

TOWN OF BUCKFIELD
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2025
Location: Buckfield Municipal Center

Present: Robert Hand, Azalea Cormier, Peter Fickett, Sandra Fickett, Cameron Hinkley, Ashley Deshaines, and Neal Austin

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM.

2. Old Business: Old Church on the Hill Sale/Lease Planning Discussion

Discussion: The committee is currently non-existent with only two members, who were unable to attend. Ashley Deshaines presented a proposal for the use of the old church, including sale of goods for local farmers, homesteaders, local artwork, and a hobby area. The building lacks electricity (having only one outlet) and plumbing (no water), but the proposal was seen as very encouraging and community-focused. Brad Miller from Maine Preservation was mentioned as a resource for guidance and templates for sale or lease agreements, as his organization has experience with similar projects. The board expressed interest in preserving the building and finding a community-based solution to relieve the town of the expense, rather than seeking profit.

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to explore an agreement with Ashley Deshaines, with assistance from Bradley Miller of Maine Preservation.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

3. Select Board Evaluations and Goal Setting

Discussion: Materials for evaluation and goal setting were not brought to the meeting. The board mentioned that one potential goal from the responses gathered was the speed of reading and responding to emails.

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to continue/table select board evaluation and goal setting until the next meeting on September 2nd.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (3-0)

4. New Business: Consent Agenda – Public Works Report

Discussion: The Public Works report highlighted recent work including cleaning all 12 catch basins in town (which hadn't been cleaned in over five years), repairs to approximately 400 feet of McAlister Road (re-ditched and graded due to significant potholes), ongoing work on Brock School Road (prepping for paving, replacing cross culverts, ditching), visibility improvements on South Hill Road (overgrowth cleared), culvert replacement on North Hill (a rotted steel culvert), tree trimming on Loring Hill (using a mulch head to cut back trees

causing damage to vehicles), and new signage at the transfer station regarding waste oil (only waste oil accepted, no hazardous waste like gasoline or antifreeze). The report also noted that overgrown bushes at 72 Gammon Road were cut back. Roadside mowing is planned, with a preliminary list of priority roads (Bryant Road, Back Bryant Road, Gesner Road, Gammon Road) identified due to serious overgrowth.

Motion: Peter Fickett made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the select board meeting minutes from August 5th, 2025.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

6. Municipal Quit Claim Deeds

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the municipal quit claim deed for 008-003-011.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the municipal quit claim deed for 006-001-005.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

7. CMP Pole Permit Approval

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the CMP pole permit, for job 801000712299.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Discussion: The permit meets town setback requirements (10 feet from the shoulder) and does not impact property owners.

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

8. Committee Appointment – Road Committee

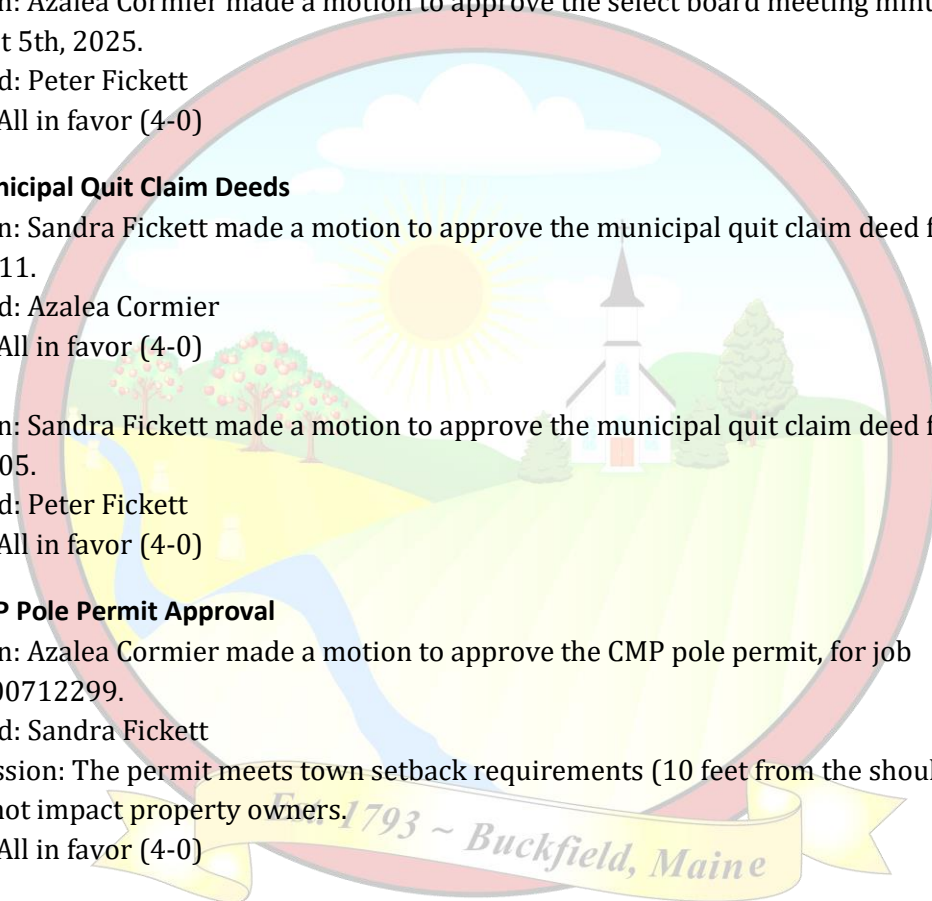
Motion: Sandra Fickett moved to appoint Mark Fox to the Road Committee for a three-year term.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

9. Fire Department Call Pay Policy

Discussion: Cameron met with Adam and the fire department regarding call pay. The crew prefers quarterly payments over monthly or six-month intervals, as monthly checks could be as low as \$14. Monthly hours will still be reported for tracking and anticipating



expenditures. The fire chief has reviewed the policy, which aims to clarify expectations and responsibilities.

