

Town of Buxton
Minutes for January 4, 2017 Selectmen's Meeting

Prepared by: Beverly Gammon

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

Others Present: David Harmon, Scott Warchol, Ellen DeCotiis, Henry Huntley

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Selectmen recited the Pledge.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

*Selectmen Meeting Minutes December 28, 2016
Approved 4-0-1*

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

The Board discussed the upcoming budget season, passed out individual budget sheets to each of the Selectmen to prepare for the Administration part of the budget that deals with the Board of Selectmen, and talked about raises which the Board will discuss with Department Heads to let them know where that stands for the next Fiscal Year.

Chief Cline met with the Selectmen to discuss an unemployment issue.

Selectman Emery announced that at no time is it permissible for anyone to enter the sand/salt shed with a vehicle or otherwise. It is an insurance issue and the Board does not want anyone in there or backed up to the sand pile. He said he saw in Standish where their

Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes for January 4, 2017
Page 2.

sand pile collapsed and pinned a person in the back of a pickup truck for a couple of hours. He said bad things can happen. The insurance company does not want anyone in there and neither does the Board. Selectman Emery said there is usually enough sand outside by the ramp; sometimes people may have to wait a bit but that is the program the Town has in place. He reiterated that at no time is anyone to enter the sand/salt shed.

Selectman Poitras reported that he received a letter today from a resident who had some concerns and a complaint about plowing during one of the last storms. The Board looked at the letter and sent it over to the Public Works Director.

Selectman Harmon stated that the Selectmen talked about the business design standards, proposed changes to that ordinance, and what the attorney suggested for language because the Board is proposing to have those standards in the village and light commercial districts. Selectman Harmon said she still thinks the Board needs to go over the wording a little bit more to clarify it. Selectman Blier had some suggestions on how to do that so she thinks the Board will be working on it some more before they set dates for another Public Hearing and a Special Town Meeting on that and other proposed ordinance changes the Planning Board has.

Selectman Blier stated that the Board talked about mowing lawns and hiring a new employee to do that and plow snow instead of contracting that out. He also mentioned a letter he received from a Buxton resident about the Comprehensive Plan and to re-look at our zonings, rural character, five acre zonings and things like that. The Board has reviewed the letter.

Selectman Santolucito mentioned that the company that is doing the audio visual upgrade in the large meeting room in February will be coming in to do a site survey in the next couple weeks. He stated that he talked with Kyle Durkin, our videographer, and hopes to have him here for that as well. Selectman Santolucito also mentioned some problems with our televised meetings in the last couple weeks. He said that issue has been resolved and should be fine going forward.

Selectman Santolucito said he has budget sheets to work on and said with the help of David Anderson in the front office, they will survey Department Heads to determine what expenditures the Board might need to make for technology upgrades for the upcoming year to keep things as current as possible. Selectman Santolucito said we are in really good shape but there may be some things the Town needs to invest in.

5. Review of Correspondence

- Email from 12 Town Group – Re: Minutes for 12-12-2016 and Agenda for 1-9-2017
- Email from Bonita Pothier, Regional Representative from Senator Angus King Jr.'s office – Re: Federal Funding Opportunity

6. Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Harmon said the Board talked about the recent storm we had. She said the Selectmen have talked about it. She went on to talk at length about a call she received from a resident regarding her mailbox being knocked down. Selectman Harmon said it was one of the better conversations she has had with residents calling about mailboxes. This resident said she thought the crew did a great clearing the roads; she traveled outside Buxton to work and said she does not worry about the roads when she comes back into Buxton because the crew does such a great job. Selectman Harmon said she told the resident that she would have the Public Works Director go over and look at it. She stressed that we have several new drivers who never plowed snow before. She said the resident was not angry she just wanted to make the Board aware that in the first storm her mailbox got taken out and in this last storm the post got taken out.

Selectman Harmon stated that she talked with a couple residents today who had questions about the legalization of marijuana and what the Town's position is on that. She told the residents about a workshop the Board had with the Town's attorney on that and told her that the Board is still discussing what options it has. Selectman Harmon said she does not think the Board is going to impose a moratorium because there is going to be such an amount of time before the State comes up with their guidelines, rules, and regulations.

Selectman Harmon mentioned talking with a resident who stopped in today in regards to a snow issue. She said Public Works will be checking that out.

Selectman Harmon stated that the Board just got information from the Town's attorney in regards to the language for the business design standards that the Selectmen talked about tonight.

Selectman Poitras has been working on the Boston Post Cane Presentation that was made a few minutes ago to Mildred Byard who is 95 years old and lives over in Chicopee. Mrs. Byard's daughter told her she was coming for a quilting event so Mrs. Byard was totally surprised when she came through the door. The Selectmen commented on how spry she is and how young she looks.

Selectman Blier talked about fact finding he has been doing on the Town's permit fees. He has been trying to get information to compare our fees for building permits and other fees

Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes for January 4, 2017
Page 4.

with some other towns to see if we are in line. The Comprehensive Plan is going through this and he said while the Town is having Public Hearings it would be a good time to see if our fees should be adjusted.

