/clean-up

- The person named on the facility reservation will be held responsible for the following:
 - The condition of the facility and the conduct of the group using the facility. Person on the facility reservation must be present at the event the entire time.
 - Damages, loss, accidents or injuries to persons or property while using the Buckland Town property. Additional charges will be assessed to any applicant for damage, repair, or cleaning required by the Town of Buckland.
 - Any licenses/permits required to host the event. Name on application must match the name on the licenses/permits issued by the Town of Buckland.

RENTAL FEES:

- Reservations cannot be confirmed until the rental deposit is received by the Town. Only Buckland residents with a formal ID will qualify for the resident rate.
- Renters who require early arrival or stay later than the reserved time will be charged for additional time. Time reserved and paid for must include set-up, take-down and clean-up time. Rental fees are listed on the reverse.

	Rental Category	Monday-Thursday*	Friday-Sunday
1	Buckland resident	\$75.00 (4 hours) \$100.00 (8 hours)	\$175.00 (up to 12 hours)
2	Private Leagues, Non-profit or community organization	\$50.00 (4 hours) \$75.00 (8 hours)	\$200.00 (up to 12 hours)
3	Non-resident	\$75.00 (4 hours) \$100.00 (8 hours)	\$200.00 (up to 12 hours)

*Monday holidays will be charged the Friday-Sunday rate

- Rental Fee includes:
 - 15 picnic tables (maximum capacity of 150)
 - Charcoal grill
 - Basketball/Pickleball Court
 - Baseball field
 - Fire pit with seating and lights (seasonally available, weather permitted)
 - Restrooms
 - Dumpster
 - Corn hole boards
 - Swimming pool is **NOT** included with your rental; pool day passes may be purchased inside the pool house on the day of your event.

INSURANCE/SPECIAL LICENSING & PERMITS

The Town of Buckland and/or the State of Massachusetts require Insurance Certificates, Special Permits/Licenses for the following:

FOOD-When serving to the public, or when a caterer is serving food to the public

ALCOHOL-Anytime alcohol is being sold on Town owned property, a license is required (only beer and wine allowed), or if alcohol is being provided to the general public at no charge, a license is required. Those serving alcohol (renter, caterer, etc.) must secure a permit through the Town of Buckland. It is recommended that you allow 60 days for the approval of a license. **General liability, and/or liquor liability insurance is required in the amount of XXXX TBD**

ENTERTAINMENT-General Liability Insurance is required for live/recorded music, DJ, theater, etc.

OTHER-When insurance certificates are deemed necessary. Special permits/licenses are the responsibility of the renter and must be submitted to the Town of Buckland at least 3 weeks in advance.

DECORATIONS

- Any decorations used at the event must be of a non-permanent nature and must be removed prior to the end of the event.
- Nothing shall be attached or fastened to any pavilion structure, wall, or surface of any means, and no tape (except the blue painter's style tape), tacks, nails, screws, push pins or similar devices may be used.
- Trash from your event must be put in the provided dumpster
- Any fire in the outdoor pit must be completely extinguished upon departure. The Buckland Fire Chief has the discretion of whether the conditions are unacceptable for a fire at any time.



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- Any fire in the outdoor pit must be completely extinguished upon departure. The Buckland Fire Chief has the discretion of whether the conditions are unacceptable for a fire at any time.

**Town of Buckland
Parade Or Street Use Permit**

This permit to be filled out in conjunction with the Town's written policy - see separate document.

Name of applicant or organization: Summer Day on the Buckland Common

Date of Event: July 15th, 2023 Profit _____ Non-Profit X

Description of activity and purpose of request: (including date, time location, etc. Use back of sheet if necessary). _____

Alicia Graves

413.387.5602

Print Name

Telephone Number

Alicia Graves

Signature

Bill Police Services To:

4 Cross Street
Buckland, MA
01338

Address

This permit must be completed in full and returned with a non-refundable \$5.00 application fee to the Town of Buckland, no later than 30 days prior to date requested for the activity.

(Town Use Only)

Date this application is received by Town MAY 22 2023

Fee Paid: Check # 102 / Cash _____ Rcd by: [Signature]

Police Department: Approved Disapproved _____ Date _____

Recommendation of Police Department: Traffic &/or crowd control assessment:

Estimated cost to the Town: N/A

[Signature]
Chief of Police

8-27-23
Date

Board of Selectmen: Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Date _____

_____, Chair, Board of Selectmen,

J. [Signature]

May 8th, 2023

Summer Day on the Buckland Common

We are requesting that traffic be stopped on Upper Street, between Cross Street and Charlemont Road and that Cross Street be closed to through traffic, on Saturday 7/15/2023 from 9:45 am to 3:15 pm in order to reduce the risk to pedestrians attending the event, and to allow for the Buckland Volunteer Fire Dept. to display some of their equipment and offer fire safety education and fire safety awareness to the public. We are prepared to place detour signs at the intersection of Route 112 and Upper Street routing Upper Street traffic to access through the South entrance of Upper Street. At the end of June, and after approval of Selectman, letters to homeowners on Cross Street and the intersection with Upper Street will be sent by our committee advising them of these closures.

