

TOWN OF BUCKFIELD

Select Board Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM

In Person and Remote Participation via Zoom

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM AT 6:33 PM

Present: Chairman Robert Hand, Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett, Selectman Azalea Cormier, Selectman Heather Henley, Town Manager Cameron Hinkley, Vivian Wadas, Ruby Cyr, Conner Tremblay, Peter Fickett, Randall Driver, Giles Driver, Anna McCormick, Lisa Driver, William F Nye III, Anne Nye, Judy Berg, Cory Nicholson (Zoom), Rescue Chief Stacy Blaquiere (Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS

1. SWAP SHOP (Information/Discussion)

Town Manager Cameron Hinkley informed the Board that he had received a contact list for Swap Shop volunteers and that Duane Leavitt had tendered his resignation as the Swap Shop Supervisor for personal reasons.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA (Action)

a. Town Manager and Department Head Reports

b. Donations Approval

Buckfield Rescue	\$ 100.00
Transfer Station	\$ 100.00
Buckfield Fire Department	\$ 250.00
Total	\$ 450.00

c. Disbursement Warrants

Payroll Warrant 34	\$ 15,379.31
Payroll Warrant 35	\$ 15,814.34
Accounts Payable Warrant	\$ 158,956.18
Total	\$ 190,149.83

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett seconded – **DISCUSSION:** Town Manager Cameron Hinkley presented his Town Manager’s report, the Fire Department report, the Public Works report, and let the Board and the public know that the Library painting is finished. Rescue Chief Stacy Blaquiere presented the Rescue Department report. **VOTE – All in favor (4-0)**

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 SELECT BOARD MEETING (Action)

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Select Board meeting. Selectman Heather Henley seconded – **DISCUSSION:** Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett noted that her name appeared twice in the “Present” list. **AMENDED MOTION:** Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Select Board meeting with

changes. Selectman Heather Henley seconded – VOTE – (3-0) Chairman Robert Hand abstained as he was not present at the September 19, 2023 meeting.

3. 2021-2022 ABATEMENT – 11 JIM WARREN RD (Action)

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 abatement for 11 Jim Warren Road. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

4. BILL OF SALE – TAX ACQUIRED PROPERTY (Action)

- a. 10 Park Circle

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the bill of sale for the mobile home located at 10 Park Circle. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

5. SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW AND APPROVAL (Action)

Town Manager Cameron Hinkley identified a typo in the document. The warrant should read “...to act upon Article 1 and by secret ballot on Articles 2 through 3...”

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the Town Meeting warrant with corrections. Selectman Heather Henley seconded – DISCUSSION: Vivian Wadas asked the Board if this required a public hearing. Town Manager Cameron Hinkley confirmed this to be true. VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett Made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on October 17, 2023 at 6:30 with the regularly scheduled Select Board Meeting to follow. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett brought up the Fire and Rescue Integration meeting to begin discussions and gather information.

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett made a motion to try and schedule a meeting with Fire and Rescue personnel on October 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Chairman Robert Hand seconded – DISCUSSION: Chairman Robert Hand asked Rescue Chief Stacy Blaquiere if this time and date worked for her department. The Chief confirmed it did, but couldn't speak for the Fire Department. Town Manager Cameron Hinkley let the Board know that the Fire Chief told him that most of his employees were available after 7:00 PM. VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Public Comment Period (*the Board sets aside up to 15 minutes at the end of every meeting for public comment*)

Several residents brought up concerns regarding rumors that the Town was going to “clear cut” both sides of the Railroad Bed Road. Town Manager Cameron Hinkley let residents know that several requests had been made to cut back the trees that were growing into the Railroad Bed. The Town Manager and the Public Works Foreman/Road Commissioner were researching what options the Town had because the Public Works Department does not have the time/staffing available to perform this

work internally. No plans involving the Railroad Bed Road had been brought to the Board and no decisions were made as options were still being researched. The Town Manager further stated that the Town was exploring cutting trees on property owned by the Town, as the Railroad Bed was purchased in 2002 as two parcels. Had the Board been presented with a plan, and it were approved, the only trees to be cut, would be on Town owned property. The Town Manager said that residents had come to him stating they heard that anywhere from 31 feet to 60 feet on both sides of the Railroad Bed were going to be cut, and the basis for this information was solely rumors, based on researching what could be done.

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett asked that if someone wanted to volunteer to do this work, would this be permissible? The Town Manager did not have an answer for this.

Anna McCormick brought up concerns about the speed of vehicles driving past the sports fields at the High School/Middle School.

Connor Tremblay brought up the Beautification, Parks and Conservation Committee and suggested that this Committee could be great to work on issues such as the Railroad Bed.

Lisa Driver stated that if the Town were going to cut that it should be equitable the entire way, rather than in sections that would benefit some and not others. She did not want trees cut on some property and not others. The Town Manager reiterated that the Town was exploring options to cut trees on property the Town owns.

