

Town of Buxton
Minutes for March 9, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting

Prepared by: Beverly Gammon

*Members Present: Jean C. Harmon, Peter E. W. Burns, Dennis Santolucito Chad E. Poitras
Clifford L. Emery was absent*

*Others Present: Patrick Hanna; David Harmon, Julie Gamelson, Ellen DiCotiis, Robert Elwell,
Sarah Nash*

Selectmen's Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

Selectman Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

*Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 2, 2016
Approved 4-0-1*

Selectman Emery is absent tonight; he is at the York County Budget Committee meeting.

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

At 4 o'clock the Board had the Fire-Rescue Chief come over to review some budget items that the Board had asked him to change. The Board is still debating those items and hopes to have a decision so that budget can be presented to the Budget Committee next week.

At 5 o'clock the Selectmen met with our Code Enforcement Officer to go over his 6 month Review. He also gave the Board a letter he was sending to a resident in regards to a proposed building.

After that, the Selectmen had a lengthy discussion about the Fire Chief's budget items, the impact they would have on the Town, and a number of other things that would impact budgets, taxes, and wants and needs of everyone. Selectman Harmon explained that each Department Head meets with the Board to go over his/her own budget for that department but the Board has to look at the total budget and what the impact is to each and every resident. The Board also has to take into consideration not only the current impact but what the future impact may be as well.

At 6:25 PM the Board went into an Executive Session per 1 M.R.S.A. 405 (6) (A) for a personnel matter. The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:43 PM.

5. Review of Correspondence

- *Legislative Bulletin, Vol. #8 from Maine Municipal Association*
- *Email from MSAD #6 Business Office – Re: Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda*
- *Legislative Update from Senator Linda Valentino*
- *Email from Michael Lefebvre, Senior Energy Services Representative, BidUREnergy – Re: Request to bid Energy Services*
- *Email from Peter Brown, Maine D.O.T. – Re: Bar Mills/Hollis Bridge Project – Re: March 8 Progress Meeting Minutes*
- *Email from Dave Francoeur, Deputy Director, York County EMA – Re: Cameo Class at West Kennebunk Fire Department*
- *Notice from Leavitt's Mill Free Health Center – Re: 1st Annual Spring Fun Run/Walk 5K Saturday, May 7*
- *Email from Dave Francoeur, Deputy Director, York County EMA – Re: Local Emergency Planning Commission – Re: Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2015*

6. Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Santolucito talked about the SAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting that will be held tomorrow night. He said they will be looking at capital projects and will have more discussion about bonding issues around the conditions of the high school, Hollis Elementary School and the Sewage Treatment Plant. Selectman Santolucito also reported that he was here last night for the Board's Workshop.

After the Workshop, the Selectmen stayed on for the Budget Committee Meeting where the Public Works budget was presented along with clubs and a couple of the parks.

Selectman Santolucito reported that he was asked by a resident about a property on Cemetery Road that the Board has worked with and cleaned up over the past year. The Board is talking about doing something with that property but for now it is all cleaned up and Selectman Santolucito said he will get back to that gentleman.

Selectman Santolucito mentioned that on Saturday, March 12, at the Buxton Center Elementary School, the Republican Committee will have a candidate's forum. Don Marean, John Kinney and Amy Volk will be there between 4:00 and 7:00 o'clock. Selectman Santolucito expects the Democrats will do something similar and the Board will let people know when they get information about that.

Selectman Poitras reported that he was in just about every day to check on how things were going, check mail and answer any questions that came up. He also attended the Board's Workshop and mentioned that a couple of residents over the last few days asked a couple of questions; one today asked about a Veteran's Exemption.

Selectman Burns talked about the turnout at the Republic Caucus Saturday at Biddeford Middle School and the Democratic Caucus for Buxton & Hollis that was here on Sunday. He reported that the Democrats had 522 different caucuses around the State and the Republicans had around 22. He mentioned the long wait in lines in places like Portland to get into the buildings to vote, parking issues and the great turnout. Selectman Burns said he signed a petition while standing in line to try to go back to the Primary instead of the caucuses so people could just vote in their own towns.

On Monday afternoon the 14 x 24 prefab building the Selectmen purchased was delivered to the back parking lot. The building is now an evidence locker and there is a vehicle in it that we have to keep until the litigation is done which may be a year or two. Selectman Burns explained that the Board had to get the bay back in the Public Works garage because our trucks need to be inside and they need the wash bay because it has the oil separator in it for oil and gas that come off the trucks so it does not go into the ditches or into the ground. Until we got that back they have had to wash the trucks outside.

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Selectman Burns was here on Tuesday night with the other Selectmen for their Workshop and went in to the Budget Committee Meeting around 7:00 PM. Tomorrow night, Selectman Burns plans to attend the SAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting.

Selectman Harmon reported she was here last night when the Board reviewed their Administration Budget. She believes they are all set with the exception of the FICA Tax piece that needs to get to the Budget Committee. Selectman Harmon said she will get that to Bev to type up for the Committee.

