

Town of Buxton
Minutes for October 26, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting

Prepared by: Beverly Gammon

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

Others Present: Representative Don Marean, Henry Huntley, Scott Warchol, Steven Johnson, David Harmon, Laurie Warchol, Tom Saxby and Mark Libby

Selectmen's Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

Selectman Emery called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board recited the Pledge.

Opened bids for Fire Station and Dry Hydrant Plowing

Name of Individual/Company	Bid
<i>Robert Harris, R H Lawncare</i>	<i>\$17,000.00</i>
<i>Mike Skillings, Skillings Service Station</i>	<i>\$27,370.00</i>
<i>Steve Johnson, Solid Ground</i>	<i>\$11,850.00</i>
<i>Chris Duchaine, DDI Construction</i>	<i>\$25,628.00</i>

The Selectmen are going to take a hard look at what the Town has for money and decide what they are going to do.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

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

At 4:40 David Anderson, an employee of the Town, met with the Board to go over the new printers for motor vehicle, the cost, and how long it takes to get them.

Selectman Emery reminded people that about a month ago the Board mentioned a presentation by an individual looking to create a dog park at Town Farm Park. He wanted people to know that the process is going forward and that gentleman is putting together information to present to the Board.

Our Public Works Director brought in an applicant for the part time snow plowing position. Selectman Emery said the Selectmen had a long talk with him, found him to be very experienced in what they were looking for and offered him the job. Selectman Emery said his background information had already been checked and the Board received a glowing report. Selectman Emery said there is one other person who is interested in the on-call plowing position.

After that, the Selectmen met with the Chair of the Planning Board and the Business Commercial Committee to talk about some changes the Board wants to make and put before the Town. The Selectmen want to add the standards it has to the Village Zone. Selectman Emery explained that Dollar General has shown interest in building another store in Buxton by the Jack Memorial School. The Selectmen do not believe they can stop that but want to make sure they do all they can for the residents who live in that area and have some control over what that building would look like. The Board is going to be talking with the Town's attorney to get a warrant article written up that will be dated either today or tomorrow to be voted on in June or in a Special Town Meeting to be held sooner if need be.

They also discussed the possible legalization of marijuana. A lot of communities are adding moratoriums until they can understand what is going on. Selectman Emery said Referendum Question 1 is going to allow recreational smoking of marijuana in bars. Most people do not know how that is going to be regulated, how police departments are going to monitor and keep up with it, or how they will enforce the law for people who leave there under the influence. Selectman Emery said there is a lot of uncertainty. The Board does not know if someone applies, where they would put it. He said there is a lot of leeway given in the article that may allow towns to vote not to allow it in the municipality at all. The Selectmen want to be proactive and feel the prudent thing for them to do is to put something in place before an application comes in that they have to deal with.

Peter Burns also stopped in to see the Board.

5. Review of Correspondence

- *Notice from the Planning Board – Re: Site Walk Saturday, October 29 starting at 9:00 AM at 38 Wescott Circle off Hurlin Smith Road having to do with animal husbandry. There is a girl there who has applied to keep two horses.*
- *Email from Maine Center for Disease Control – Re: Updated Zika Travel Guidance*

6. Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Blier said he stopped in at Public Works this week and Chief Schools was there. They talked about the pilot light for the furnace at Groveville Fire Station that has been converted to an electronic ignition. There was a rumor that a technician had indicated that the furnace was “shot”. However, after talking with the owner at Patriot Mechanical, Selectman Blier confirmed that the furnace is good. He had changed the pilot light to an electronic ignition because there was an odor of propane but since that was done the odor has gone away. He said the furnace is not going to live forever but, at \$1.12 a gallon for propane, the Board cannot justify spending the money to upgrade the heating system right now because there would be too long of a payback.

Selectman Poitras said he stopped by Town Hall most days to check out what was going on with absentee ballots and the general operation. He stopped at Public Works last week and got to see the new mechanic at work. Selectman Poitras said he is working out very well there.

Selectman talked at length about the opening of the new Bar Mills Bridge and the dedication ceremony he has been working on. The bridge is scheduled to open Tuesday, November 8 (Election Day). He is going to have a ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, November 7 at 2:00 PM. There is going to be an actual dedication ceremony of the bridge from the historical society probably in the spring. They will get the veterans more involved in the spring. Selectman Poitras talked about the plan of events on November 7. The ribbon will be in the middle of the bridge on the Town line and there will not be any traffic at that point so people can safely park on Depot Street and in that area and walk out onto the bridge. There will be introductions from both the Buxton and Hollis Boards of Selectmen. Representative Don Marean will be speaking and Brent Hill from the historical society will provide a short overview of everything. Rita Anderson, a Hollis resident, will be sharing some stories and experiences from what she remembers as a

young girl around the time when the old bridge was dedicated. She will also be cutting the ribbon.

