

TOWN OF BUCKFIELD
Select Board Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2025
Location: Buckfield Municipal Center

Present: Robert Hand, Azalea Cormier, Peter Fickett, Town Manager Cameron Hinkley, Neal Austin, Judy Berg, Michelle Casey

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Robert Hand at 6:32 p.m.

2. Old Business: Self-Evaluations

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to table the board self-evaluations to the next meeting.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

3. New Business: Consent Agenda

Discussion: The Town Manager summarized monthly department reports, noting completion of Brock School Road culverts, roadside mowing, hiring of one public works employee, library usage statistics (464 August visits), and mechanical issues with Truck 16 (see Item 13).

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Second: Azalea Cormier

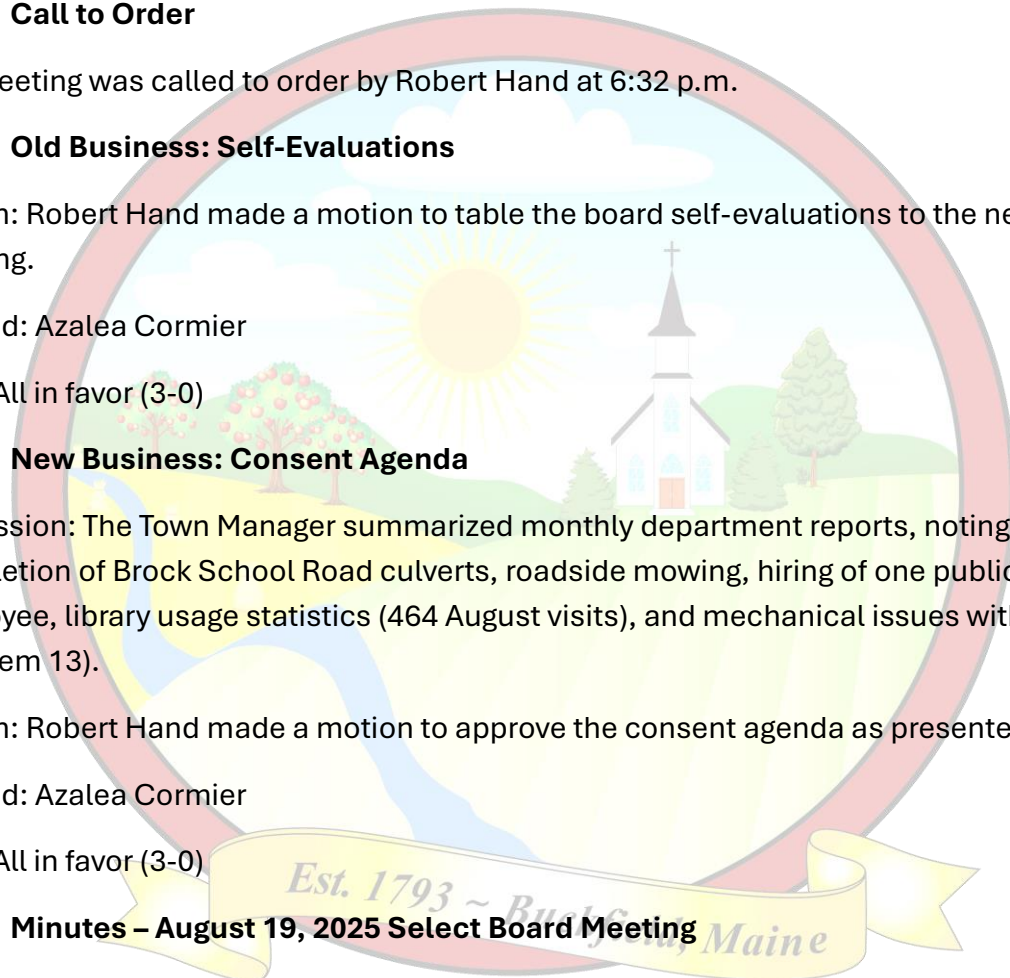
Vote: All in favor (3-0)

4. Minutes – August 19, 2025 Select Board Meeting

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2025.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)



5. FY 2024-2025 4th-Quarter Financial Report

Discussion: Town Manager reported a total year-end over-expenditure of \$1,243.99 (excluding Solid Waste) and a \$58,963.03 over-expenditure in Public Safety due to vehicle repairs and training/overtime costs; revenues exceeded estimates by \$175,269.47. Town Manager noted a \$57,000 Solid Waste budget overage due to increased tipping fees as well as a one-time \$20,000 special assessment from Maine Waste-to-Energy; matter referred to the Solid Waste Committee for the September 23 meeting.

