

Town of Buxton
Minutes for June 7, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting

Prepared by: Beverly Gammon

Members Present: Clifford L. Emery, Jean C. Harmon, Dennis P. Santolucito, Chad E. Poitras, Mark P. Blier

Others Present: Ellen DeCotiis, Julie Gamelson, Rich Streeter, Scott Warchol

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Selectmen recited the Pledge.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

*Selectmen Meeting Minutes May 31, 2017
Approved 5-0*

4. Discussion held between 4:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Selectman Blier talked about the Comprehensive Plan Meeting Monday night.

The Police Chief met with the Board and a resident who has concerns about speeding in the area of the Middle School. He was wondering what could be done about signage there.

After that, the Police Chief met with the Selectmen. At 6:29 PM, the Board went into Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) on a personnel matter. The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:55 PM.

5. Review of Correspondence

- *Email from Nicole Welch, Recreation Director – Re: Summer Discount Ticket Programs*
- *Weekly Legislative Bulletin from Maine Municipal Association*
- *Email from Senator Justin Chenette – Re: Protecting our Privacy*
- *Email from Kate Dufour, Maine Municipal Association – Re: Governor's Tax Lien Foreclosure Bill – LD 1629*
- *Email from Stephen Gove, Executive Director, Maine Municipal Association – Re: Call for Nominations for Ethel N. Kelley Memorial Award*
- *Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission – Summer 2017 Newsletter*
- *Email from Bruce Flaherty, President Maine Spirit of America – Re: Spirit of America Award*
- *Email from Catherine Lamson – Re: Dorcas Society Cars & Coffee Flyer. This event will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday, August 5 at the Brewster Mansion at Tory Hill.*
- *Email from Darcy Hobgood – 12 Town Group Meeting June 12*
- *Letter from American Diabetes Association – Re: Annual TourdeCure Bicycle Ride*

6. Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Santolucito reported that the State Department of Education accepted the proposal put forth by the SAD#6 Re-apportionment Committee. The Board will go from 14 to 11 members; three from Buxton, three from Standish, two from Limington, two from Hollis and one from Frye Island. The voting will be "at large" but there are residency requirements. There will be a transition process that will not impact this election but will going forward. Selectman Santolucito is going to give the information to John Myers to make sure this is implemented correctly going forward. Selectman Santolucito attended the MSAD #6 District Referendum vote last Thursday night and offered some amendments to some of the articles but it did not pass. He said people will have to make their own choices when they go to the polls to vote on the 13th.

Selectman Harmon also commented on the district vote noting that this is over a 48 million dollar budget. There were 22 people there from Buxton. She reminded everyone that there will be no numbers on the budget article that we will vote on Tuesday the 13th. People will be voting "yes" or "no" on the budget that was approved at the District Meeting last Thursday night.

A resident came in today to ask about Fireworks. Selectman Harmon stated that our ordinance does say that the Town can issue a permit; however, in looking at the Statute that does not appear to be correct. The Commissioner of Public Safety is the one who issues those permits. The Board is going to look into that to find out why that wording is in our ordinance because we copied the State model when we did it. The Selectman are also going to talk with the Police Chief about it and will get back to the resident.

Selectman Harmon talked with John Myers about the Charter Review Commission he has been talking with Maine Municipal Association about. The Board will be contacting the town's attorney to discuss it because MMA's position is that our Charter is not clear about whether the members should be appointed or elected. MMA's understanding is that if the Board appoints a

committee, the committee would review the Charter and make suggestions and recommendations to the Board. The Board can make minor changes but cannot change the form of government. For example, if the Board wanted to have a Town Manager form of government they could not do that. It would have to go to a referendum vote. So the question of a Town Manager would have to go to a referendum vote. Selectman Harmon reported that she will be talking with our attorney to get some direction on where the Board should go from here because it is not spelled out clearly in the Charter.

Selectman Poitras reported that he has been in the office at various times since the last meeting to see what is going on. He worked with a resident who is involved with the Dorcas Society event. They had questions about putting up some banners. He helped them with that. He said he checked in to see how things are going in the office, made a visit to Public Works to chat with them, and spoke with people at the Fire Dept. He stopped at the Fire Station today and looked at the restoration project Paul Baresel is heading up with the 1915 Model T Fire Truck. Almost every part except the frame and seat has been hauled off and is being restored off site. Those parts will be brought back so it can be put together.

Mark Blier attended the District Budget Meeting and said he shared Selectman Santolucito's thoughts on that. There was a Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting Monday night and the subject was transportation. The group discussed walkways and bicycle paths for pedestrians especially near the high school, Low's store, and the Bar Mills area. There was also some discussion about getting some of the blinking signs that tell people how fast they are going. The Police Chief brought in a pamphlet tonight showing that those signs can be purchased. The ones we see around cost about \$2800.00 each. Selectman Blier also reported that a resident asked him this week if the bridge on Dunnell Road is going to be replaced. Selectman Blier spoke with Tom Kennie, our Public Works Director, who told him that we receive a report from the State each year telling us what shape our bridges are in. There is nothing wrong with the bridge so it is not scheduled for replacement.

Selectman Emery checks in by phone to keep up with things that are going on. He has been talking and working with Tom Kennie, the Police Chief, and the Fire Chief on some of the things that were discussed tonight, and he has been going over day-to-day items they wanted his input on.

7. Old Business

Charter Review Committee – Selectman Harmon is looking into this.

8. New Business

None.

