

***Town of Buxton
Agenda February 8th, 2023
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes***

This meeting will be streamed on the Saco River Community Media at <https://www.src-tv.org/>

Recorded by Hunter Cox

*Members Present: Francis E. Pulsoni, Chad E. Poitras, David A. Field, Mark J. Blier,
Thomas J. Peters*

Others in attendance:

Called to Order at 7:00

The Selectmen recited the Pledge.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minute

February 1st, 2023

Approved 5-0

Discussion held between 4:00 & 7:00 PM

4:00PM - General Business-Budgets

4:30PM -

5:00PM - Nate School-Dry Hydrants discussion

5:30PM -

6:10PM - Executive Session MRSA 405-6E Legal Issue

6:30PM -

Correspondence

- Email From BFR: Monday Message
- Emails From Robert B. Hunt: Weekly Legislative report
- Email From Tina Plummer: MSAD 6 BAC Meeting Agenda for February 9, 2023, and MSAD 6 BoD Meeting Agenda Feb 6th, 2023
- Email from Monica Weeks: Maine Community Solar

Projects and Issues-

Selectman Poitras- Questions from residents about upcoming special town meeting

Selectman Pulsoni- Monday meeting with Sgt. Collins about budgets, spoke with residents about possible land purchase for updating emergency communications system. Discussions with Town attorneys throughout the week.

Selectman Field- Talked with department heads about budgets, budget meeting Monday night with Sgt. Collins, checked up on PW throughout the week.

Selectman Blier- Budget meeting Monday night with Sgt. Collins, spoke with resident about a property for sale. MMA will host a zoom meeting on February 15th about testing for commercial drivers for municipalities and avoiding heavy training costs.

Selectmen Peters- Monday meeting with Sgt. Collins about budgets

Old Business-

New Business

Answer to Resident Inquiry- Did the employees receive an addition to their pay from ARPA funds because of Covid? What was that amount, and how was it calculated?

Selectmen Pulsoni- ARPA funds were granted to the Town from the Federal Government. A portion of those funds was used for impact pay for town employees. Employees were paid an additional \$1.25 hr for time actually worked between March 2020 to December 2021. The amount was brought before the Town in the annual meeting, and article 55 was voted on to allow \$197,304.00 for that impact pay.

Executive Orders

E.O. 2223002003-An order approving the list of accounts for carry forwards from FY 2021 to 2022 in the amount of \$525,152.44. (Tabled from Last week)

Approved 5-0

E.O. 2223002007- An order approving 8 hours of vacation leave for Patti McKenna.

Approved 5-0

Executive Orders by Initiative

Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

E.O. 2223002008- An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll
Warrant #65
In the Amount of: \$82,064.34

Approved 5-0

E.O. 2223002009- An order approving expenditures as documented in
Accounts Payable Warrant #66
In the Amount of: \$865,818.02

Approved 5-0

Next Meeting of the Board

The next Selectmen's Meeting will be Wednesday, February 15th at 7pm

The Next Planning Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February, 13th at 7pm

The Next Budget Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 14th at 6pm

There will be a special town meeting on February 22nd, 2023 at 7:00PM

Other Business

Public Comment and Questions

Selectmen Pulsoni-We as the Board of Selectmen have been inundated with specific questions regarding some of our departments. We do not micromanage our departments. Some of the questions we have been able to answer, some we have not.

Going forward, if a resident has a question about things going on in a department, they must ask those questions to the department head of that department. We will no longer address specific departmental questions at this meeting. If a resident is unable to obtain the information they seek from a department head, then they can schedule a meeting to meet with the selectmen between 4-7 on Wednesday nights.

Lisa Crockett asked a question last week about our ride along policy with the police. I said I would bring a copy of the form that they fill out. I have it here, and you can come pick it up.

Patrick Dufrain- I and my brother own Bulldog Auto in Buxton off 202, behind Skips. I am here to speak on behalf of Kevin Collins for Police Chief. I have worked with and spoken to

Sgt Collins on many occasions, and I believe he is the best choice for Police Chief. He believes in what he does, and he strives everyday to make Buxton a better community.

Patrick Hanna- I didn't know the department heads were going to be here. A few weeks back someone was bad mouthing Sgt. Collins, and I want to say that every time I have dealt with him, he has been great and professional, and he acts like a human. He treats people very fairly, which is different from the way things were done previously.

