***Town of Buxton***

***Minutes for January 20, 2016 Selectmen’s Meeting***

*Prepared by: Beverly Gammon*

*Members Present: Clifford L. Emery, Jean C. Harmon, Peter E. W. Burns, Dennis P. Santolucito*

*Chad Poitras*

*Others Present:**David Harmon, Julie Gamelson, Ellen DeCotiis, Patrick Hanna, Scott Warchol*

***Selectmen’s Meeting Agenda***

1. ***Call to Order***

*The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.*

1. ***Pledge of Allegiance***

*The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.*

1. ***Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes***

*Selectmen Meeting Minutes January 13, 2016*

*Approved 5-0*

1. ***Discussion held between 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.***

*A resident, Jerry Jackson, came in to talk with Selectman Burns about a boiler*

*At 4:30 David Anderson, our Motor Vehicle Agent and head of our technology department came in and went over what the Board will be requesting in our technology line this year and some different products that will need to be purchased throughout the year for different departments. Then they went over a couple of motor vehicle issues and records retention. The town has records that go back to the 1990s and the Board needed to talk about whether or not we need to keep those records or if we can shred them to make room for other records.*

*Then Meg Gardner was in to talk with the Board as a concerned citizen from Hollis who is on the Historical Society. She talked about a project that is being proposed on a piece of property just across the Buxton Line on Simpson Road for an ecology school. This is something the Board was unaware of and the selectmen do not know where it is in the process but think it has gone through the Planning Board in Saco. He said they are talking about 150 children coming and going year round and building a campus there for that will create a lot of traffic including truck traffic delivering things to the school. Selectman Emery said it may be too late but he has the name of the City Planner in Saco and is going to give him a call to find out if the Board can have a voice in this. He said if the Board cannot have a voice, there are some things that can be done to stop some of the truck traffic. This is going to be a large facility that is right at our town line.*

*Selectman Poitras said it is right on Simpson Road and there are only two ways to get access to it; one of those is closed while the bridge is out so it is going to force traffic to have to come up Route 117 to Simpson Road.*

*Selectman Emery said Saco has passed a bond to fix the bridge and that will not be a long process but the Board needs to get involved to see what is going on there. He thanked Meg Gardner for coming in to give the Board information on it.*

*A couple residents came in to talk with the Board about some issues with a culvert down off Atkinson Road. Selectman Emery said they had a good discussion. There is something the Board needs to look into and the Board is going to get back to them on that.*

*Around 6:00 the Board met with the Buxton Budget Committee to answer any questions they had about the upcoming budget season. The Committee will be having its first meeting next Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 here in the large meeting room.*

1. ***Review of Correspondence***

* Legislative Bulletin from Maine Municipal Association

Selectman Emery explained that the Board receives the Legislative Bulletin every week while the Legislature is in session and it provides them with a summary of legislation that may impact municipalities.

* Letter from Stephan Bunker, President, Maine Municipal Association – Re: 2016 Municipal Member Dues

Selectman Emery said Maine Municipal sent information on how much our dues are going to be for this year. They were up 2.5%. The town pays them $7,734.00 per year and they provide classes for town employees and a lot of other services including having a legislative advocacy group that is very proactive with legislation; they speak on bills

that impact municipalities and inform the town about new bills that are coming up. Then they set up notifications for us on bills that are of great importance to the communities and update the towns on the status of those bills.

* Email from Stephen Heroux – Re: Buxton Business District Focus Group – Meeting Minutes – December 30, 2015
* Email message from John Thompson, Director, U. S. Census Bureau – Re: Upcoming 2016 Government Units Survey from U. S. Census Bureau

1. ***Review of Projects and Issues***

*Selectman Santolucito reported that he was not able to attend the meeting last week of the SAD 6 Budget Advisory Committee. He has been trying to talk with some of the town’s vendors that provide telecommunications technology services to get ready for the budget season. He said we are in good shape, he just wants to make sure everything is in line for the next 3-4 years.*

*Selectman Harmon reported on the workshop the Board had last Thursday when they met with Bob Schwartz from the Maine Chiefs of Police Association to start the search for our next Police Chief. She mentioned that the Board did put out the ad. Selectman Harmon said she has one budget item left to work on which is the insurances that typically takes the longest.*

*Selectman Burns reported that he was at the workshop last Thursday night. He did not go to the SAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee meeting last week. He is still working on some budget issues and waiting for some information to come in on a couple of quotes.*

*Selectman Poitras reported that he was in yesterday seeing what was going on and working on a couple of budget items. He said he was in after the meeting last week just to see what was going on and talked with a couple of residents about different issues. He also talked with another resident, Don Warren, and said he is probably home right now watching the Selectmen’s Meeting. Selectman Poitras said it is good to know that there is a faithful audience that watches the meetings.*

*Selectman Emery reported that he has been working on some projects and trying to get answers on some budget items. He mentioned checking in with Public Works to see if they needed anything and talked about how well things went during the last storm. He said there were a couple of breakdowns*

1. ***Old Business***

*None*

1. ***New Business***

*None*

1. ***Executive Orders***
2. ***Executive Orders by Initiative***

*E.O. 151601012 – An order to accept the resignation of Michael Grovo to be effective March 31, 2016*

