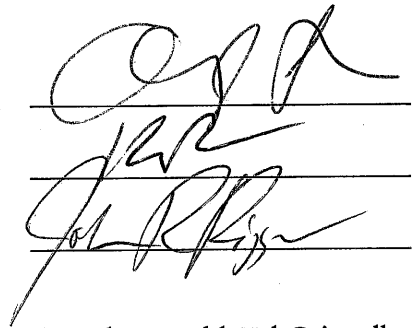


BUCKLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2015, 6:30 p.m.
Buckland Town Hall

Cheryl L. Dukes

Kevin P. Fox

John R. Riggan



Attendees: Cheryl L. Dukes, Kevin Fox, Rob Riggan, Diane Broncaccio, John Gould, Ed Grinnell, Jim Hicks, , Andrea Llamas, Brian McHugh, Linda Overing, John Ryan, Dino Schnelle, James Sullivan (Falls Cable), Guy Wheeler

Kevin opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

4. **Town Administrator Updates**

a. **DLTA Funds** – Andrea said the DLTA Funds ranking was submitted to the FRCOG. They will get back to us as to what we may be able to participate in.

b. **Personnel Committee Vacancy** – We need to fill the Personnel Committee vacancy. It will be put on the website. Finance Committee also has a vacancy. The Conservation Commission is reconstituting.

5. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** – None.

3. **Other Items**

a. **2016 Budget** – Andrea gave the Board their budget books. Andrea said I added a request for grounds work – need to cut back the plants by the HVAC unit. Also adding clearing the back hill where cars park. Today we got a new schedule of values from our insurance company. Change in our building values is pretty significant. Increased the property insurance line item by approximately \$3,000. Putting capital items together to set up a process of working on capital items. Do a chart for Stabilization and all would be listed. Kevin asked about the overall sheet – is the school an estimate? Andrea said I just put in a 2.5% increase for those budgets – the ones we have not yet received. Working on a funding chart. Decisions to be made on funding mechanisms. Andrea is meeting with the Finance Committee Chair tomorrow. Cheryl said at our last meeting we signed off on the Police grant. Andrea said we have not heard back on the grant. If it is funded, the Police budget will be adjusted.

Ed Grinnell entered the meeting at 6:38 p.m.. Diane Broncaccio entered the meeting at 6:39 p.m.. Chief Jim Hicks entered the meeting at 6:45 p.m..

Kevin said we have two Executive Sessions at the end of the meeting; after they are held, we will reconvene only to adjourn the meeting.

Appointments

6:45 p.m., Chief Hicks – Western Massachusetts Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement – Jim said he submitted the Mutual Aid Agreement. Rob said we have the Franklin County Mutual Aid Agreement. Why would we expand this; why is it necessary? Jim said towns like Goshen, Williamsburg signed on. It allows them to activate stuff; we might not always be on Route 112. It is just additional protection. I see a lot more off duty than on duty. They will not be setting up on

Route 112 and setting up radar. We can act if we see something. This covers us all. Rob said oversight belongs to the towns. This essentially gives that away; did not go through the selection process by the Board of Selectmen or you. We have lost our power of oversight as to who comes in and sees something going on. We have lost a lot of the small town power. Rob read parts of the proposed agreement. You are in another person's district. You are not obligated to inform the chief in that district. Franklin County does not use self-activation. This broadens police powers with minimal oversight, in effect, a regional police district. Jim said I trust those commissions to pick the right personnel. Rob said this is Franklin County. A lot of officers live in other towns. We have a sense of community here. Suddenly you are bringing in people from Berkshire county. Jim said they are just traveling through. Rob said we don't need to have four counties. In the community most of them know each other. Don't think it is our right to give away as much authority as this agreement does. We have no control over this. If UMASS had a riot, the burden of the cost would be on these towns. Jim said I am not going to send someone to UMASS for two weeks and eat the billing. Rob said it could go beyond your budget; you don't know. It should go to Annual Town Meeting for the Town to decide. The State Police have been a part of the structure for a long time. Kevin and Cheryl wanted more information. Bring back to our next meeting.

7:00 p.m., John Ryan – Joint Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015 CDBG Projects – Kevin opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.. Linda Overing said this is a follow-up to the December 15, 2014 Public Meeting in which we discussed four projects with the Towns of Colrain and Shelburne. We recommend five housing rehabilitation projects – two in Shelburne, two in Buckland, and one in Colrain. The Food Pantry is a priority to our communities, and a Request For Proposals is out. There are two infrastructure projects; one is North Street in Buckland which is quite an undertaking. Still need to engineer the retaining walls. Colrain is working on a project on Church Street. There are also the administrative costs. We are well below the norm.