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to accept the FY 2024-25 Q4 Financial Report.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

6. RSU 10 Withdrawal Petition Certification

Discussion: Town Clerk certified 119 valid signatures (minimum required: 98). No vote required; warrant article scheduled for November 4, 2025 Special Town Meeting.

7. Draft Solar Farm Ordinance

Discussion: The proposed ordinance bans new commercial solar farms while allowing on-site residential/business arrays and aligns with Comprehensive Plan goals to preserve agricultural land.

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to forward the proposed “Town of Buckfield Solar Farm Ordinance” to voters at the November 4, 2025 Special Town Meeting.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

8. Special Town Meeting Warrant – November 4, 2025

Discussion: Key warrant articles include election to fill a Select Board vacancy (term to 6/30/2026); transfer of \$58,963.03 from Undesignated Fund Balance to cover FY 24-25 Public Safety overdraft; adoption of Solar Farm Ordinance; authorization to finance a replacement ambulance (amount not to exceed \$430,000; term TBD); and petition to withdraw from RSU 10 with appropriation of up to \$50,000 for that purpose. Board reviewed lease-purchase options (5-, 7-, 10-year) for a demo ambulance (maximum \$430,000). Decision deferred pending the November 4 Town Meeting vote. Current unit 451 remains out of service; backup rental cost is \$125 per day if unit 452 fails.

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the Special Town Meeting Warrant (Articles 1–6) as amended.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

9. Committee Appointments

Motion: Azalea Cormier nominated and made a motion to appoint Thomas Damon to the Recreation Committee (1-year term).

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to appoint Cameron Hinkley to the Recreation Committee (1-year term).

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to appoint Kate Grimm to the Recreation Committee (3-year term).

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to appoint Kristina Simpson to the Planning Board (1-year term).

Second: Peter Fickett

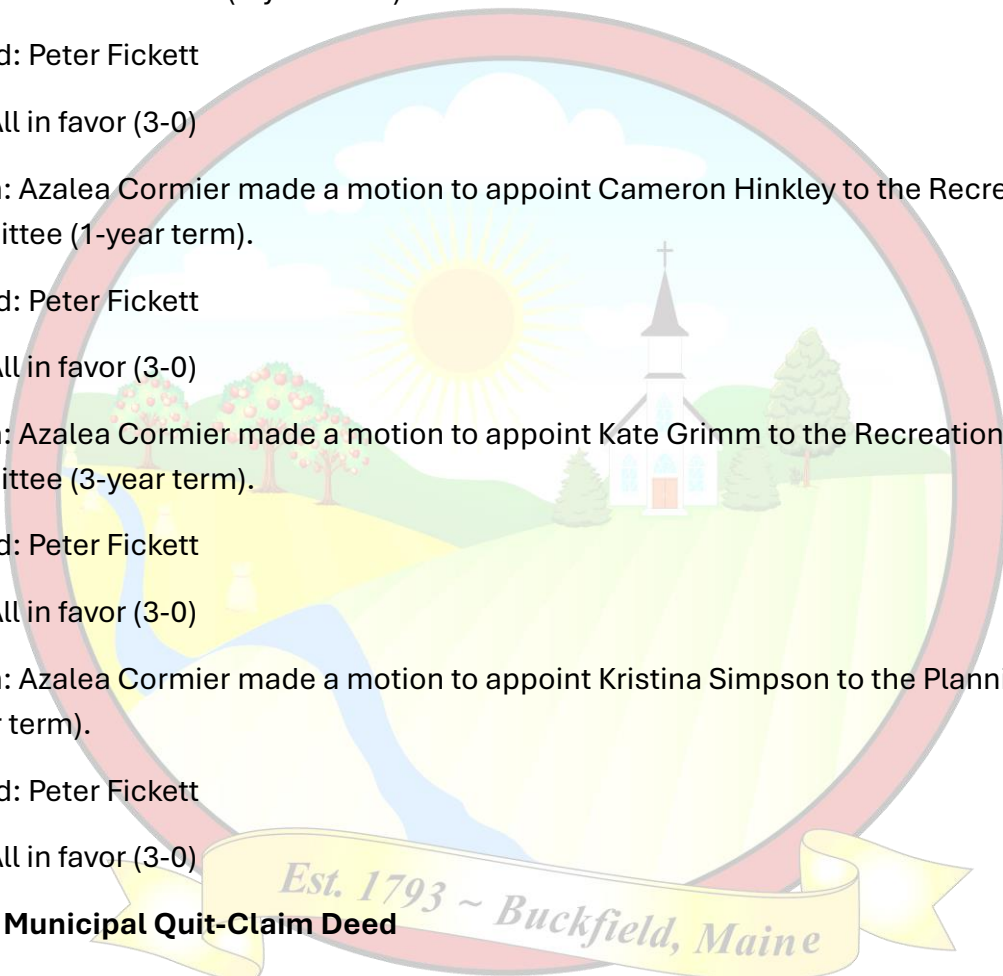
Vote: All in favor (3-0)

