

**Buckland Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 26, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
Meeting Via Zoom**

**Listing of Topics**

**Appointments - N/A**

**Agenda Items**

Special Town Meeting  
Fee Schedule, Planning and Zoning Boards  
Senior Center Update  
Regionalizing Town Services

**Documents to Sign**

CPHS, 3 Year Agreement  
Minutes

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

**Select Board Member Concerns**

**Town Administrator's Report**

**Public Comment**

**Remembrance -** Rick Bardwell, Former Shelburne Falls Fire Chief.

**Volunteer Recognition -** Paul and Judy Willis and Jackie Welsh for Coordinating the Remembrance Event Held January 19, 2021.

**Announcements**

**Executive Session Under the Provisions of MGL Chapter 39 Sec 23B, Contract Negotiations and Litigation**

**Regular Session Attendees**

Dena Willmore - Select Board Chair  
Barry Del Castilho - Select Board Member  
Zachary Turner - Select Board Member  
Heather Butler - Town Administrator

Larry Langford - Finance Committee  
James Sullivan - Falls Cable  
Mary Bolduc - Boards' Clerk  
Marilyn Kelsey - Resident

### **Meeting, Regular Session**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Willmore, Chair.

### **Appointments - N/A**

### **Agenda Items-**

Special Town Meeting - Before addressing the Special Town Meeting, Ms. Butler announced the resignation of Town Clerk Elizabeth Cerone, effective February 15, 2021. Ms. Butler recognized Ms. Cerone for the outstanding job she did as a new Clerk during an unprecedented November election in the midst of a pandemic. She said it was with regret that she accepted Elizabeth's resignation but respects her wishes, and now refers to the Select Board for direction in moving forward to appoint an interim Town Clerk. Ms. Butler reported the recommendations of town counsel to post the position.

Board discussion followed regarding possible scenarios for an interim clerk, addressing the question of the position becoming appointed vs elected, and the process involved to achieve that. Ms. Butler stated that town counsel made it clear that the duration of an interim appointment would only be until the next town election. Ms. Butler has reached out to the Town Clerks Association for help in filling the vacancy. Board members considered the possibility of addressing whether the position should be elected or appointed at Special Town Meeting, but ultimately decided it would be an Annual Town Meeting item.

Board members had reviewed the Warrant for the February 13, 2021 Special Town Meeting. Mr. Turner moved to sign the Warrant, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes. Discussion followed regarding the date of the Annual Town Meeting. The unknowns of Covid, vaccine rollout, the state budget, and the possibility of federal aid were all considerations in looking at June as an option. Additionally, bids are going out for valuations, and that financial impact plus the timeline of the RFP process were cited as factors to consider. Efforts will continue to establish a FY22 budget in time for a May town meeting as scheduled, keeping the thought of June as a likely alternative.

Fee Schedule, Planning and Zoning Boards - Ms. Butler screen shared the proposed fee schedule. Mr. Turner moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. After a brief discussion, Board members voted: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Senior Center Update - Mr. Turner reported that he was unable to attend the last Expansion Committee meeting, but was present for his working group meeting at which the letter from the Town of Ashfield was discussed as well as expansion committee timeline relative to Annual Town Meeting. It has been decided to put the project on hold until after Annual Town Meeting to allow time to work on the document and hopefully arrive at a draft which is able to be ratified. P3's contract has been extended to 2022 with no additional expense. Documents including meeting minutes, Ashfield's letter, etc. are available on the Senior Center website at [The-Senior-Center.org](http://The-Senior-Center.org).

Regionalizing Town Services - Ms. Willmore posed the question that, given current finances, is regionalizing town services a consideration? Should the Town of Buckland start considering and discussing this alternative in open forum? She stated that since there is no fat in the budget, we should be looking at alternative ways of doing business to improve services and reduce costs.

### **Documents to Sign**

CPHS, 3 Year Agreement - Mr. Turner moved to approve and sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Ms. Butler credited our health agents and CPHS staff whose services and expertise the town is fortunate to have. Vote on Mr. Turner's motion: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Minutes - Board reviewed minutes for January 12 and corrected minutes for November 10. Mr. Turner moved to accept and sign seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

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

Ms. Butler stated that the contract with CDBG needed to be signed. She gave an explanation and timeline, and credited Linda Overing of Breezeway Farms for her work. Mr. Del Castilho moved for Ms. Willmore to sign the document, seconded by Mr. Turner. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

A highway employee with a vegetation control license had approached Ms. Butler about reimbursement for the \$150 renewal fee. Ms. Butler in turn asked the Select Board if it was an expense they would consider. Board discussion followed. Because the town would not avail themselves of that license, citing insurance and storage of chemicals among other reasons, the Board decided to not reimburse for the license.

Ms. Butler announced that the two new highway employees have passed their 90 day probationary period. One has all his licenses, the other to complete his in February. Both were recognized as great employees.

### **Select Board Member Concerns - N/A**

**Town Administrator's Report** - Can be viewed on town website, under agenda/documents for this meeting.

**Public Comment**

Marilyn Kelsey stated that she had intended to speak regarding the Senior Center. However, upon hearing of the Town Clerk’s resignation, Ms. Kelsey spoke highly of Ms. Cerone and expressed disappointment over her leaving.

**Remembrance**

*Rick Bardwell, former Shelburne Falls Fire Chief* - Ms. Willmore referred to Mr. Turner to speak in honor of Mr. Bardwell given their close relationship. Mr. Turner lauded Mr. Bardwell both professionally and personally, citing his many qualities that will make him missed by family, friends, and the community he served.

**Volunteer Recognition**

*Paul and Judy Willis and Jackie Welsh* were recognized for coordinating the Covid-19 Remembrance event held January 19, 2021 which included the ringing of the Mary Lyon Church bells. It was a national event, and their organization and execution made Buckland’s participation possible.

**Announcements - N/A**

**Executive Session Under the Provisions of MGL Chapter 39 Sec 23B, Contract Negotiations and Litigation** - Ms. Willmore announced that the Board would enter Executive Session Under the Provisions of MGL Chapter 39 Sec 23B, Contract Negotiations and Litigation, to later return to open session for the purpose of adjourning. Mr. Turner so moved, seconded by Mr. Del Castilho. Vote: Turner, yes; Del Castilho, yes; Willmore, yes.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary Bolduc, Boards’ Clerk, February 9, 2021

**Signed:**

Dena Willmore\_\_\_\_\_

Barry Del Castilho\_\_\_\_\_

Zachary Turner\_\_\_\_\_