Selectman Harmon had a discussion today with a representative from Parker Appraisals about a couple budget items that had been proposed that the Board will not be going forward with this year. They also had a lively discussion about Frye Island and the impact that it would have on the Town if they should be allowed to not pay their portion of education costs.

Selectman Harmon said she spoke with a member of the Budget Committee today who did not know when John Myers presented his portion of the Administrative budget last night that the miscellaneous account is covered by the Selectmen so he started asking John questions. John did tell him that the Selectmen will cover that in their budget presentation so he wanted to apologize for asking those questions. She said the questions were fine and John answered some of them so it really was not an issue.

Selectman Harmon reported that she also had a conversation with a resident yesterday who commended the Board for not issuing the liquor license for Skip's Lounge. The resident said she watched the meeting and was concerned about some of the things she heard and wanted to let the Selectmen know she thinks they made the right decision.

Selectman Harmon reported that the Board talked about some foreclosed properties tonight that the Town owns. She explained that the town can only sell properties it has foreclosed on with a Quit Claim Deed that has covenants and most lending institutions will not allow you to purchase a property that the town can only give you a Quit Claim Deed on. The State requires the town to get a signed waiver from the previous owner in order to sell the property and not have to give a Quit Claim Deed so the town has several properties it has foreclosed on that the Board is just "sitting on" because we cannot get in touch with the previous owners to get the sign off. The Town could try to sell them with Quit Claim Deeds but it could run into the same issue it did a year ago when the Board tried to sell and the buyer could not get financing because of the Quit Claim Deed.

Selectman Burns informed everyone that the State law changed the waiting period from 15 years to 5 years so if the town takes property but cannot get the previous owner to sign off, the Town has to hold that property for five years before people will be able to get the proper deed and get financing if they want to build a house or something like that.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

None

9. Executive Orders

*E.O. 151603006 – An order to approve 16 hours of vacation time for Greg Heffernan
Approved 4-0-1*

*E.O. 151603007 – An order to approve 2 hours of vacation time for Marilyn Holland
Approved 4-0-1*

10. Executive Orders by Initiative

*E.O. 151603008 – An order to deny Applications for Poverty Abatements for Case
Numbers PA 16-003, 16-004, and 16-005
Approved 4-0-1*

*E.O. 151603009 –An order to approve an Application for Veteran Exemption for [Map
10, Lot 35-3]
Approved 4-0-1*

*E.O. 151603010 – An order to remove from the Tax Commitment foreclosed properties
that are now in the Town's name in the amount of \$40, 549.29
Approved 4-0-1*

11. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

*E.O. 151603004 – An order approving expenditures as documented in the Accounts
Payable Warrant #78
Approved 4-0-1
The amount was \$44,757.70*

*E.O. 151603005 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant
#77
Approved 4-0-1
The amount was \$59,009.79*

12. Next Meeting of the Board

MSAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, March 10 at 6:00 PM at Central Office

Planning Board Meeting Monday, March 14 at 7:00 PM

12 Town Group Meeting Monday, March 14 at 6:30 PM, at the Waterboro Town Hall

Budget Committee Meeting Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 PM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 PM

Two or more Selectmen will be meeting March 15 at 2:00 PM to go over the Labor contract negotiations that will be coming up. Our former negotiator, Roger Kelley, has retired so the Board will be meeting with somebody new that will be handling that.

13. Other Business

None

14. Public Comments and Questions

Robert Elwell went to the podium and asked the Selectmen questions about the new building that was purchased and the wash bay at the Public Works garage.

Selectman Burns explained what the District Attorney told the Board about how long the litigation could take to go to court, other options the Board considered, what it was going to cost to rent a space to store the vehicle, and why the Board decided it made more sense to purchase something. He said the total cost for the building we purchased was around \$6600.

Robert Elwell talked about the budget and cost of heating oil and fuel going down. He asked the Board if the result of that is going to be passed on to taxpayers and asked what kind of savings people will see.

The Selectmen talked about the amount they have taken out of the budgets.

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Mr. Elwell asked if that will be passed on to taxpayers as a tax reduction.

The Selectmen explained that the savings will go into the General Fund and Selectman Burns said at Town Meeting the last thing we vote on is how much money to take out of Undesignated Surplus to lower the tax rate so that money benefits everybody at tax time.

Robert Elwell commented on the liquor license for Skip's and for the Barn at Flanagan Farm. A lengthy discussion followed with Mr. Elwell asking questions and expressing his opinions on the Board's decision on each of those licenses and the Selectmen responding.

Selectman Harmon disclosed that she did not vote on the liquor license renewal for the Barn due to a conflict of interest because she works there.

Selectman Burns explained that what went on at the Barn was an isolated incident and he explained in detail why the Board denied the liquor license for Skip's Lounge.

Mr. Elwell disagreed and continued to express his opinion.

There were no other comments or questions.

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM

Approved 4-0-1

Clifford L. Emery, Selectman

Jean C. Harmon, Selectman

Peter E. W. Burns, Selectman

Dennis P. Santolucito, Selectman

Chad E. Poitras, Selectman

Date Signed: _____

Recorded by Kyle Durkin