

***Town of Buxton
Minutes for May 18, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting***

Prepared by: Beverly Gammon

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

Others Present: David Harmon, Julie Gamelson, Ellen DiCotiis, Patrick Hanna

Public Hearing – 7:00 PM – Secret Ballot Articles for June 14, 2016 Annual Town Meeting

Selectman Harmon read the notice and the Board voted 4-1 to open the Public Hearing at 7:00 PM. Selectman Harmon read Articles 53, 54, and 55 and she explained the changes. She then invited comments/questions from the Board and the Public. There were none.

Selectman Harmon said the Planning Board already held a Public Hearing on these articles.

There were no questions and no more comments so the Board voted 4-1 to close the Public Hearing at 7:05 PM.

Selectmen's Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

Selectman Harmon called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

*Selectmen Meeting Minutes May 11, 2016
Approved 4-1*

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

The Selectmen talked to Peter Gordon, our Code Enforcement Officer about issues with the septic system at Grovesville Fire Station. Selectman Harmon said the Board had a plan on file from 2004 for replacement of that system. The Selectmen are not sure what they are going to do but Selectman Harmon said they will have to get some prices if they are going to replace it.

The Selectmen discussed the Declaration Ratio form the Town has to send to the State by June 1st, which is what the value is declared to be in the Town of Buxton. The State has us valued at 96% but Selectman Harmon said we typically return that at 100%.

The Board received a weekly update from our Recreation Director. It is a very detailed update and the Board feels the new Director has settled into her position nicely and things seem to be going very smoothly.

Chief Cline talked with Selectman Harmon about reserve dispatchers and the shortage that we are experiencing. He was looking for a way to have some reserve dispatchers come on board to help us out.

5. Review of Correspondence

- *Email from Marian Alexandre, So. ME Planning & Development Commission – Re: SMPDC/GPCOG Office Supply Bid Notice*
- *Public Health Advisory – Re: Zika Virus*
- *Email from Ben Foster, Assistant Bridge Maintenance Engineer, Maine DOT – Re: Municipal Bridges*
- *Email from Maine Municipal Association – Re: proposed Slate for MMA Vice President and Executive Committee Members*
- *Weekly Legislative Report from Robert Hunt, Clerk of the House – End of Session Issue*
- *Email from Maine Municipal Association – Re: Deadline for Student Internship Grant Program*
- *Email from Maine Municipal Association Health Trust – Re: Affordable Care Act Form 1095-C*

6. Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Poitras reported that he was in several times to make a presence in the office this past week. Today he spoke with a resident who had some ideas about Public Works. Another resident approached him about where the Buxton/Standish town line sign is over on Route 35. As our local Public Health Officer, Selectman Poitras cautioned people to be careful because there are so many ticks right now.

Selectman Burns was in Friday working on mail and catching up. He was in again on Monday for the swearing in of Galen Hall, our new Patrol Officer. He was on jury duty Tuesday and is back in today.

Selectman Harmon reported that she was here when Officer Hall got sworn in. She mentioned that we are getting our winter sand restored. The Church Hill sand shed is already filled and they have been working non-stop today over by the Transfer Station and will continue until that is filled. Selectman Harmon talked with our Public Works Director about an issue on Bradbury Lane with a logger who has damaged the road. The Board will be sending a letter to the landowner and the logger regarding the damage. Other than that Selectman Harmon said she has been in touching base with the Treasurer who is doing an outstanding job, and our Recreation Director who is doing a great job as well.