*Approved 5-0*

1. ***Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants***

*E.O. 151601006 – An order approving expenditures as documented in the Accounts Payable Warrant #61*

*The total was $612,506.80*

*E.O. 151601007 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #60*

*Approved 5-0*

*The total was $50,157.29*

1. ***Next Meeting of the Board***

*SAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, January 14, at 6:00 PM at Central Office*

*Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, January 20 at 7:00 PM*

1. ***Other Business***

*The Town Office will be closed Monday, January 18 and the Transfer Station will be closed Tuesday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be no change in the curbside trash pickup schedule.*

*Selectman Emery took a minute and on behalf of the Board of Selectman to again thank Chief Mike Grovo for all he has done for this community over the past years. He said it is a tough job and the Board sincerely appreciates all the Chief has done and wishes him well in all of his future endeavors.*

1. ***Public Comments and Questions***

*A resident, Ellen DiCotiis, went to the podium and introduced herself. She asked the Board a question about response from the townspeople regarding selectmen meetings, things they read on the website, or when we had the Buxton Newsletter.*

*A brief discussion followed with the Selectmen asking for clarification on her question and then talking about the minimal amount of feedback they receive from the public.*

*Selectman Emery talked about people being able to subscribe to receive notice of certain information from the town and the ability to send comments on line.*

*Ms. DiCotiis asked about the 12 Town Group discussion regarding solar energy.*

*Selectman Burns said he has suggested to the Board that they invite gentleman who spoke to the group to come here to make the presentation to them. Selectman Burns gave a lot of details about the presentation that was made to the Town of Alfred and said the Board is going to get a copy of that. Selectman Burns said there was a tax credit that was expiring December31, 2016 that has recently been extended by five years. Now that there is not such a rush to meet the deadline, the Board can look into this more. He went on to describe more specifics about the credit and how it would work. He said the town has 19 meters spread out over the town; we are large enough to produce enough kilowatt power that there may be a financial advantage for us to enter into some deal. Selectman Burns said the Board is always looking at ways they can reduce our expenses and the town has gone out to different vendors or suppliers to get the best deal we can. He said the Board is going to take another look at this.*

*Ms. DiCotiis asked if individuals can benefit from this program.*

*Selectman Burns explained that this is for the Town but individuals can form groups to see if they may be eligible. Again he said that now that the tax credit has been extended, it makes sense for the Board to look at this.*

*Ms. DiCotiis asked about the Board’s discussion about a Town Manager and asked if the people could have input in discussing that.*

*Selectman Emery said before the Board starts looking into it, there would have to be more than just the Board asking for it. He said if a fair sized group of people actually came to the Selectmen they would consider it. He said it will take a lot of time, there is a lot of information to gather, and people have to want it.*

*Selectman Harmon explained that part of the process would be a Charter change and at this point in order to develop something, get public input, and have a public hearing, there is not enough time to put it on the June ballot. She said in order to present it and have it voted on, it would take about a year. She said we have been very fortunate that the people on this Board have the best interest of the town at heart and have done a good job but there are times when they are dealing with things that would be nice to have a Town Manager deal with such as personnel issues. She said she is here most every day but answers need to be given and she may not always have that availability so she thinks the Board needs to explore it.*

*Ms. DiCotiis said she was just asking about the process and opening that up to see what people think.*

*Ms. DiCotiis went on to ask questions about the suggestions from the Business Development Group that will be going to the Planning Board and asked if people can still build on Route 202 before those suggestions are accepted by the Planning Board.*

*Selectman Emery said “yes” and went on to talk about the 40 acre piece of property on 202 that has been sold to a resident who plans to open it up to make barrels. He said the Business Development Group is very close to having something ready to go to the Planning Board and before that happens, the Board would like to work with the new landowner and make suggestions as to what the Board is looking for. He said until there is an ordinance in place, the Board would not be able to force them to do something but they would like to think that someone opening a business on that road, knowing that the Board is trying to look to the future, would work with the Board.*

*Ms. DiCotiis said she was just wondering how that would work.*

*Selectman Santolucito revisited the discussion about a Town Manager. He said the challenge is to consider the audit report that was glowing for the Town, very little debt except for the Public Works Garage, 60 days in reserve, the good things that are happening including all the work the Fire Department is doing on the ISO rating. He said he understands people want to move to a Town Manager but he wants to caution people and say that he does not think a Town Manager is going to come in the front door and make everything better. He said he does not know what is going to be better; when we look at our tax rate and services we get for the taxes we pay.*

*Selectman Santolucito said people should certainly explore the idea, and having a discussion about that may be worthwhile, but he does not know that it is the magic that people think it might be. The town is financially solid, the ISO rating is improving and the tax rate is reasonable for the services provided. He said he is certainly open to a discussion about it but thinks people need to look at the other side of this as well and what has been accomplished with the present form of government. Selectman Santolucito thanked Ms. DiCotiis for her input.*

*There was no more discussion.*

1. ***Executive Session***

*None*

1. ***Adjournment***

*Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 7:58 PM*

*Approved 5-0*

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| *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* Penny J. Booker, Selectman | *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *Peter E. W. Burns, Selectman* |
| *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  *Dennis P. Santolucito, Selectman* | |
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*Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Recorded by Kyle Durkin*