

Town of Buckfield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2023 at 6:30 PM
In Person and Remote Participation via Zoom

CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER AND DECLARE A QUORUM AT 6:32 PM. VICE CHAIRMAN AZALEA CORMIER CHAIRED THE MEETING.

Roll Call/Declare a Quorum

Present: Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier, Selectman Bob Hand, Selectman Sandra Fickett, Chairman Mike Iveson (6:37 PM), Cory Nicholson, Richard Piper, Vivian Wadas, Charles and Judy Berg (Zoom), Steve Sherlock (Zoom/Sun Journal)

OLD BUSINESS

1. OLD CHURCH ON THE HILL

The Board had a discussion about the importance of public involvement in determining the future of the Old Church on the Hill. Selectman Fickett asked the Town Manager to put together an estimate of annual costs for the Old Church. Members of the public spoke about the potential of the Church, alternatives to the estimate the Town received, as well as concerns that the Old Church has been discussed by many boards with no solutions.

Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier made a motion to move to the next item on the agenda, Selectman Bob Hand seconded – VOTE – 3 Yes, Chairman Iveson did not vote, motion passed.

2. COMMUNITY DAY COMMITTEE

Selectman Sandra Fickett made a motion to change the name of the Community Day Committee to the Community Events Committee and to amend the bylaws as necessary, Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier seconded – Discussion – Vivian Wadas asked about the existing funds held in the Community Day Checking Account and the Community Day CD. The Town Manager researched their purpose and stated the interest earned on the initial \$5,000 in the CD are to be used to defer the costs of Community Day Celebration per the terms of the Buckfield Bicentennial Committee. – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Amended Changes

Page 1, Section 1 - "Community Day Committee" changed to "Community Events Committee"
Page 1, Section 1 – "a parade and/or festivities" changed to "events"
Page 2, Section 6, A – "a. Parade" changed to "a. Labor Day Parade"
Page 2, Section 6, A – "b. Festivities" changed to "b. Labor Day Festivities"

3. PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

- a. Schedule Workshop to Continue Review

Selectman Sandra Fickett made a motion to schedule a workshop on January 16th at 5:30 PM and move the regularly scheduled Select Board meeting from January 17th at 6:30 PM to January 16th at 6:30 PM, Chairman Mike Iveson seconded the motion – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Town Manager’s Report
- b. Disbursement Warrants

Payroll Warrant # 67	\$ 16,983.46	Approved Per Policy 12/28
Accounts Payable Warrant # 68 (BMV)	\$ 2,925.51	Approved Per Policy 12/30
Accounts Payable Warrant # 69 (Overpay Refunds)	\$ 1,966.36	Approved 12/20
Payroll Warrant # 70	\$ 14,969.29	Approved Per Policy 1/3
Accounts Payable Warrant # 71	\$ 182,144.30	
Total	\$ 218,988.92	

Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, Selectman Sandra Fickett seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2022 SELECT BOARD MEETING

Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2023 Select Board meeting, Selectman Bob Iveson seconded – VOTE – All in favor (3-0). Selectman Sandra Fickett abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

3. 2023-2024 BUDGET EXPECTATION

Discussion ensued regarding the Select Board’s expectations for the upcoming 2023-2024 budget. Selectman Mike Iveson suggested at or below the current budget if at all possible.

Selectman Sandra Fickett stated that there are very few businesses and households that are going to spend less than what they are currently spending. She suggested that we take a look at what the Town pays their employees and ensure that the Town is at least in line with the 25th percentile for salaries so we don’t lose people and also look at areas that can be cut back if possible.

The Town Manager further discussed his plan for the 2023-2024 budget process beginning with a presented budget to the Budget Committee by February 1, 2023 and a the Select Board by March 1, 2023.

4. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

- a. Old Church on the Hill Committee – Everett Tilton (3 Year Reappointment)
- b. Old Church on the Hill Committee – Cory Nicholson (1 Year Reappointment)

Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier made a motion to reappoint Everett Tilton to a three-year term on the Old Church on the Hill Committee ending June 30, 2025, Chairman Mike Iveson seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier made a motion to reappoint Cory Nicholson to a one-year term on the Old Church on the Hill Committee ending June 30, 2023, Selectman Bob Hand seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Vice Chairman made a motion to adjourn at 7:41 PM. No second.

Chairman Mike Iveson made a motion under other business, to step down as Chairman of the Select Board and hold a new election for Chairman so that Selectman Bob Hand would get a decision in the matter, Selectman Sandra Fickett seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Select Board:

**Selectman Mike Iveson nominated Selectman Azalea Cormier to be Chair of the Select Board.
Selectman Azalea Cormier nominated Selectman Bob Hand to be Chair of the Select Board.**

Selectman Azalea Cormier called for a vote, all in favor of Selectman Bob Hand for Chair – VOTE – Yes 3, No 0, Selectman Mike Iveson did not vote.

Chairman Bob Hand nominated Selectman Azalea Cormier for Vice Chairman, Selectman Mike Iveson, seconded the nomination – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Selectman Mike Iveson made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 PM, Vice Chairman Azalea Cormier seconded – VOTE – All in favor (4-0)

Upcoming Meetings:

1. Planning Board Meeting – January 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM
2. Select Board Meeting – January 17, 2023 at 6:30 PM
3. Solid Waste Committee Meeting – January 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM (Sumner Town Office – No Zoom)

Tabled Items:

1. Old Church on the Hill
2. Community Day Committee
3. Personnel Policies and Procedures Handbook Review (Ongoing)

Minutes approved at the January 16, 2023 Select Board Meeting.