Selectman Poitras thanked Peter Burns for the large pair of scissors he made for the ribbon cutting ceremony. Selectman Poitras said he thinks the Board will give the

Scissors to the historical society because this is a Buxton & Hollis event. He invited everyone to attend the ceremony at 2:00 PM on the 7th of November.

Selectman Harmon reported she has been in most days. She said she was here when Rita Anderson called last week about the ceremony and was glad that Selectman Poitras was able to follow up with her. Selectman Harmon also talked about a conversation she had with a representative from Maine DOT who was coming in this week to talk about some safety money that DOT has and their thought which is to put a roundabout down at Scarborough corner. She suggested he come in and present that to the rest of the Board so he has been re-scheduled to come in. Selectman Harmon went on to say she attended the Planning Board Meeting Monday night where Selectman Emery talked about changing the commercial design standards to include the Village Zone and legalization of marijuana.

Selectman Harmon stated that our auditor, Ron Smith, was in yesterday. He met with our Treasurer to answer a few questions she had. He was making some suggestions that the Board needs to change a few things in our Personnel Policy to reflect what we are actually doing which he is going to have written up for the Board.

Selectman Harmon reported that she found out today there has been more vandalism on the trail system at Town Farm Park. All of the bridges that had been put in have been ripped up. She said it is very discouraging that the hard work of people that volunteered, including the Trustees, Public Works Department, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other organizations that have taken the time to better our community, and some people have nothing better to do than to destroy something. Selectman Harmon said it is upsetting that this is happening and it should not be. She said "Buxton is better than that and the residents deserve better than that and shame on everybody that is doing it." She said it is not funny. The people who are doing this damage are wasting other people's time and hard work, and wasting taxpayer money and the work of people who volunteer for this community and pay for it out of their own pockets.

Selectman Harmon also worked on the over-drafts and reconciliations the Board talked about last week and put a copy in each of the other Selectmen's boxes to be checked. She said the Board should be able to address both of those things shortly.

Selectman Harmon mentioned the Municipal Valuation Return. The Board signed that tonight so it will be sent to the State this week.

Selectman Santolucito reported that he has the final proposals for the audio visual equipment upgrade. The Board did not have time to look at those tonight so they will talk about it next week and make a final decision.

Selectman Santolucito shared his observation that 1,009 people have cast absentee ballots so far. He went on to comment on people walking beside the road wearing dark

colored clothing at night and how difficult it is for motorists to see them. He encouraged people to wear something reflective.

Selectman Emery stated that he has been in and out this past week working on some small projects, answering questions, and talking with Tom Kennie and the new mechanic. He mentioned a couple of personnel issues he has been working with some Department Heads on and dealing with day to day issues.

7. Old Business

Davis Road – Selectman Emery said he talked with Tom Kennie who had stopped up to see the gentleman who owns the road. He has not caught up with him yet so he is going to stop over again on his way home tonight. Selectman Emery said there are some things he (the owner) needs to do before the Board can accept that road. He said it has got to be done and it will be a shame if he does not do it. Everything has been done there, all the Board needs is some paperwork.

Boston Post Cane

Selectman Emery stated that the Board will deal with this after the election is over.

8. New Business

Selectman Harmon mentioned that Selectman Emery said he read in the DOT meeting minutes that the monument had been moved. Tom Kennie verified that the monument has been moved and he does not think it will interfere with plowing this winter. It is located on the right as you go around the corner from Main Street onto Depot Street

9. Executive Orders

E.O. 161710027 – An order to approve an Application for a Veteran Exemption for [Map 10, Lot 9-20]

Approved 5-0

*E.O. 161710028 – An order to approve the road name “Colony Lane” in the “Colony Estates Subdivision” to be located at Map 1, Lot 168 on Long Plains Road.
Approved 5-0*

10. Executive Orders by Initiative

None

11. Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

E.O. 161710025 – An order approving expenditures as documented in the Accounts Payable Warrant #034

Approved 5-0

The total was \$171,771.34

E.O. 161710026 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #033.

Approved 5-0

That total was \$49,935.03

12. Next Meeting of the Board

Planning Board Site Walk Saturday, October 29, starting at 9:00 AM

Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00 PM

13. Other Business

Buxton-Hollis Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner & Preview of its first major exhibit: “All Roads Lead to Bar Mills” presented by Brent Hill, on Saturday, November 5, at 5:00 PM at their headquarters at 100 Main Street in Bar Mills. If you do not hear from Berty Ramsdell who will be soliciting potluck contributions, please give her a call @929-4529 or send an email to robertaramsdell@myottmail.com to make a dinner reservation. Suggested donations \$10, seniors \$8.