Selectman Emery has been working on some budget items. He talked about an opportunity he had to ride with Public Works last Friday and said we had a lot of snow in a short period of time and mixed weather that made road conditions different all over town. He said some people complain, some think the roads are great, but we can only do so much. The Public Works crew started the trucks last Thursday afternoon. They started plowing and did not shut the trucks off until around 1:30 Friday afternoon. He said the crew does the best it can with the conditions they have and people who think the roads here were bad should look in other places because roads were bad everywhere. Selectman Emery said our crew puts in a lot of hours. He said they were out Saturday, Saturday night; Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. They do a great job for us and we should appreciate it. He reminded us that the roads are not black everywhere and they are not supposed to be; this is winter time and we are not in Florida, we are in the State of Maine. He said people have to get used to that being the way it is between now and spring and we need to drive to the conditions of the road and not worry about what the road looks like. Selectman Emery said our Fire and Rescue crews and Police were also out handling accidents all over the place during the storms. They put in a lot of hours and are very dedicated individuals, and he said we should be thankful for each and every one of them.

Selectman Harmon said she thinks we have had more snow in the last couple weeks than we may have had all last winter and sometimes our expectations are too high. People have to drive to the conditions and realize our crews cover a lot of miles in every storm.

Selectman Emery said each plow driver has 18-20 mile routes which means they have 36-40 miles to travel in about 3.5 hours then they have to go back again when we are getting heavy snow every hour. He said the only way we could do it faster is to hire more drivers and more trucks which is not something the Town is going to do. He said the crew does a great job with what they have to work with and usually by the middle of the next day the roads are black again.

Selectman Poitras mentioned that there was a nice article in the business section of Monday's Portland Press Herald that included an interview and pictures of Tom Kennie in the plow truck on the job.

7. Old Business

None

Selectmen's Meeting
Minutes for January 4, 2017
Page 5.

8. **New Business**

None

9. **Executive Orders**

E.O. 161701003 – An order to award the bid for Snow Removal Services for Fire Stations & Dry Hydrants to Steven Johnson for the 2016-2017 winter season, for the bid price of \$11,850.00

Approved 5-0

E.O. 161701004 – An order to appoint Kyle D. Durkin to the position of Alternate Member of Saco River Community Television Committee to be effective until December 31, 2019

Approved 5-0

E.O. 161701005 – An order to appoint Randall J. Porter to the positions of Town Farm Park Trustee, and Estes Park Trustee to be effective until December 31, 2019

Approved 5-0

E.O. 161701006 – An order to appoint Charlene Libby to the position of a Member of the Appeals Board to be effective until December 31, 2019

Approved 5-0

E.O. 161701007 – An order to approve 16 hours of vacation time for Nicole Welch

Approved 5-0

10. **Executive Orders by Initiative**

None

11. **Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants**

E.O. 161701001 – An order approving expenditures as documented in the Accounts Payable Warrant #054

Approved 5-0

The total was \$42,621.07

E.O. 161701002 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #053

Approved 5-0

The amount was \$ 56,487.69

12. Next Meeting of the Board

*Planning Board Meeting Monday, January 9 at 7:00 PM
Twelve Town Group Meeting Monday, January 9 at 6:30 PM at Waterboro Town Hall
Board of Selectmen Meeting Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 PM.
SAD #6 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Thursday, January 12.*

13. Other Business

2017 Rescue subscriptions are due. Subscriptions are effective January 1 through December 31 each year. Subscription forms are available at Town Hall and the cost is \$10 for seniors (age 60 and over), \$20 for single adults (age 19-60) and \$30 for a family. For more information call the Town Clerk's Office at 929-6171.

Maine State law requires all dogs six months and older to be licensed by January 31 of each calendar year. To license your dog you will need a valid Maine Rabies Certificate and Altering Certificate, if appropriate. You can get the dog license in person at Buxton Town Hall, by mail to the Town Hall, 185 Portland Road, Buxton, ME 04093, or online at www.doglicensing.com. If licensed online, an additional fee of \$1 is charged per dog license. Online licensing is available through January 31. Altered dog licenses are \$6 and non-altered licenses are \$11 each. All dogs must wear their license tags at all times.

For any dog licensed after January 31 there will be an additional \$25 State law late fee per dog. If you receive a notice from the Buxton Animal Control Officer for an unlicensed dog there will be a second \$25 fee added for the first violation, \$50 for the second, and \$100 for the third violation within three years. If you are summonsed to court for an unlicensed dog fees will increase by up to \$100 per dog. If you have questions, call the Town Clerk's Office at 929-6171 or email deputytcbuxton@sacoriver.net.

Buxton Recreation is accepting applications for a Recreation Supervisor. This is a full-time position (37.5 hours/week) with benefits that involves supervision, development and expansion of Buxton's year-round childcare programming including the summer camp, and before/aftercare programs. The Recreation Supervisor will also assist in the development and execution of recreation and leisure programs for the Buxton community as a whole. Applications must be submitted by Friday, January 13 at 4:30 PM. Contact Nicole Welch, our Recreation Director at 929-8381 for more information.

Blood Drive at Buxton Town Hall Tuesday, January 10 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Each donor will receive a \$5 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card. Call 1-800-RED-Cross or go to www.redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

14. Public Comments and Questions

A resident, Scott Warchol, went to the podium and asked the Board about the mowing position that was mentioned earlier.

Selectman Emery responded saying that what we need more than somebody to mow is somebody to plow snow. He said the Board is looking to add a full time position in Public Works. He said the Town will do away with all its contract mowing which will become the new employee's job in the summer time and then that person will plow snow in the winter time.

Mr. Warchol asked if that will include mowing in the Town parks.

Selectman Emery said it will include this facility and everything except Weymouth Park.

Mr. Warchol 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 5-0.*

Clifford L. Emery, Selectman

Jean C. Harmon, Selectman

Dennis P. Santolucito, Selectman

Chad E. Poitras, Selectman

Mark J. Blier, Selectman

*Date Signed: _____
Videotaped by Jeremy Harmon*