

TOWN OF BUCKFIELD

Select Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 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, Peter Werwath, Rick Dobson, Judy Berg, Peter Fickett, Martha Catevenis (Zoom)

OLD BUSINESS

1. SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATE

The Town Manager updated the Board on his visit with the Town of Sumner at their Select Board meeting on October 10, 2023. The Sumner Select Board agreed to meet on December 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM in Buckfield if it worked for the Buckfield members.

Chairman Robert Hand made a motion to hold the Solid Waste Committee Meeting in Buckfield prior to the December 5, 2023 Select Board Meeting at 6:30 PM. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

2. FIRE RESCUE INTEGRATION WORKSHOP - REPORT OUT

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett gave an update to the Board on the Fire and Rescue Integration Workshop. The event was very well attended and a lot of questions, concerns, and ideas came out of the meeting. Overall, the workshop was very positive.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Donations Approval

Milton Warren Scholarship \$ 50.00

Total \$ 50.00

b. Disbursement Warrants

Payroll Warrant 37 \$ 1,331.00

Payroll Warrant 38 \$ 14,692.36

Accounts Payable Warrant 39 \$ 7,451.00

Payroll Warrant \$ 16,417.39

Accounts Payable Warrant \$ 217,058.65 *

Total \$ 256,950.40

**Includes R.S.U. and Winter Sand payments*

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Selectman Heather Henley seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2023 SELECT BOARD MEETING

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2023 Select Board Meeting with corrections to grammar. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

3. AUTOMOBILE JUNKYARD PERMIT RENEWAL

- a. R. C. Garage and Auto Salvage

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the R.C. Garage and Auto Salvage automobile junkyard permit renewal. Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

4. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- a. James Lowell, Two-Year Reappointment to the Road Committee
- b. James Lowell, Two-Year Reappointment to the Social Services Committee

Selectman Heather Henley made a motion to reappoint James Lowell to a two-year appointment on both the Road Committee and Social Services Committee. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

5. PROPOSED VETERAN'S MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT BUCKFIELD-DAMON CEMETERY

The Town Manager discussed an idea that was presented to him by James Lowell regarding the possibility of placing a Veteran's Memorial at Buckfield-Damon Cemetery near the existing flag pole. Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett suggested asking the American Legion to put together a proposal that includes costs to procure and install the monument before the Board made any decision.

6. 2023-2024 TAX COMMITMENT UPDATE

The Town Manager updated the Board on the completion of the 2023-2024 tax commitment. He let the public know that the mil rate was set at \$26.10 per thousand of assessed value, a drop of \$2.13 per thousand from the 2022-2023 tax rate.

7. TOWN WIDE NOISE COMPLAINTS

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett explained that she asked for this to be put on the agenda. She has received many complaints and heard frustration from residents about explosions and fireworks at all hours of the night throughout town. She stated that she understood that the Town of Buckfield does not have an ordinance, and felt that this sort of behavior could be handled between neighbors without establishing an ordinance. The Town Manager commented that he didn't believe people in town want an ordinance, they just want people to be respectful, and cognizant of the timing at which people choose to take part in these activities.

8. PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett stated that she asked for this item to be added as well. She let everyone know that she has been seeing activity in Town that isn't normal in town, and has heard from others

about activity as well. She stated that if residents see something, to notify the proper authorities so they can act on it as needed. The Town Manager reiterated that residents should be aware of their surroundings and to be diligent by locking their doors. The Town Office has received reports of trespassing, people looking in vehicles, drug activity, etc. There have not been any reports of violence.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion to schedule a public hearing on October 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM to discuss the Special Town Meeting warrant articles. Selectman Heather Henley seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Selectman Azalea Cormier made a motion accept and sign the resolution drafted by Zach at AVCOG for the Community Resilience Partnership. Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Vice Chairman Sandra Fickett discussed the Community Engagement meeting that took place prior to the Select Board meeting. She stated that there were some great ideas discussed and that if anyone couldn't attend the meeting, worksheets would be available for people to fill out and provide their input.