The Buxton Recreation Department will be holding its second “Cooking Matters at the Store Workshop” at Buxton Town Hall November 15 from 9:00 ~ 10:00 AM. These

workshops are open to any adult who wants to learn more about saving money and identifying healthy foods. You can contact Nicole Welch at 929-8381 to reserve a spot.

The Selectmen briefly discussed the workshop Nicole Welch did last night. She reported that eight or nine people showed up and she was pleased with how it went and she is looking forward to the next one.

The Buxton Town Clerk's Office will be open again on Saturday, October 29 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM to issue absentee ballots and register voters for the November 8 Presidential Election, at Buxton Town Hall, 185 Portland Road. Absentee ballots are available at Town Hall, online, or they can be mailed at the request of the voter by calling the Town Clerk's Office. For more information contact John Myers, Town Clerk, at 929-6171.

The Board reminded everyone that the Town Office is open Saturday for voter registration and absentee ballots only.

On Monday, October 31, the Buxton Code Enforcement Office will be closed. Our Code Enforcement Officer has training to go to and his secretary is out on jury duty.

14. Public Comments and Questions

Representative Don Marean went to the podium. He explained why he was not at the 12 Town Group's Candidates' Night held recently and said it is very important to him that people know why he was not there. His grandson who is 21 years old got a moose permit for the first time and he made Mr. Marean his sub-permittee. Representative Marean said he has not had his gun out of its cabinet for many years but he got it out and got through it. When he got home, he said he (Don Marean) watched all 2.33 hours of the whole 12 Town Group's Candidate's Night meeting. He noted seeing Peter Burns and Clifford Emery speaking, and he said the things that Selectman Emery had to say about representatives not communicating meant more to him than anything else. Don Marean said he realizes there is a lot that goes on in Augusta that he does not communicate to the Selectmen; he tries to keep the Board informed about what affects us and our school district and said he will try to do a better job at that.

Representative Marean spoke briefly about an issue that came up the other day where he communicated with our Public Works Director about an employee who has to wait 14 days to take the road test for his CDL. Tom asked Mr. Marean if there was anything he could do to help expedite that. Representative Marean went to work and found out that Federal law prohibits the State from giving the test any sooner than 14 days after he received his CDL permit but that they could get him scheduled to take his test just as

soon as his 14 days was up. He used this as an illustration to show what happens when our Representatives work together to get something done.

Representative Marean talked about the Frye Island issue, how the committee worked and that vote. He talked about the vote but is not confident that it is a done deal yet. He said Frye Island may come forward with some other legislation and they may not but he assured the Board he will be “watching that like a hawk” and will notify the Board immediately if he sees anything come up. Selectman Emery talked about the Cost Sharing Committee vote noting that the two people there from Frye Island voted no.

Representative Marean then talked about a day long event he attended recently at Thomas College in Waterville about a group called “Grow Smart Maine”. He brought some information for the Board to have and explained what the group is and what they have to offer that would help municipalities come up with the best way to protect their communities.

After Representative Marean finished, Selectman Emery explained some of the comments he made at the 12 Town Group and he explained that his point was that communication is a two way street and information has to flow both ways. He said the Board is very pleased with the work Representative Marean has done for the Town of Buxton and the information he provides. Selectman Emery reiterated that that is what the Board wants to have and see continue.

Representative Marean said that Selectman Emery did a good job because almost every representative there has addressed his issue. He suggested that the 12 Town Group have a spokesperson who reaches out to the legislators and feeds them information and concerns that the 12 Town Group has.

Selectman Santolucito shared his experience as a constituent and thanked Representative Marean for the work he did.

Representative Marean thanked Selectman Santolucito for coming to Augusta. He said having people from the community come to support what it is they are working hard to pass means a whole lot and the more people who come, the more people they have in a committee room, the more work that gets done. He said if no one shows up, the committee does what it wants to do and it is not always the right thing.

Mr. Scott Warchol went to the podium. He asked the Board what the Boston Post Cane is.

The Board explained that it is given to the Town’s oldest living resident and talked about the history of the cane and how the process of giving out the cane works. There was a brief conversation about the age of Buxton’s oldest resident.

Mr. Warchol asked the Selectmen if the Police Chief could provide updates on statistics on a quarterly basis and he asked some questions about the addition to the Police Station.

The Board answered his questions and said the drawing and work on the addition is with the architect.

There were no other comments or questions.

15. Executive Session

None

16. Adjournment

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM

Approved 5-0