10. Municipal Quit-Claim Deed

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to execute a municipal quit-claim deed for Property ID 003-007-009-001 (taxes paid in full).

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)



11. Other Business: Public Works – Truck 16 Additional Repairs

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to authorize \$18,204.68 for replacement of DEF system components and motor mounts on Truck 16, in addition to the previously approved clutch/flywheel work (\$11,000).

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

12. Public Comment

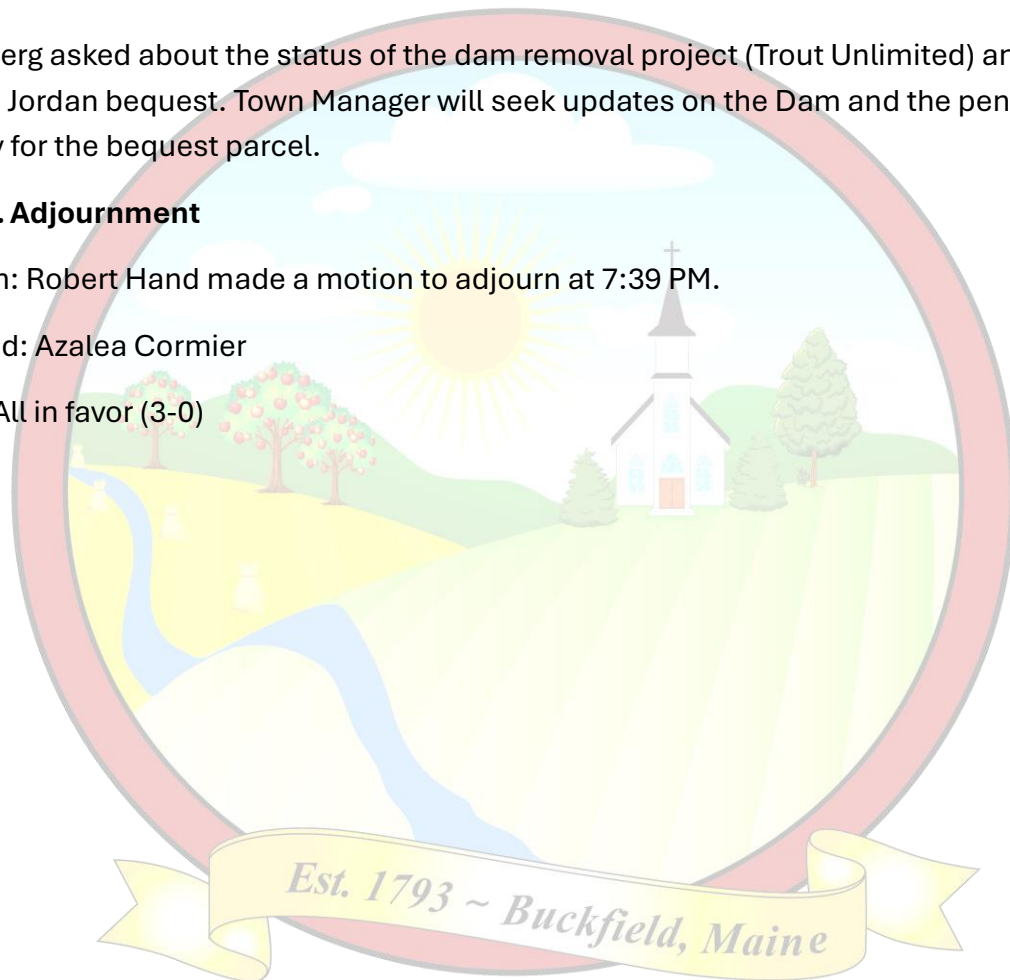
Judy Berg asked about the status of the dam removal project (Trout Unlimited) and the James Jordan bequest. Town Manager will seek updates on the Dam and the pending survey for the bequest parcel.

13. Adjournment

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:39 PM.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (3-0)



Minutes approved at the September 22, 2025 Select Board Meeting.