Purpose:

This is a free, collaborative community event, intended to be of interest for all ages, celebrating Buckland Center and its rich history in the community. Being held Sat. July 15th 10 am to 3 pm:

Seventh Annual "A Summer Day on the Buckland Common"

On the historic Buckland Common at the corners of Upper and Cross Streets in Buckland Center and at venues along Upper St. including the Mary Lyon Church, the Buckland Historical Museum, the Trow and Taylor Cemeteries, the Buckland Public Library, and possibly at the Robert Strong Woodward Studio.

Activities for the whole family. Shelburne Falls Military Band Concert and other, local musicians, Historical Museum open with demonstrations, textile display, baby animals, arts and crafts, book and tag sales, a few local vendors and informational booths, kids games, bubble table, cooling stations, raffles, historical street tour, open art studio, coffee, donuts, blueberry buckle, and lunch for sale.

This permit is being requested by these Buckland Center organizations involved in planning the event: The First Congregational Church of Buckland aka Mary Lyon Church, the Buckland Historical Society, the Buckland Union Cemetery Association, and the Buckland Public Library, the Buckland Public Hall, and Friends of Robert Strong Woodward.

On behalf of the planning committee (folks from all the Buckland organizations involved),

Alicia Graves
SDBC Chairperson
4 Cross Street, Buckland, MA 01338
agraves01338@gmail.com
413.387.5602

**Town of Buckland
Parade Or Street Use Permit**

This permit to be filled out in conjunction with the Town's written policy - see separate document.

Name of applicant or organization: St Joseph Parish

Date of Event: 8/19 + 8/20 Profit _____ Non-Profit

Description of activity and purpose of request: (including date, time location, etc. Use back of sheet if necessary).

Tag Sale 8/19 + 8/20
8-2:00 + 9-12:00

34 Monroe Avenue Attach a banner on the river fence on State Street
2 weeks prior

Gina Wells
Print Name

(413) 625-6403
Telephone Number

Gina M. Wells
Signature

St Joseph Parish
34 Monroe Ave
Shelburne Falls MA 01370
Address

Bill Police Services To:

This permit must be completed in full and returned with a non-refundable \$5.00 application fee to the Town of Buckland, no later than 30 days prior to date requested for the activity.

(Town Use Only)

Date this application is received by Town 5-15-23

Fee Paid: Check # _____ /Cash \$5 Rcd by: Kate Blom

Police Department: Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Date _____

Recommendation of Police Department: Traffic &/or crowd control assessment:

Estimated cost to the Town: _____
Chief of Police _____ Date _____

Board of Selectmen: Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Date _____

_____, Chair, Board of Selectmen,

**Town of Buckland
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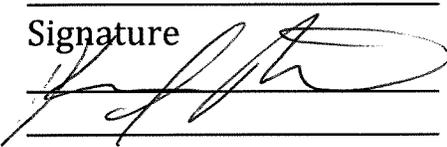
Name of applicant or organization: Arnold Purinton

Date of Event: 5/29/2023 Profit _____ Non-Profit

Description of activity and purpose of request: (including date, time location, etc. Use back of sheet if necessary). Annual Hat & Sock Parade (for Memorial Day)
Leaving from 43 Upper Street, marching to Historical Society (20 Upper St.)
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Police requested to control traffic on Charlemagne Rd & Upper Street.

Kevin Purinton
Print Name

625-2336
Telephone Number

Signature


Bill Police Services To:

Address

This permit must be completed in full and returned with a non-refundable \$5.00 application fee to the Town of Buckland, no later than 30 days prior to date requested for the activity.

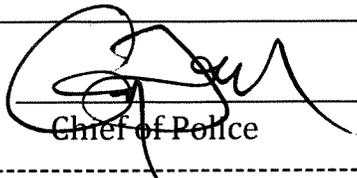
(Town Use Only)

Date this application is received by Town 5-22-2023

Fee Paid: Check # _____ /Cash 500 Rcd by: AMS

Police Department: Approved Disapproved _____ Date _____

Recommendation of Police Department: Traffic &/or crowd control assessment:

Estimated cost to the Town: N/A  5-23-23
Chief of Police Date

Board of Selectmen: Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Date _____

_____, Chair, Board of Selectmen,