

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

*Town of Buxton
Agenda February 28th, 2024
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: Chad E. Poitras, Frank E. Pulsoni, 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 21st, 2024

Approved 4-0-1

Discussion held between 4:00 & 7:00 PM

4:00PM –

4:30PM – Executive Session 405-6E Legal Issue

5:00PM – Greg Heffernan/Bill Hall

5:30PM – General Business

6:00PM –

6:30PM –

Review of Correspondence

- Email From Maine Dept. of Agriculture: Brown Tailed Moth Information
- Email From MTCMA: Statewide Managers Interchange
- Email From Clerk Robert B. Hunt: Weekly Legislative Bulletin
- Emails From Heather Sneff: Local Health Officials Workshops, trainings, and info
- Email From MTCCA: Vital Records Workshop
- Email From MBOIA: March Training and Membership Meeting
- Email From Reagan Young: SMPDC Public Hearing Notification
- Email From Tammy Sobieki: Roadway Fundamentals Workshop

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

- Email From MMTCTA: Preparing for an Audit Workshop

Projects and Issues-

Selectman Peters- Attended Monday Budget Discussion with Police Chief, Attended Tuesday Budget Meeting, Spoke with PW Director about repairs needed with one of the bay doors.

Selectman Field- N/P

Selectman Poitras- Attended Monday Budget Discussion with Police Chief, Attended Tuesday Budget Meeting,

Selectman Pulsoni- Attended Monday Budget Discussion with Police Chief, Attended Tuesday Budget Meeting

Selectman Blier- Attorney discussions on ongoing legal issues, Budget Meeting on Tuesday

Old Business-

New Business-

Selectman Blier- One of the budget talks that we have had the most discussion over in the board is whether to add another officer in next year's budget. After much discussion, the board has decided to back another officer. Many times, our officers patrol without a back-up officer. That presents a safety issue for the officer on duty, as well as the public. To mitigate that danger in a responsible way, we are choosing to support the addition of another officer. However, the ultimate decision will be up to the public at the Town meeting in June.

Another issue is needed repairs to some of our public safety buildings, as well as expansion of our police department. Our current fire buildings were built with other needs in mind. They were not built to house fire fighters. In addition, the police department is growing beyond its current building capacity. We have decided to start to explore the idea of a new public safety building. This will be a costly, but needed addition, so we need to proceed with wisdom and discretion. We are putting it to the town to start some of the exploratory processes. Again, ultimately it will be up to the Town, but we think that starting the exploratory process would be a beneficial investment for the town.

Executive Orders- (None)

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

Executive Orders by Initiative-

E.O. 2425002015- An order to appoint David A. Kessler to the position of Carroll Park Trustee effective until December 31st, 2027.

Approved 4-0-1

E.O. 2425002016- An order to appoint Dana G. Deering as the Election Warden for the state of Maine March 5th, 2024 Presidential Primary.

Approved 4-0-1

E.O. 2425002017- An order to approve an Application for a Veteran Exemption for [Map 4, Lot 0039A]

Approved 4-0-1

E.O. 2425002018 - An order to approve 8 hrs. of vacation time for Hunter Cox

Approved 4-0-1

Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

E.O. 2425002019- An order approving expenditures as documented in
Accounts Payable Warrant #70
In the Amount of \$47,381.34

Approved 4-0-1

E.O. 2425002020- An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll
Warrant #69
In the Amount of \$97,828.24

Approved 4-0-1

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

Next Meeting of the Board

The Next Selectmen's Meeting will be Wednesday, March 6th at 7pm

The Next Planning Board Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11th at 7pm

The Next Budget Committee Meeting will be held Thursday, March 7th, at 6pm

There will be an Executive Session of the Board with the Town's Attorney on Monday, March 4th at 7pm.

Public Comment and Questions

Dave Harmon- I was watching the Hollis Budget Committee Meeting the other day, and they mentioned sharing an animal control officer with Buxton, is that something that is going to happen? Also, are we combining police forces, or letting our officers patrol Hollis.

Selectman Blier- Yes, we have a part-time ACO in Buxton. We will be putting forward the possibility of her going full-time and serving Hollis as well. Hollis has asked us to look into the possibility of a sharing agreement with our Police department. We asked them to get some numbers together about how much that would cost, as well as how we would allocate resources. We are not putting this forth this year. We have only talked about it, so there are no current plans.

Dave Harmon- Do they post the agendas for the Budget Committee.

Selectman Blier- Yes, I talked to Hunter, and he says they are posted on the website.

Dave Harmon- Last week, read a correspondence about a voltage test from CMP, but the test had happened a few days before that.

Selectman Blier-Not sure what happened there.

Dave Harmon- You mentioned a few times the proposal that the board put forward about the trash a couple years ago, and how it would save the town a million dollars. But now you are saying that you have to raise salaries because you can't keep people. So even with the other trash plan, would we have really saved money, because salaries have gone up?

Selectman Blier- At the time, we put forward the alternate curbside pick-up plan, because we felt it would have saved us a lot of money in the long run. Would it have in today's condition, I don't know, but we had to bring something forward, because our vendor was presenting such a steep rise in rates. That's what we always try to do, to present the town with the best options possible, and let the Town decide what they want. That's what we are doing this year with the current budget. We are presenting our opinions, based on the information we have available, and letting the Town

**Selectmen’s Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

decide. Its up to the Town’s people to try to be informed by listening to the meetings and asking questions.

Dave Harmon- You say that its up to the people to be informed, but you need to bring the information forward.

Selectman Blier- You know, I understand what you are saying, and we try to talk about this stuff as much as we can in these meetings. However, we do so much during the week, and focus on so many issues in the Town, its kinda hard to bring up every minute detail of all our focuses during the week.

Dave Harmon- I get that, I know there is a lot of information, and some of it can’t be brought forward because of legal reasons. My wife was a selectman for 17 years, so I am aware of the complexity.

Tom Peters- I apologize if it seems like we bring up things like the trash truck plan that we put forward. We don’t do it to brag or rub it in anyone’s face that it might have saved us a substantial amount of money. When we put forward that plan it was the result of dozens of hours of research and conversation with other towns and professionals. We bring it up to highlight that this is the level of forethought and planning that we put into any proposal that we bring forward. At the end of the day, that’s our job. In the end we put it to the Town, and whatever they decide we make it work. But, we will always try to put forth the proposals that will save money, or provide the best service for the best price.

Executive Session- (None)

Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 7:31pm

Approved 4-0-1

Thomas J. Peters, Selectman

Francis E. Pulsoni, Selectman

Mark J. Blier, Selectman

*David A. Field,
Selectman*

Chad E. Poitras, Selectman

*Date Signed: _____
Video Taped by David Blais*

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**

This meeting is available to be viewed at <https://livestream.com/accounts/23355>

**Selectmen's Meeting
Agenda for February 28th, 2024**