The grant application is just shy of \$1million. There will be a walk-through of the lower end of North Street on Wednesday, January 21, 2015, at 1:00 p.m., with the residents; we will get their input. People who can not attend the walk-through can submit their concerns to Andrea Llamas at Buckland Town Hall.

Guy Wheeler, Shelburne Falls Water District, said you said the estimate is really close to what you can apply for. Can the Water District come up with money if they wanted to add something? John Ryan said water line improvement is budgeted at \$60,000, sewer is \$20,000. We have done that in the past. Guy said there are some things that should be changed. Cheryl said as long as it is open? Guy said, 'yes; basically a valve or two'.

Linda said we are going to go with the income survey we did last year. Andrea said it qualifies.

Brian McHugh, Construction Coordinator, Franklin County Housing Authority, said in the Fiscal Year 2014 grant, we have four applications that have been approved; five being processed, four on the waiting list for Buckland. There is still a need. Continue to chip away at it. These are given out in the form of a lien. When they transfer the property, it gets paid off. When the money gets paid back, it goes into the loan fund to be loaned out again. Buckland has \$74,000 in the program now.

Dino Schnelle, Food Pantry, said after two months of being in the basement of the Cowell Gym, we have signed up 95% of the participants for the life of the grant in the first three months. Our hope to reach a lot of people has come to fruition. We scheduled a resource advocate to be available once a month; there will also be a health care advocate. Have people from the Health Center come, too. There is an open house on January 24, 2015, at 11:00 a.m..

John Gould, resident of North Street, said I live on North Street. I am thrilled North Street is being considered as a project. What needs to be fixed? Andrea said water, sewer, infrastructure, repaving.

The North Street project will be done in four phases if we are fortunate enough to be funded. John Gould said during the last storm, we could watch the water flowing through my property. The drainage and storm drains need to be addressed.

Cheryl moved the Town of Buckland, the Board of Selectmen, hereby authorizes Kevin Fox, Chairman, to sign all CDBG documents requested for the 2015 application, and further, the Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes the Chairman to enter into the interlocal Agreements with Colrain and Shelburne for the 215 CDBG application; Rob seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. At 7:40 p.m., Kevin closed the Public Hearing.

At 7:40 p.m., took a break until 7:47 p.m..

Back to **Agenda Items**:

b. **Planning Economic Development** – Cheryl said the CEDS Committee is going through a five-year review. Talk to Mike McCusker if anything needs to be included. Kevin said the Economic Subcommittee of the Partnership – Mary Vilbon feels the Master Plan no longer reflects what we want. Rob said what is the future? What should we be looking at? Cheryl said there are a lot of things we should be looking at in a comprehensive way. Andrea will look at the plan and talk to Mary Vilbon. Rob said high speed internet is key. No future without it. Cheryl said we need to change our narrative as to what our strengths are.

c. **Special Town Meeting** – Andrea said not sure when this is in the works. Discussion about funding North Street. Chapter 90 funds approved. Do we want to use CDBG funds or keep match money for another part of the project? We would transfer about \$23,000; we could obligate it toward engineering North Street. Another item on the Special Town Meeting Warrant is the easement for Salmon Falls Marketplace property. Steve is providing Andrea with road layout maps for this. If it does not impede, we will go ahead. If it does, it will be a longer process. Andrea is checking to see what the process is that we have to go through. Possible third item may be heating for the Town Garage. It is quite pricy. Steve will estimate what he will need to cover the rest of the heating season. Will look for current funding. We might be scheduling a February 2015 meeting.

6. **Public Comment** – None.

7. **Volunteer Recognition** - The folks at the Food Pantry.

d. **Town Highway Facility Purchase (Possible Executive Session) under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, as open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town** – At 8:04 p.m., Kevin moved to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. ch. 30A, Sec. 21, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate, as an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town; Rob seconded. Kevin announced at the conclusion of Executive Session, we will go into the second Executive Session, and return to regular session only to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Kevin – yes, Cheryl – yes, Rob – yes. Went into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m..

Exited Executive Session at 8:38 p.m..

e. **Charlemont Road Properties (Possible Executive Session); Kevin moved to go into Executive Session, under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, to discuss strategy with respect to the litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares** – At 8:38 p.m., Kevin moved to go into Executive Session, under M.G.L. Ch. 30A, Section 21, to discuss strategy with respect to the litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the

chair so declares; Cheryl seconded. Kevin announced at the conclusion of Executive Session, we will return to regular session to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: Kevin – yes, Cheryl – yes, Rob – yes. Went into Executive Session at 8:38 p.m..

Exited Executive Session at 8:51 p.m..

Returned to regular session at 8:51 p.m..

At 8:51 a.m., Kevin moved to adjourn; Cheryl seconded. VOTED unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m..