

Town of Buxton
Minutes for April 18, 2018 Selectmen's Meeting

Recorded by Krystal Dyer

Members Present: Jean C. Harmon, Mark J. Blier, and Dennis P. Santolucito.

Members not present: Clifford L. Emery and Chad E. Poitras

Others Present: Henry Huntley, Rich Streeter, Ellen H. DeCotiis, Miriam Rubin, Julie Gamelson and David Harmon

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Selectmen recited the pledge.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Meeting Minutes for April 11, 2018
Will hold till next week for approval

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

At 4:55 PM the Board went into Executive Session on a personnel matter, per 1 M.R.S.A. §405 (6) (A). The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:14PM.

The Board reviewed the Warrant prepared by Selectman Harmon. She made a copy for the budget committee meeting on Tuesday. There was further explanation on upcoming warrant procedures.

At 6pm resident, Anthony Palermo came in to discuss property tax issues

Review of Correspondence

- Email from Robert Hunt – Re: Weekly Legislative Report
- Email from MMA – Re: legislative Bulletin on senior foreclosure – Selectman Harmon explained that MMA has compromised with other proposed bills. **Pre Foreclosed Process** and Post Foreclosure Process. The Pre Foreclosure process has no age restrictions, within 30 days of filing a lien on a property, municipal

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officials are required to provide the delinquent property owner (the person receiving the homestead exemption) the right to apply for a poverty abatement. This must include a notice for contact information of the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, which is directed to help the home owners find a financial advisor to work with them and the Municipality in an effort to avoid foreclosure.

***The Post Foreclosure Process** is for anyone 65 or older who is foreclosed on, the Municipality would be required to list the property with a Real Estate agent. Upon sale of the home, the property owner would receive less the back taxes any fees the homeowner incurs – the homeowner would receive 75% of the net sales. This is basically rewarding the homeowner for not paying their taxes. They are still working on logistics. Selectman Harmon said it will affect Buxton. There are ways that would help Municipalities offset the costs. It would be considered an unfunded mandate. Encourage you to contact your legislators. For detailed information it's listed under LD 1629 on the State website.*

- *Email from Meg Gardner – Re: the ecology school update. The concern is with the traffic traveling on Simpson Road, this could have a significant impact on the town's roads. The information is on the City of Saco's web site.*

Review of Projects and Issues

Selectman Harmon has been working on the warrant every day, making sure the numbers are correct and in order. She has been working closely with Kandice Talbot in the Code Office on the Planning Board proposed ordinance amendments. Ms. Talbot is waiting for confirmation from the attorney.

Selectman Blier spoke with Greg Heffernan at the Transfer Station and asks the public to give the equipment operators a little extra space maneuvering around the parking area. Please don't try to sneak in behind them when disposing your recyclables.

Selectman Blier gave a financial update as to where the Town is. Last year's overall total collection was \$13,921,535.00. The Town's total debt is just under two million dollars, which covers loans on a fire truck, police vehicles, police department addition and the public works building. This gives us a debt ratio of about 17%, which is a really healthy place to be. The Town has \$3,482,000.00 in our undesignated surplus, giving us more in surplus than we have in debt, which is used to run our community. The current Mill Rate is \$13.60. There may be other communities lower than ours, but they do not have the services that Buxton provides to our citizens. This town has been managed very well these past years and he gives credit to the past Selectmen

Selectman Santolucito has been working on the Sales Ratio Analysis that is sent to the State. The Selectmen will meet with the State Revenue representatives sometime in early

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June. We will submit the report by late April/early May. Selectman Harmon will review the list prepared by Selectman Santolucito and clean it up.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Executive Orders

*E.O. 171804021 – An order to approve 32 hours of vacation leave for John Myers
Approved 3-0-2*

*E.O. 171804022 – An order to approve Kimberly Beam to attend 2018 Health Trust
Administration Workshop
Approved 3-0-2*

Executive Orders by Initiative

None

Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants

*E.O. 171804019 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Accounts Payable
Warrant #90*

Approved 3-0-2

The amount was \$657,147.34, where \$585,664.44 goes to SAD6

Selectman Harmon adds that she did attend the BAC meeting last Thursday and they did make significantly more cuts to the proposed budget. Buxton will still see an increase, but it will be less.

E.O. 171804020 – An order approving expenditures as documented in Payroll Warrant #89

Approved 3-0-2

The amount was \$ 52,881.01

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Next Meeting of the Board

Planning Board Public Hearing for Ordinance Amendments, Monday, April 23 at 7:00PM

Budget Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 24, at 6:00PM

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

Comprehensive Plan meeting canceled. It has been reschedule for Monday, April 30 at 6:00PM

Other Business

Selectman Emery is on the York County Budget Committee and will be attending the meetings for the next few weeks.

The Thursday April 19th Budget Advisory Committee meeting was canceled due to scheduled power upgrades and possible power outages, it is re-scheduled for April 26 at 6PM

Public Comments and Questions

Julie Gamelson warns residents who walk their dogs at Pleasant Point Park to beware of them consuming human feces. A dog became very ill, it had overdosed on THC. Unfortunately human defecation is very common at Pleasant Point Park. The Selectman thank Ms. Gamelson for making the residents aware.

Ellen DeCotiis asks about the comment on curbside recycling at last week's meeting, specifically the concern was that it was not being cleaned and it is going back to landfills rather than being shipping to China . She wonders what the intent was of notifying the community of this change in recycling. Selectman Blier said there was no intent, he had just heard it on the news and notified the community of what's happening in recycling. At one point the community was interested in curbside recycling, but the cost was not beneficial to the Town. This will not end recycling here in Buxton. Selectman Harmon added that the channel 8 news reported the story and suggested residents check their website.

Miriam Rubin thanked Mark for the process he has run the Comprehensive Plan review group, it's been very open and welcome for residents who are not formally on the group. She feels it has evolved into a conservation committee. There is a really strong committed interest into the conservation and feels this is a very clear indication to form a conservation committee. Ms. Rubin also asked about the bid for solid waste, stating the bid is up this year. Selectman Harmon confirmed that the contract is not up until July 2019 and Transfer Station Manager, Greg Heffernan has been looking into other pickup companies as well as thinking about splitting up the curbside and the containers. Ms. Rubin suggested this would be a great time to let someone else deal with the hassles and changes with recycling, like Eco Maine for the silver bullet.

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Selectman Santolucito commented on the comprehensive plan and there being a state requirement to have an approved plan. Adding that currently the town of Buxton does not have a State approved plan. Selectman Blier said the Comp Plan has just updated the statistics from the 2003 plan that was approved by the voters. The State no longer wants to deal with Comprehensive Plans.

Selectman Santolucito mentioned if we had a Conservation Committee, they could focus on open space and public access to trails. The ordinance allows for cluster subdivision with open space at the ends. It's considered 'stranded open space' with no public access. It would be nice to connect the open space areas together. Selectman Blier adds that the Comprehensive Plan has been discussing this; the problem is, how we do that.

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

*Motion made and seconded to adjourn the Meeting at 7:35 PM
Approved 3-0-2*

Dennis P. Santolucito, Selectman

Chad E. Poitras, Selectman

Jean C. Harmon, Selectman

Clifford L. Emery, Selectman

Mark J. Blier, Selectman

1. *Date Signed: _____*
2. *Videotaped by Harrison Beam*