9. Executive Orders

*E.O. 161706003 – An order to approve a pole permit for Central Maine Power Company and Saco River Telephone LLC to construct and maintain 1 pole on the corner of River Road and Woodman Road, westerly from River Road about 2800 feet
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706004 – An order to appoint Sally Nardi, Meredith R. Small, Patricia L. Morrison, Bette A. Robichew, Miriam L. Rubin and Darlene S. Ivy to the position of Democratic Election Clerks and Democratic Ballot Clerks to be effective through June 13, 2017
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706005 – An order to appoint Helen J. Andronaco, Vincent A. Andronaco, D. Ellen Angwin, Sandra P. Mergen, Dianne M. Oakes and Kathryn L. Peasley to the position of Republican Election Clerks and Republican Ballot Clerks to be effective through June 13, 2017
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706006 – An order to appoint Hiram R. Davis as the Election Warden for the State of Maine Special Referendum Election to be held on June 13, 2017
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706007 – An order to approve 48 hours of vacation time for Kimberly Beam
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706008 – An order to approve 40 hours of vacation time for Bev Gammon
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706009 – An order to approve 32 hours of vacation time for Nicole Welch
Approved 5-0*

*E.O. 161706010 – An order to approve 40 hours of vacation time for Tom Kennie
Approved 5-0*

10. Executive Orders by Initiative

None

11. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

E.O. 161706001 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Accounts Payable Warrant #101 & #102

Approved 5-0

The amounts were \$60,578.01 and \$17,176.02

E.O. 161706002 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #100

Approved 5-0

The amount was \$60,414.84

12. Next Meeting of the Board

There will be a 12 Town Group Meeting Monday, June 12 at 6:30 PM at the Waterboro Town Hall

Planning Board Meeting Monday, June 12 at 7:00 PM in the small meeting room at Town Hall. Selectman Emery explained that this meeting will be recorded and televised but it will not be shown live.

Polls will be open Tuesday, June 13 from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM for the Annual Town Meeting Secret Ballot Voting that will include voting on the MSAD #6 School Budget

The Annual Town Meeting will continue Saturday, June 17. The Business Meeting will start at 9:00 AM at Buxton Town Hall and people must be present to vote in person that day.

The Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, June 14 at 7:00 PM

13. Other Business

Buxton Recreation collaborated with “All About Hounds” to offer a dog obedience course. The cost is \$160 for the 6-week course that will be held Saturday afternoons starting June 10 from Noon to 1:00 PM at Town Farm Park. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register go to www.buxtonrec.com, or call Buxton Recreation at 929-8381.

Absentee Ballots are available at Buxton Town Hall.

There will be a “Meet the Candidates Night” Thursday, June 8 at 7:00 PM at Buxton Town Hall. Saco River Community TV will broadcast the program live on your local cable channel. They will also broadcast the program on June 9-11 at 9 AM, 2 PM & 7 PM each day and Monday, June 12 at 9 AM & 7 PM.

Selectman Poitras mentioned an announcement from the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society about a program titled “The Two Narragansett Townships No. 1 and No. 7”. Attend on Tuesday, June 20

at 6:30 PM at 100 Main Street, Bar Mills, to learn all about it. This is a joint meeting of the Buxton-Hollis Historical Society and the Gorham Historical Society.

14. Public Comments and Questions

Scott Warchol went to the podium and asked if all the candidates were invited to “Meet The Candidates Night”. Julie Gamelson went to the podium and stated that the 5 candidates who are contested are the ones who are coming; all the candidates were invited but she did not know if they were coming. Mr. Warchol thanked her and continued on to share comments and his thoughts about the school budget and the school’s increased spending while student enrollments continue to decline.

A lengthy discussion followed with some of the Selectmen adding comments and sharing their thoughts on the school budget. The Board agrees with Mr. Warchol’s opinion. Selectman Harmon talked about the Moderator at the District Budget Meeting who reminded everyone that if Selectman Santolucito’s recommendation to cut two articles passes, it does not mean that the cuts will be made to those items. The school can choose to remove that money from anywhere in the budget they want to take it from. Selectman Santolucito concluded that this is a challenge that has to be worked on. Selectman Blier added that there were 48-50 people at the District Budget Meeting to vote on the budget; About 70% of the people there were teachers and staff from the school who were there to protect their jobs. The voice of the rest of the general public is not getting through so more of the public needs to get involved and attend these meetings to have the manpower to vote to correct the problem.

Mr. Warchol commented on how few people show up at the annual Town Meeting. Selectman Emery said he thinks people are content, the mill rate has been kept under control and the services the Town offers are good. He said it is not that people aren’t upset about their taxes, but that they are content in their lives and that is why they do not come out.

Ellen DeCotiis went to the podium to respond, as a member of the School Board, to some of the comments made earlier. She wondered why there is so much focus on taxes since a lot of people are not coming out to complain. She spoke in defense of the amount of time the school spent putting the budget together, and work that is being done by staff to implement performance based education. She talked about costs that are not in the school’s control including mandates by the State, negotiated contracts, benefits, teachers’ salaries, insurance and other factors. Ms. DeCotiis shared more of her thoughts about childrens’ right to be educated and she defended the increased cost of the Chinese language program saying that most students who want to go to work in a foreign country want to go to China. In closing, Ms. DeCotiis feels that more information needs to get out to explain the budget because she said it is one of the lowest around.

Rich Streeter went to the podium to comment on Selectman Blier's comments earlier about the large percentage of teachers and staff at the District Budget Meeting. Selectman Blier explained his comments. Mr. Streeter said he wanted to clarify that people in the audience have to be residents to vote and he agrees with the Selectmen that more people should come out.

Selectman Emery asked if there were any more comments. There were none.

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 8:00 PM

Approved 5-0