

**Buckland Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
August 31, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting Via Zoom**

**Listing of Topics**

**Appointments**

None scheduled.

**Agenda Items**

- > Wastewater Treatment Facility MOU
- > Acting Police Chief Appointment
- > Declaration of Emergency - Amendment
- > Special Town Meeting - Schedule October 23, 2021

**Documents to Sign**

**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**

Zachary Turner - Select Board Chair  
Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member  
Clinton Phillips - Select Board Member  
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator  
James Sullivan - Falls Cable  
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk  
Brooks Batteau - Resident

**Meeting**

Meeting was opened at 5:33 p.m. by Select Board Chair, Mr. Turner.

**Appointments**

There were no appointments.

### **Agenda Items**

Wastewater Treatment Facility MOU - Ms. Butler screen shared the MOU and stated that edits had been made by Ms. Butler and the Town of Charlemont. She further explained that she and Lisa Blackmer had arrived at the benefits cost of the position.

In answer to public questions (see public comment), Ms. Butler explained that creating the position addressed by the MOU was an issue that neither the Select Board nor Sewer Commission had any say in; it is to satisfy the DEP and licensing requirements. Without the added position, the WWTF's current permit would expire and it would lose its license. Ms. Butler has been working with FRCOG and the DEP to develop the position. She stated that this had been voted on at Town Meeting, was included in the FY22 budget, and because it is an enterprise fund, "what we spend is what we bill (users)".

Mr. Del Castilho expressed concern over two pages of comments he had previously submitted which had not yet been discussed. Ms. Butler screen shared his document; discussion followed. Mr. Del Castilho was concerned about "Governance" and felt strongly about chain of command procedures. He also pointed out that the MOU is between the Sewer Commission and other entities, not the Town of Buckland as currently written. A majority vote by the oversight committee was also a concern of his. Ms. Butler gave her interpretation of the function of the oversight committee. Following discussion, Ms. Butler made some edits suggested by Mr. Del Castilho and addressed during discussion.

Also discussed was the process for paying the employee to commute between towns; pay based on mileage vs time spent, one half hour being the time MOU allotted. Mr. Turner questioned whether one half hour was enough; Mr. Phillips felt in most cases it was sufficient. The new hire for this position, it was suggested, should fall under employee guidelines for the Town of Buckland. Said person will be a Buckland employee whose services are contracted to the towns of Ashfield and Charlemont.

At this point, 5:59 p.m., Mr. Del Castilho moved to recess to the Sewer Commissioners meeting; Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous.

Acting Police Chief Appointment - Select Board re-convened at 7:34 p.m. The Board had previously agreed to negotiate an Interim Police Chief agreement with Officer Kurt Gilmore. However, an interim position refers to a situation where the person being temporarily replaced will return to their job. Additionally, an interim chief cannot avail themselves of the Mass Chiefs of Police Association privileges, but an acting chief can. Therefore, it is appropriate to appoint Officer Gilmore to Acting Chief.

After reviewing salaries of police chiefs in local and neighboring towns of similar size, Mr. Turner reported that he and Officer Gilmore negotiated \$35.00/hour. Mr. Turner

stated that the balance of the police department would be comprised of part time officers.

Mr. Del Castilho moved to appoint Officer Kurt Gilmore to Acting Police Chief at \$35/hr. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. Vote in favor of motion: Phillips, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes.

Declaration of Emergency: Amendment - Mr. Turner explained the need to amend the wording on Buckland's current Declaration of Emergency to remove language in reference to Hurricane Henri. Mr. Del Castilho moved to remove wording relating to Hurricane Henri from the Declaration of Emergency, seconded by Mr. Phillips. Brief discussion followed. Vote in favor of motion: Phillips, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes.

Special Town Meeting: Schedule 23, 2021 - Ms. Butler recommended Saturday, October 23, 2021 as the date for the Special Town Meeting. The date was agreeable to all Board members. After a brief discussion during which it was determined that the meeting would be held outside, Mr. Del Castilho moved for the Special Town Meeting to be held Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10:a.m. with a rain date of Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. Vote in favor of motion: Phillips, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes.

#### **Documents to Sign**

There were no documents to sign.

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

There were no unanticipated items.

#### **Select Board Member Concerns**

There were no concerns presented/expressed.

#### **Town Administrator's Report**

No Town Administrator's Report was given.

#### **Public Comment**

During the Wastewater Treatment Facility MOU discussion, Mr. Batteau asked several questions regarding creation of the WWTF position, budgeting of the position, and its impact on user costs for the Sewer District.

#### **Volunteer Recognition**

Election workers for the Special Town Election were given a shout out in recognition of their time and effort in staffing the polls.

#### **Announcements**

Hazardous Waste day is Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the GCC main campus and the Orange transfer station. Pre-registration is required and directions for registering

are on the Town Website. With no further business, Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote in favor of motion: Phillips, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Turner, yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, October 12, 2021

**Signed:**

Zachary Turner



Barry Del Castilho



Clinton Phillips