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion to adopt the Town of Buckfield Fire Department call pay policy as written.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

Decision: Policy stands until further select board action; comments and suggestions are welcome.

10. Special Amusement Permit Language

Discussion: The Board directed the Town Manager to draft a letter to clarify permit language for special amusement permit holders. No changes to policy, only clarification to ensure it is clear.

11. Other Business: Meeting Date Change

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion to move the September 16th select board meeting to Monday, September 22nd.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

Decision: No other meetings are scheduled for that night; reminder of Solid Waste Committee meeting on September 23rd.

12. Community Events Committee

Discussion: The Community Events Committee is organizing Community Day and requests volunteers. Contact via Facebook or the town office is encouraged. The board will remind the committee to adhere to advertised event times to avoid disappointing attendees, as happened previously.

13. Employee Anniversary

Discussion: The Board recognized Town Manager Cameron Hinkley's three-year work anniversary. Board expressed appreciation.

14. Ambulance Update

Discussion: An update was provided on the ambulance. One quote for repairs was received for \$5,000 (to fix mechanical issues and rocker panel), and another for \$21,000 (for body work and mechanical). A third quote is pending. The current ambulance has 12,000 hours on it, and the cost for a new one ranges from \$300,000 to \$430,000. The board will discuss placing a warrant article at the next meeting to ask voters if they would like to finance the purchase of a new ambulance, acknowledging that the town needs to address this issue rather than deferring it further.

15. Solar Energy Systems

Discussion: Board will add discussion of solar energy systems to the next meeting agenda.

16. Education Exploration Committee Update

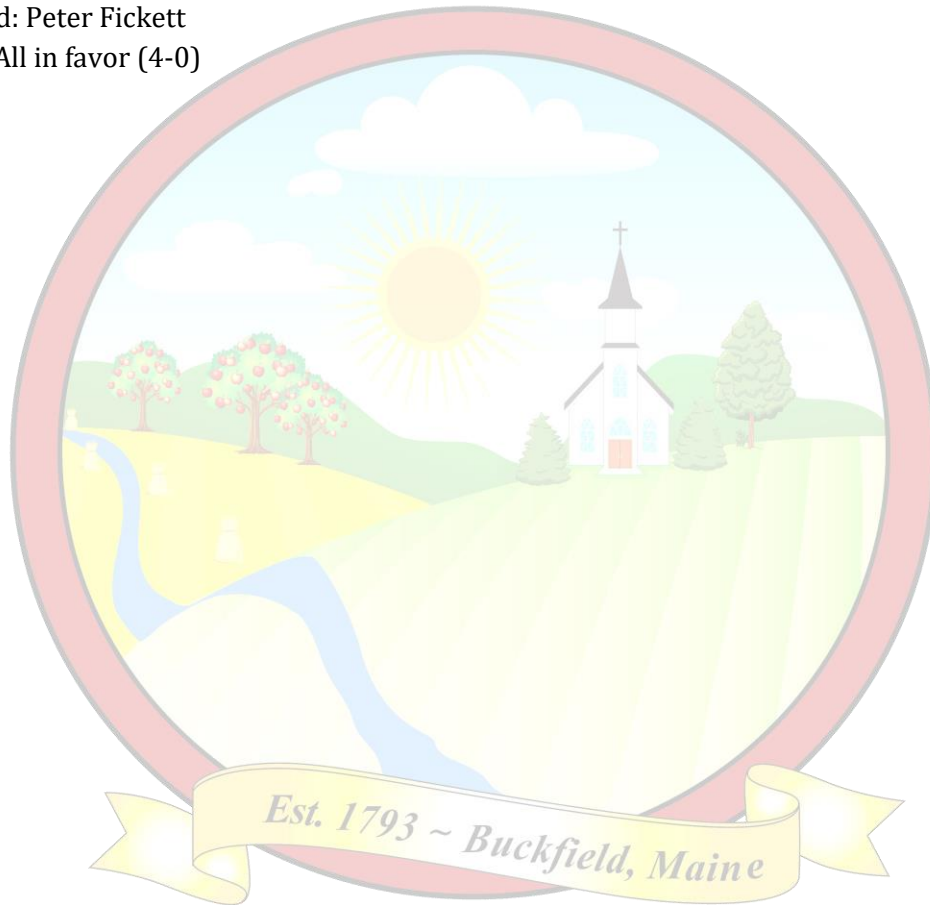
Discussion: Neal provided an update from the Education Exploration Committee, noting the start of the petition process to gauge public sentiment. A public meeting is scheduled for September 11th at the Buckfield High School Auditorium to answer questions. The committee is also exploring the minimum operational requirements for the school, considering starting from scratch to determine what the state minimum and student needs would look like. A regular committee meeting will also be held this coming Thursday in Sumner at the town office.

17. Adjournment

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)



Minutes approved at the September 2, 2025, Select Board meeting.