

**Town of Buckfield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2025
Buckfield Municipal Center**

Present: Robert Hand, Sandra Fickett, Peter Fickett, Azalea Cormier, Cameron Hinkley, Judy Berg, Neal Austin, Ben Limerick

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

2. Old Business – Ad Hoc Educational Exploration Committee Report

Discussion: Neal Austin presented findings on the feasibility of forming an independent school district (RSU 90) separate from RSU 10. Financial analysis based on FY 25-26 figures showed estimated revenue of \$10,044,726 and expenses of \$12,836,824, resulting in a projected deficit of \$2.7 million. Additional one-time withdrawal costs estimated at \$3 million. The committee recommended dissolving unless directed otherwise by the select boards. Community engagement and increased participation in school board meetings were encouraged.

Decision: The committee will hold one final public forum before considering dissolution. Dates proposed for the forum are September 11 (first choice) and September 18 (second choice), at 6:30 PM, location to be determined based on attendance patterns.

3. Old Church on the Hill – Committee and Community Input

Discussion: The board discussed options for the Old Church on the Hill, including sale or lease with stipulations to preserve the exterior. Community input will be solicited at the next meeting. Concerns raised about the building's condition, lack of water, parking, and the safety of the steeple.

Decision: The item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda and advertised for public comment.

4. Select Board and Evaluation Goal Setting

Discussion: Sandra Fickett will compile the results of an evaluation form that all Board members completed and present at the next meeting.

Decision: The item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

5. Ambulance Fleet Status and Replacement Options

Discussion: Updates provided on ambulance maintenance and replacement options. Truck 451 has 12,089 engine hours (8,286 idle), equivalent to 362,000 miles. Truck 452 required \$10,000 in repairs, exhausting the apparatus budget. Three quotes for the repair of 451 are still pending. Rental options discussed as contingency.

Action: Quotes to be shared with the board prior to the next meeting. Further discussion and possible warrant article at the next special town meeting.

6. New Business - Consent Agenda

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion to approve the consent agenda totaling \$373,004.10.

Second: Azalea Cormier

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

7. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2025, Select Board meeting.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

8. Municipal Quit Claim Deed

Motion: Sandra Fickett made a motion that the board quit claim deed 013-003-006, property at 43 Turner Street, to the prior owner upon payment of \$12,491.67 in back taxes, interest, and costs.

Second: Robert Hand

Discussion: No risk foreseen as sale proceeds will be withheld at closing and come directly to the town.

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

9. Public Works – 2014 Freightliner Repair

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve repairs to the 2014 Freightliner, up to \$9,601.64, with potential reduction if flywheel does not require replacement.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

10. Committee Appointment

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

Second: Peter

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

11. Fire Department Cost Recovery Fee Schedule and Contract

Discussion: Board reviewed proposed fee schedule for cost recovery related to non-resident motor vehicle accidents and other incidents. Fees based on comparable towns. Contract with Central Maine Cost Recovery discussed.

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to approve the fee schedule.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

Motion: Azalea Cormier made a motion to designate Cameron Hinkley, Town Manager, to sign the contract with Central Maine Cost Recovery.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

12. MMA Annual Election Form

Motion: Sandra Fickett moved to designate the Town Manager to sign the MMA annual election form.

Second: Peter Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)

13. MDOT Bridge Repair

Discussion: Peter Fickett inquired about the status of DOT repairs to bridge guardrail. No communication received; Town Manager will follow up with MDOT for updates.

14. Town Manager's Report

- Nomination papers for open select board seat available July 29 for November election; six-month term.
- Deputy Clerk resigned July 28; position posted and applications being accepted.
- Kingston completed service as Code Enforcement Officer; Manny appointed and pursuing certification.
- Manny completed site visits for 25-26 tax year; commitment expected September/October.
- Town received approximately \$160,000 in public assistance funds from December 23 emergency declaration.
- Batting cage installed at Bessy Field; dugout construction ongoing.
- Fall soccer registrations open; \$45 per child, \$90 family cap.

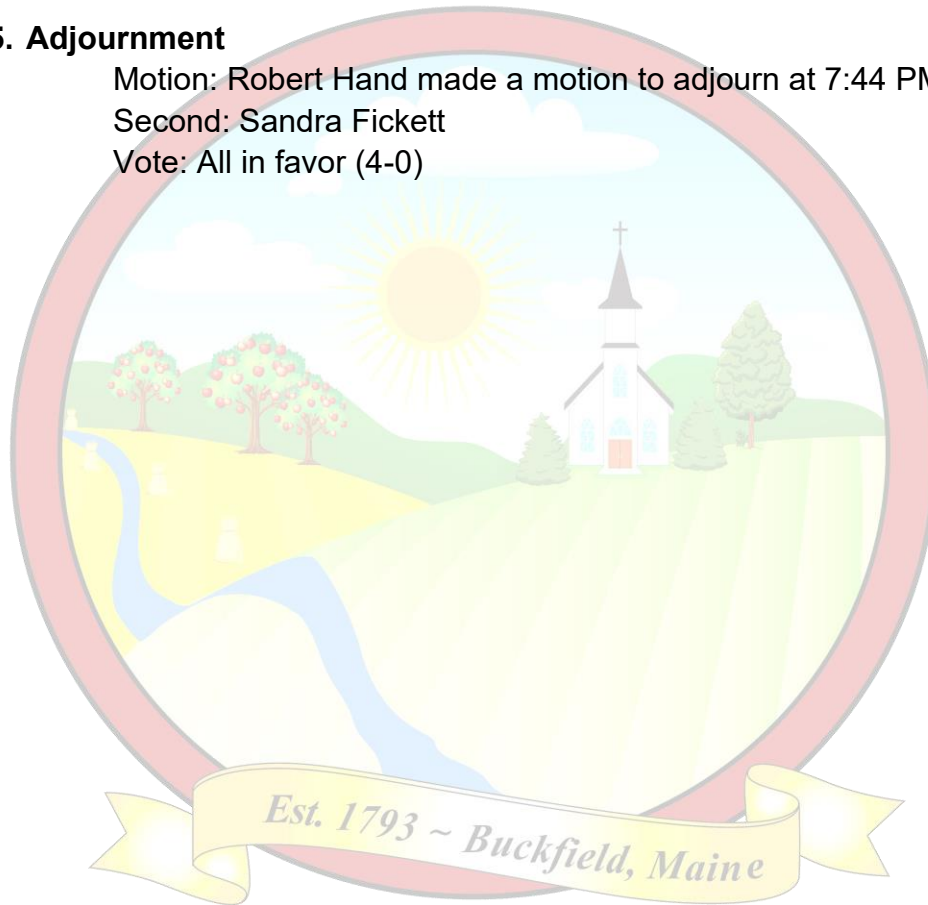
- Public Works cleaned and mowed three and a half acres behind ball fields for additional parking.
- Solid Waste: Buckfield and Sumner assessed \$29,333 for cash reserve; mattress disposal costs rising (\$30 each); wind fencing to be installed.
- Roland hired as Public Works driver, starting August 18.
- Roadwork updates: gravel added, brush cutting, ditching, culvert installation, equipment repairs.
- Rescue Department: 48 calls in July, 260 year-to-date; mutual aid provided and received; apparatus status updated.

15. Adjournment

Motion: Robert Hand made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 PM.

Second: Sandra Fickett

Vote: All in favor (4-0)



Minutes approved at the August 19, 2025, Select Board Meeting.