Vivian Wadas inquired as to why the Railroad Bed issue garnered the Board's attention when there were already 14 in progress items on their list. Chairman Robert Hand and Town Manager Cameron Hinkley explained that many of these items are already being actively worked on. She asked how the Select Board prioritizes tasks.

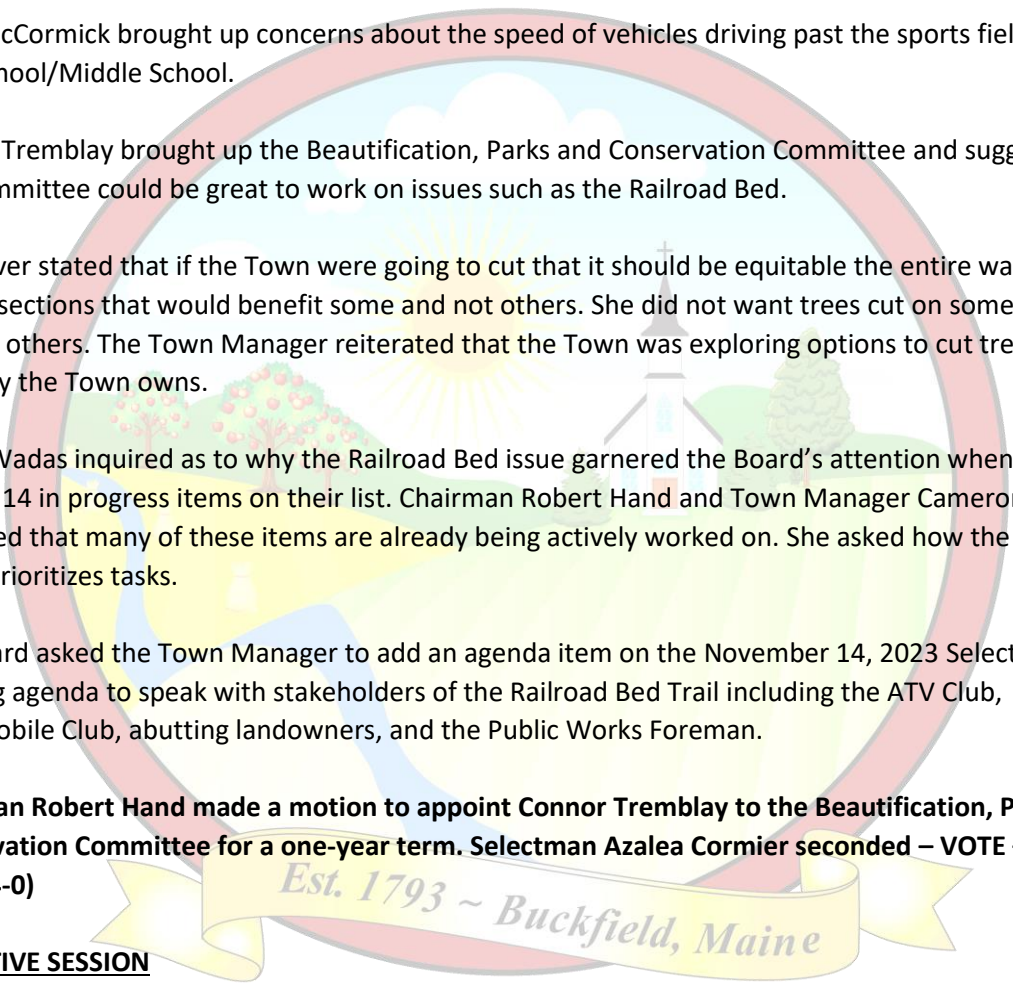
The Board asked the Town Manager to add an agenda item on the November 14, 2023 Select Board meeting agenda to speak with stakeholders of the Railroad Bed Trail including the ATV Club, Snowmobile Club, abutting landowners, and the Public Works Foreman.

Chairman Robert Hand made a motion to appoint Connor Tremblay to the Beautification, Parks, and Conservation Committee for a one-year term. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405(6) – *If Needed*

Chairman Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)



Upcoming Meetings:

1. Community Events Committee Meeting – October 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM
2. Planning Board Meeting – October 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM
3. Public Hearing – October 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM
4. Select Board Meeting – October 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM

In Progress Items:

1. School Budget Exploration – Improve communications with elected School Board Directors and the Select Board
2. Capital Improvement Planning
3. Comprehensive Plan – Revisit
4. Fire and Rescue Department Integration
5. Municipal Property Usage Ordinance
6. Select Board – Self Evaluations/Goal Setting
7. Library Trust (**Currently with the Town's Attorney**)
8. Cemetery Trust/Cemetery Plan
9. Old Church on the Hill (**Second opinion received – need volunteers**)
10. Emergency Plan
11. Grant Policy Creation
12. Solid Waste Facility Changes – Annual Sticker Change (**Waiting on Sumner for next meeting**)
13. Communication between Board and Committees (**Liaisons reestablished – provide guidance**)
14. Proper Reserve Account Establishment

