

Buckfield Select Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information

Date & Time: October 15, 2024 – 6:35 PM

Location: Buckfield Municipal Center

Attendees: Robert Hand, Sandra Fickett, Azalea Cormier, Heather Henley (Zoom), Peter Fickett, Cameron Hinkley, Neal Austin (Zoom)

1. Old Business

Explanation of Solar Farm Moratorium

The ordinance would put a hold on any new commercial solar projects until the planning board creates an ordinance for future projects.

Solar Farm Moratorium Ordinance

A motion was made by Azalea Cormier to approve the draft Solar Farm Moratorium Ordinance. Sandra Fickett seconded. Discussion included setting a date for a special town meeting to vote on the ordinance. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote. The moratorium ordinance is titled "Town of Buckfield Commercial Solar Energy Facility Moratorium Ordinance."

Special Town Meeting

The Board discussed dates for the Special Town Meeting to vote on passing the previously discussed moratorium ordinance. Azalea Cormier made a motion to set the date of the Special Town Meeting for October 29, 2024, at 6:30 PM, with the Select Board Meeting to follow. Sandra Fickett seconded. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

2. New Business

Consent Agenda

Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Azalea Cormier seconded. This included disbursement warrants, an RSU update and an animal control officer report. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote. Payroll Warrant 38 - \$18,236.08; Accounts Payable Warrant 39 - \$81,088.19; Payroll Warrant 40 - \$17,970.55. Total: \$117,294.82

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the Buckfield select board meeting minutes from October 1, 2024, with minor changes as discussed. Robert Hand seconded the motion. Vivian Wadas and Erin Petrocelli's

names were misspelled. Cameron Hinkley noted that the entire section should be struck as it was inadvertently included. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

General Assistance Ordinance

Sandra Fickett made a motion to adopt the new version of the General Assistance Ordinance with appendices. Peter Fickett seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

Maine Waste to Energy Board of Directors Appointment

Robert Hand made a motion to appoint Cameron Hinkley as the town's representative to the Maine Waste to Energy Board of Directors. Sandra Fickett seconded. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

Election Clerk Appointment

Azalea Cormier made a motion to appoint Catherine Pomerleau as a Democrat election clerk with a term ending on April 30, 2026. Sandra Fickett seconded the motion. Azalea Cormier thanked Catherine. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

Planning Board Appointment

Sandra Fickett made a motion to appoint John Petrocelli to the Planning Board for a one-year term as an alternate. Robert Hand seconded the motion. Azalea Cormier asked if there were any concerns about the potential of three members from the same family being on the Planning Board. The Board discussed what is and isn't allowed. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

3. Other Business

Solid Waste Committee Meeting Update

Robert Hand and Azalea Cormier provided an update on the recent Solid Waste Committee meeting held on October 8, 2024. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024, at 5:30 PM. The Committee will be addressing Swap Shop issues.

Property Tax Due Date

Sandra Fickett made a motion that there be a warrant article at the Special Town Meeting, to see if the Town will vote to set December 15, 2024, as the due date for the first half of the 2024-2025 taxes. Robert Hand seconded. Discussion on changing property tax due date because of technical issues with the Patriot database and Trio. Cameron Hinkley stated that the database is returning an error when staff tries to run the extract needed to load the assessments into Trio. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

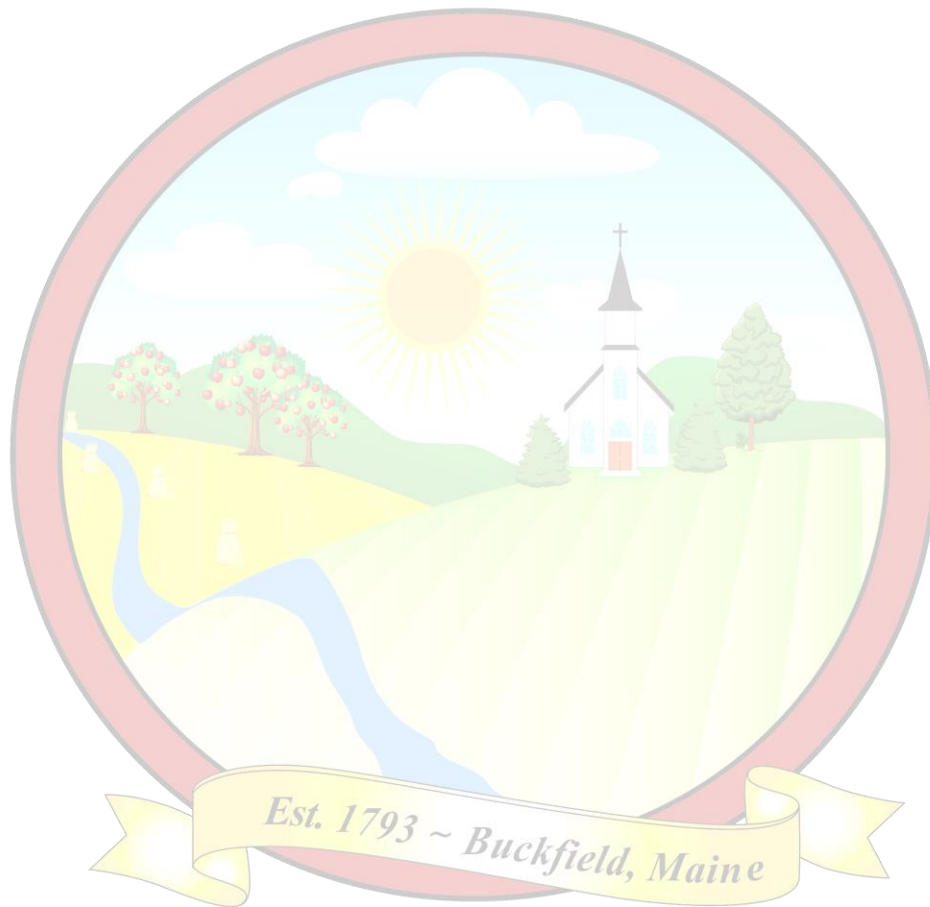
Special Town Meeting Warrant

Azalea Cormier read the draft Special Town Meeting Warrant out loud. Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to be held on October 29, 2024. Sandra Fickett seconded

the motion. Sandra Fickett clarified that the new article gives residents more time to pay their taxes without interest being accrued on November 15th. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.

Adjournment

Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:01 PM. Azalea Cormier seconded the motion. The motion passed (4-0). Heather Henley (Zoom) did not vote.



Minutes approved at the October 29, 2024 Select Board Meeting