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

9. Executive Orders

*E.O. 151605018 – An order to approve the hire of Galen D. Hall to the position of Patrol Officer at a pay rate of \$23.85 per hour starting May 14, 2016
Approved 4-1*

*E.O. 151605019 – An order to approve a Victualer’s License for Danny Bouzianis, Old Port Foodservice Group IV, LLC d/b/a Dunkin Donuts
Approved 4-1*

*E.O. 151605020 – An order to approve a Victualer’s License for Ronald Arborio d/b/a The Donut Hole Café
Approved 4-1*

*E.O. 151605021 – An order to approve 16 hours of vacation time for Greg Heffernan
Approved 4-1*

*E.O. 151605022 – An order to approve an application for a Veteran’s Exemption for [Map3, Lot 2]
Approved 4-1*

10. Executive Orders by Initiative

None

11. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

*E.O. 151605016 – An order approving expenditures as documented in the Accounts Payable Warrant #99
Approved 4-1
The amount was \$576,155.99*

*E.O. 151605017 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #98
Approved 4-1
The amount was \$47,361.80*

12. Next Meeting of the Board

Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, May 25 at 7:00 PM

Planning Board Meeting Monday, May 23 at 7:00 PM

SAD #6 School Budget Meeting, Thursday, May 26 at Bonny Eagle Middle School at 7:00 PM. This is the District Budget Referendum vote on roughly 16 articles in the budget that people will vote on. Copies of that are available in the front office. The Board encouraged people to come and vote on this budget.

Selectman Burns said the total amount is just over \$48 million dollars. The increase for Buxton over last year's budget will be about \$220,000. He said last year there were only about 45 people in the audience for a vote of that size and this is where most of our tax money goes. Selectman Burns said we pay about 27% of the new budget so people need to show up to know what they are voting for. The question on the ballot on June 14 will not include a number. The question will be "Do you approve the budget that was approved on May 26." There is no dollar amount and no way of knowing what the budget is unless you attend the district meeting on May 26.

Selectman Harmon talked about the budget referendum voting process and reiterated that if people do not participate, they have no way of knowing what that budget is.

Selectman Burns said there is also going to be a question asking if people want to continue the same process for the next three years. He again encouraged people to show up and vote.

13. Other Business

The Board is accepting bids for roadside mowing. This is a two year contract covering mowing the mowing periods of July and August 2016 & 2017 for approximately 120 miles of road. Bid specifications and bid sheets can be picked up at the Buxton Town Office or you can email selectsecbuxton@sacoriver.net. The deadline for bids is 4:00 PM on Wednesday, June 1. The Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Contact Tom Kennie, Public Works Director at 207-929-4400 for more information.

Selectman Harmon mentioned a discussion the Board had about a month ago about extending the mowing contract for the municipal complex. The Selectmen talked briefly about the project, pricing and cleanup process and decided to make a decision next week.

14. Public Comments and Questions

Julie Gamelson went to the podium and introduced herself. She asked the Board if the District School Budget vote meeting is like Town Meeting where people raise their hands to vote.

The Selectmen responded by describing in detail how the registration and voting process works at that meeting and explaining that voters cannot increase the amount of an article but they can make a motion to reduce the amount.

Julie Gamelson asked the Board to explain what “old business” is on their weekly meeting agendas.

Selectman Harmon responded to that question saying it would be used for an ongoing project the Board is not finished with and it is kept on the agenda as a reminder. She also explained what “new business” is and a brief conversation followed about how the Board talks about projects they are working on under other items on the agenda.

Patrick Hanna went to the podium and introduced himself. He asked the Selectmen what would happen afterward if a group of voters vote down the school budget.

Selectman Burns replied that nothing would go to the voters because no money has been approved, so the school would have to go back and come up with another budget and go through the same process again. He explained that the law states in that case that the school would continue to operate under their current budget number for the start of their next fiscal year.

Patrick Hanna asked if the budget has ever has been lowered, said his property taxes have doubled in the last 10 years and he wants to slow it down.

Selectman Santolucito said the big question is why the number of students continues to go down about 1% each year yet the budget keeps going up at least 2.5% per year.

Selectman Harmon said the biggest driving cost is salaries. A brief discussion followed with several of the Selectmen sharing their thoughts. Selectman Santolucito said our school’s role is not only educating our children; they are a social service agency. He said there were positions talked about at some of the Budget Advisory Committee meetings that he did not even know existed in public schools. He said it is much more complicated than just teaching reading, writing, math and science.

Patrick Hanna thanked the Board. There were no more comments or questions.

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

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

Approved 4-1