Is there any information you can release about the previous Police Chief? The Maine FOAA says that once an action has been taken, personnel matters become public. There are a lot of rumors going around. Also, what is the money being carried forward from all the departments?

Also, on the 18th, you guys approved Hunter Cox to attend a Legislative A-Z Training, how does that benefit the Town?

Did you have a meeting Monday to discuss a budget and was that published?

Selectmen Pulsoni- We are not going to add to those rumors. We are not going to comment on that other than that he resigned. We are working with our attorneys, and once everything is concluded we will make a statement, but until then we will not comment on that.

Selectmen Blier- The carry forwards are for things like Maine retirement funds, unspent funds from salt and sand, school budget things. These are carried forward every year to balance things out for the future. We carry about the same amount forward every year it was 504,000 this last year, and its about 521,000 this year.

Selectman Peters- It's unspent funds that we carry forward for the purpose they were designated. If we didn't carry those funds forward, they would go back into the undesignated surplus account, and we wouldn't have them for those needs going forward without reallocating them. For instance, if we didn't spend all our salt and sand money this year, we carry it forward, so we will have those funds available for next years salt and sand.

Hunter Cox- Part of my job here at the Town is to keep the Selectboard informed about legislation that may impact the Town. We get regular updates from MMA about ongoing legislation that might affect us. The training was to educate me on the legislative process here in Maine, so I can know how to do the research and present the information necessary for the Selectmen to participate in legislative processes that affect us as a town.

Selectmen- We met Monday with the Police (Sgt. Collins) to discuss the department budget. It was publicized, we announced it in our meeting last week.

Cody St. Louis- Just following up on some questions I asked a couple weeks ago. I asked about the problems at the intersection of Churchill and Webster. I emailed Kevin(Sgt. Collins) and I see that he is here tonight, so maybe he can address that or meet with me afterwards.

I also scheduled a meeting on Friday to meet with Chief Nate Schools of the BPD to talk about the Chicopee station questions I had.

Lisa Crockett- The people that work for the Town, but don't live in the Town, are they able to come and address this meeting? Are people that work for the Town, but don't live in the Town able to come and speak in this meeting?

I also have a question about the senior citizens list and call program at the police department. How does it work? My Mother was supposed to get a call on Friday, but she didn't get a call.

Selectmen Blier- The meeting is designed for Town residents, but employees may come to this meeting or meet with the Selectboard if they want to.

Selectmen Pulsoni- That program is called the Community Cares Program. It's a service we provide to at-risk seniors. Seniors can sign up for the Police department to check up on them. They get called in the morning, and if they don't answer we send an officer to check up on them.

Lisa Crockett- Just a correction on the minutes. The officer that was seen with the female passenger was during the daytime and not the nighttime.

Dave Harmon- I'm glad you are having the selectmen's assistant come up to the pulpit and speak, because we usually can't hear him when he speaks.

Also, I checked for the minutes this week and they were not up to date. The last date was December 7th. The agenda was there, but not the minutes. Maybe I am looking in the wrong spot, but I couldn't find them.

Also, the change that was made a couple of weeks ago about the pay change for employees forced to work on holidays, where is that money coming from? You said that salaries had to be approved at the June Town Meeting, but where is the money coming from for the new change.

Selectman Blier- We have money in the budget for overtime or extra hours every year. The money comes from there. This change has been needed for a long time because our employees were getting paid straight time for having to work extra on holidays, instead of holiday pay.

Selectman Field- That change was actually made a long time ago but wasn't being applied. Somehow it slipped through.

Selectman Pulsoni- All changes in the employee policy happen through executive order.

Cody St. Louis- I also checked for the minutes this week and they were not up, but they are up now when I just checked.

Selectmen Blier- Just reemphasizing that if residents have questions about specific departments, they need to contact those department heads directly through email. The department heads will return those inquiries within a reasonable time, but we will no longer answer those questions in this meeting.

Executive Session

Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 7:32

Approved 5-0

Thomas J. Peters, Selectman

Mark J. Blier, Selectman

Chad E. Poitras, Selectman

Francis E. Pulsoni, Selectman

David A. Field,
Selectman

Date Signed: _____
Video Taped by David Blais

This meeting is available to be viewed at <https://livestream.com/accounts/23355313>