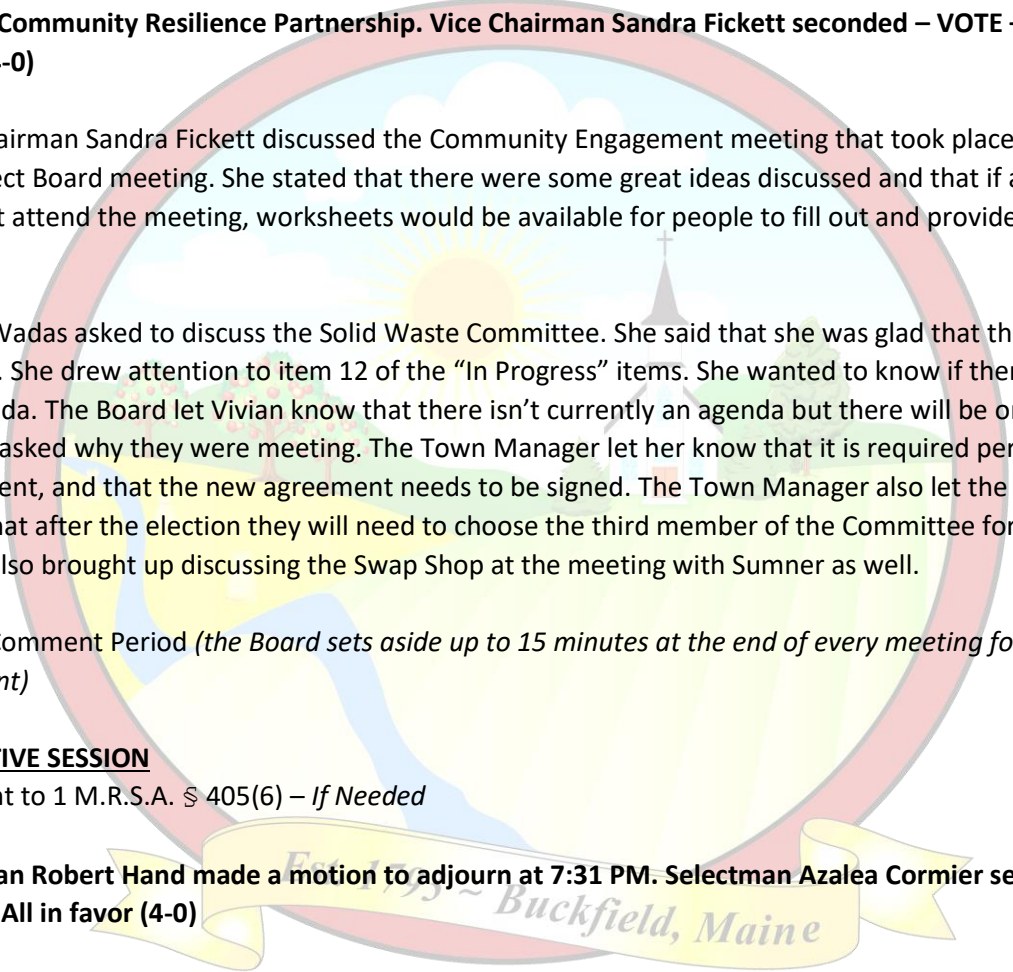
Vivian Wadas asked to discuss the Solid Waste Committee. She said that she was glad that the meeting was set. She drew attention to item 12 of the "In Progress" items. She wanted to know if there would be an agenda. The Board let Vivian know that there isn't currently an agenda but there will be one. Vivian further asked why they were meeting. The Town Manager let her know that it is required per the agreement, and that the new agreement needs to be signed. The Town Manager also let the Board know that after the election they will need to choose the third member of the Committee for Buckfield. Vivian also brought up discussing the Swap Shop at the meeting with Sumner as well.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Chairman Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM. Selectman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)



Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Board Meeting – October 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM
2. Select Board Meeting – November 14, 2023 at 6:30 PM
3. Select Board Meeting – November 28, 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
13. Communication between Board and Committees (**Liaisons reestablished – provide guidance**)
14. Proper Reserve Account Establishment

