

**Buckland Select Board
Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021 5:30 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall**

Listing of Topics

Appointments

No appointments

Agenda Items

- > Community Development Strategy Update
- > Special Town Meeting
 - Motions
 - Blackboard Connect
- > Highway Foreman's Position, Offer Letter

Documents to Sign

- > Minutes, September 14, 2021

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 - Absent
Heather Butler - Buckland Town Administrator
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk
Karen Blom - Buckland Town Clerk
Jeremy Purinton - Highway Foreman
Dana McNay - Falls Cable
Douglas Smith - Resident
Paul Bernier - Resident
Timothy Bohonowicz - Resident
Marilyn Kelsey - Resident

Meeting

Meeting was opened by Mr. Turner, Chair, at 5:31 p.m

Appointments

There were no appointments.

Agenda Items

Community Development Strategy Update - Ms. Butler reported that Linda Overing had requested an update on Buckland's Community Development Strategy. Ms. Butler reviewed and updated the 2018 document and offered to go over the revision as well as any updates Board members might have. Mr. Turner suggested that Board members would review, make notes, forward any remarks to Ms. Butler, and discuss at next Select Board meeting. Ms. Overing would like completion by end of November.

Special Town Meeting -

> ***Motions*** - Board discussion on Special Town Meeting Warrant Article 4 regarding the PARC Grant for the Buckland Recreation Area/pool project. Ms. Butler explained the budgeting and finance specifics relative to Article 4, and stated that the article and motion as worded were acceptable to PARC Grant administration. Article 9 for the capital expense of a hybrid cruiser was addressed and Mr. Del Castilho expressed concern that the Select Board would not meet again between the forthcoming Finance Committee meeting and the STM. Ms. Butler cited the dates of previous town meetings and associated warrant articles impacting the finances for the cruiser expense. A brief Board discussion followed on Special Town Meeting Warrant articles and the motions accompanying those articles. There was no motion or vote necessary for this discussion.

> ***Blackboard Connect*** - Town Clerk Karen Blom had requested the use of Blackboard Connect for information regarding the Special Town Meeting (STM) on October 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Del Castilho moved to authorize the use of Blackboard Connect for the purpose of STM, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of motion was unanimous.

Highway Foreman's Position, Offer Letter - An offer letter has been given to Mr. Jeremy Purinton for the position of Highway Foreman at a rate of \$25.00 per hour for forty hours per week with hours in excess of forty being eligible for overtime rate. Also, the two additional highway employees, Anthony Gutierrez and Michael Lovett were each given a \$0.25 per hour pay increase. Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve all three, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Ms. Butler acknowledged the highway crew's work, especially in view of being understaffed. The total impact of wage increases is \$2,300, with a fourth position already provided for in the budget.

Documents to Sign

Select Board members reviewed minutes from August 31 and September 14, 2021. Mr. Del Castilho moved to approve as written, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

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

The Board had received a Letter of Support for the Community Compact IT grant. Mr. Del Castillo moved to authorize Mr. Turner, Chair, to sign the letter. Mr. Turner seconded. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Select Board Member Concerns - Mr. Del Castillo reported an item of interest rather than concern; that he had attended the open house at Arms Library, and Librarian Laurie Wheeler was thrilled to have a member of the Buckland Select Board attend. They spoke of Buckland Library allocations and appropriations; Ms. Wheeler told Mr. Castillo that would be on Arms Library's next agenda.

Mr. Del Castillo asked if the Animal Control Bylaw had come back from the Attorney General's office ; Ms. Butler said it had been approved with suggestions, and is being reviewed by Kyle Dragon, ACO.

Town Administrator's Report - Ms. Butler restated the information regarding the Animal Control Bylaw.

More complaints about the trash problem downtown have been received including one from a resident who formerly served in an official capacity. That person expressed concerns with the amount of resources the town has allocated to the trash problem only to have it continue. Board discussion followed, brain storming different/additional solutions. Ms. Butler reported the trash pick up schedule and said it appears that perhaps the last pick up is too early to prevent overflowing cans later in the day. The Board discussed adding more trash barrels, hiring an outside company, and coordinating with the Shelburne crew so as not to duplicate efforts and times.

The November 9 Select Board meeting will be a joint meeting with Shelburne at which time shared policing services will be addressed. Ms. Butler stated that she has received much positive feedback from residents regarding shared services.

The ANR for Fire House Studio to acquire a parcel of land from the town has stalled due to the Town Hall lot being non-conforming and to decrease it in area or dimension would make it further non-conforming. Ms. Butler explained some options in pursuing the matter through a variance or proving that the proposed conveyance would provide a significant benefit to the community. Mr. Turner suggested asking if the owner of Fire House Studio would consider a 100 year lease. Options for the conveyance will continue to be investigated.

Public Comment - Ms. Kelsey inquired about the identity of the person to whom Ms. Butler had referred in the discussion on trash. Ms. Butler identified Raymond Lanza-Weil, former Finance Committee member and strong advocate of paying overtime for increased trash pick up as the person submitting the comments. Brief discussion on trash problem followed. Ms. Kelsey later inquired about the proposed zoning bylaws,

why they concerned the Village vs Upper Buckland or Rural Residential areas, and questioned the term "Village" as opposed to "Buckland." Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Bernier inquired about the STM warrant articles, specifically about the pool, zoning, and clarification on setbacks, to which Ms. Butler responded. In later discussion he referred back to the pool project and was given an explanation for the pool project funding, budgeting and financing. Brief discussion followed. He also questioned the current Buckland Board of Health (BOH) masking mandate asking who mandates, advises and/or recommends, and the timing of the mandate. He questioned the efficacy of masking, inquired about BOH positions, appointed or elected, and relayed his experience of receiving notice of non-compliance at the transfer station.

Mr. Smith inquired as to the origin of the zoning bylaws and who proposed them. Ms. Butler explained the process of proposing/drafting a zoning bylaw and the Planning Board's role in that process. He addressed the continued costs of maintaining the pool at the Buckland Recreation Area followed by a brief discussion. Later he, too, questioned the mask mandate and the metrics supporting it; the laws by which a BOH is given authority, if indeed Buckland was in a state of emergency and when it was last updated; and expressed that there are a number of residents opposed to the mandate. He also relayed his experience of being informed of mask non-compliance at the transfer station, questioned the authority by which it was given, and to whom he was supposed to have addressed an appeal/response.

Mr. Bohonowicz asked if the Select Board has any oversight over the BOH to which Mr. Turner responded that the Select Board voted to support decisions of the BOH. He asked what the process is for a citizen to propose a bylaw; Ms. Butler and the Board responded, outlining that process. He also addressed the Pan Am derailment and asked when that would be addressed/resolved. Ms. Butler will forward him the town's updated hazardous waste mitigation plan.

Public comments elicited discussion among those residents attending and the Board.

Volunteer Recognition

The Planning Board was recognized for the hours and effort dedicated to drafting the Housing Bylaw, noting the magnitude of the project. The bylaw(s) will be voted on at STM on October 23, 2021.

Announcements - A Flu Clinic to be held at Mohawk on Saturday, October 16, 2021 was announced, and a reminder given for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for October 23, 2021. With no further business, Mr Del Castilho moved to adjourn seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Bolduc, Boards' Clerk, October 26, 2021

Signed:

Zachary Turner



Barry Del Castillo

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Barry Del Castillo

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Clinton Phillips

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