

**BUCKLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Buckland Town Hall
January 26, 2016, 6:30 p.m.**

Kevin P. Fox

John R. Riggan

Dena G. Willmore



Attendees: Kevin Fox, Rob Riggan, Dena Willmore, Cathy Buntin, Ellen Eller, Dan Fleuriel, John Gould, Ellen Kaufmann, Donna Liebl, Margaret Olin, Linda Overing, Pam Parmakian, John Ryan, Joanne Soroka, James Sullivan (Falls Cable), Brian Summer, Eric Temple, Janna Tetreault, Martha Thurber

Mr. Riggan opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m..

Appointments

6:30 p.m., Public Meeting Re: CDBG North Street Phase II Application - 6:45 p.m., Public Hearing, John Ryan and Linda Overing – Fiscal Year 2016 Projects for CDBG Application –

Rob Riggan opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m.. Linda Overing said we are here to report on the regional application for a CDBG. She said Shelburne is the lead community and will be responsible for contracting and payment of bills. It will include a housing rehabilitation component, a continuation of the Food Pantry as well as the North Street Project, Phase II. Linda distributed a budget summary for the grant application and a breakdown of funding by Town.

The North Street Phase II project area will run from south of the railroad trestle north for approximately 1,000 LF, ending at the hydrant near the end of the existing sidewalk. It is estimated to cost \$668,500 which includes engineering, oversight, and a 10% contingency. Buckland will contribute \$19,500 to the project (\$12,500 CDBG construction appropriation, \$5,000 CDBG engineer appropriation and \$2,000 sewer enterprise fund).

Pam Parmakian, Franklin Country Regional Housing & Redevelopment Association, said the housing rehabilitation offers deferred interest free loans to low and moderate income homeowners. She said Buckland has eleven units on the wait list; Buckland obviously has a very strong need for the program.

Janna Tetreault, Community Action, asked for the Board's support to continue the work of the Food Pantry. Their goal was to serve 60 Buckland residents and have exceeded it as they are serving 80 Buckland resident this year. She said they distributed 42,000 pounds of food, 23% was produce. She said the goal is to provide 17 meals per household per month.

A North Street Project Phase II project area resident asked when Phase I will start. Linda reported that bids were to be opened this Thursday (1/28) and construction would start sometime between April and June and take at least four months.

Mr. Riggan closed the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m.

Kevin Fox moved to approve the FY16 CDBG application as presented for the reconstruction of North Street, Phase II in Buckland as well as continuation of the Three-Town Housing Rehabilitation Program and support of the West County Emergency Food Pantry; Dena Willmore

seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Kevin Fox moved to authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign all FY16 CDBG application related documents; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

John Gould, Linda Overing, Pam Parmakian, John Ryan, and Janna Tetreault left the meeting at 6:57 p.m.. Martha Thurber entered the meeting at 7:09 p.m..

7:00 p.m. Cathy Buntin, Senior Center – Cathy Buntin said she wanted to give an update as to what's new at the Senior Center. She said regarding the expansion project, there is a sharp rise in the upper aged population. The current space is not meeting the needs, i.e., there is no space for private meetings. Looking at a timeline, what could the towns bear, fundraising efforts, saving for capital project, and setting a goal. She said it comes down to the dollar factor. Ellen Eller said Buckland has seen an increase in use. People call for transportation, fuel assistance, and other needs. Ellen Eller said we are in a brainstorming mode. Eric Temple said we are trying to get a third van. I will be one of the spare drivers. Kevin Fox said there is only one toilet, one bathroom. Donna Liebl said we are probably the most active Senior Center in the area.

Cathy Buntin, Ellen Eller, Donna Liebl, Joanne Soroka, and Eric Temple left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.. Dan Fleuriel entered the meeting at 7:20 p.m..

Rob Riggan recognized Martha Thurber from the audience. Martha Thurber said I am here because Rob Riggan spoke to the Superintendent of Schools about the budget. There is a steering committee to maximize revenues. Martha Thurber said she intends to introduce this motion tomorrow night: *I move that the MTRSD School Committee create an ad hoc Strategic Plan Steering Committee to oversee the development and implementation of a 3 to 5 year strategic plan intended to facilitate the long-term financial viability of the District by enhancing education programs and improving educational outcomes for our students; controlling costs and assessments to member Towns; and maximizing revenue opportunities.* She said she wanted to involve as many constituencies as possible: 14 members – a representative from each Town, three school representatives, a representative from the Hawlemont District, teachers union, the Superintendent. These people would form sub-groups in their interest – transportation, economics, etc.. All meetings will be open to the public; a plan to communicate with the committees. There is no perceived outcome that comes with this. Trying to get something to our communities so we can take some action. We are overbuilt and have declining student population. Everything is on the table. Think about whom would be the Buckland representative on the committee. Kevin Fox said it is vital people come in with an open mind. Martha Thurber said we will hear everyone. Leverage some of the work the long-range planning committee already did. Martha Thurber left the meeting at 7:31 p.m..

2. Documents to Sign

- a. **Selectmen Meeting Minutes – December 31, 2015** – Kevin Fox moved to approve the Meeting Minutes; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.
- b. **CDBG Inter Local Agreement** – Signed by Rob Riggan.

3. Agenda Items

- a. **Highway Department Position (Retirement)** – Kevin Fox said given the budget uncertainties, I think we should hold off on advertising as I would hate to hire someone and then lay them off in July. Dena Willmore said we are over the levy limit but not by that much; there is no hurry. Rob Riggan said we should know for sure by Annual Town Meeting. Agreed to hold off advertising.
- d. **FEMA Small Project Appeal** – Kevin Fox said we are trying to wrap up what happened five years ago. We have had no response to Andrea Llamas's latest email. He said I got no answers from Bruce Sherwood, and I left message for Lorraine Eddy (MEMA) with no response. We need to get Senator Warren's office involved – again. Rob Riggan suggested contacting Congressman Neal, too. Ask Andrea Llamas to arrange one day that all three Select Board members can meet

with both Senator Warren and Congressman Neal's offices. Kevin Fox added we are allowed to roll over for ten years; we rolled them over for five. We need to bring down the principal as recommended by the DOR.

7:30 p.m., Shelburne Sewer Commissioners – No show. Regarding the Sewer By-Laws, Dena Willmore questioned the fine of \$20.00/day for violations. Dan Fleuriel said it could add up if more than one day, and there were very few circumstances the fine was imposed. Dena Willmore felt there should be more restrictions as to what can be flushed into the sewer system. Dan Fleuriel left the meeting at 7:43 p.m..

8:00 p.m. Energy Committee – Solarize Bonus Proceeds – Ellen Kaufmann said money came to us via Direct Solar Energy. They promised for every system built, they would give \$150 for each system. Our money has been in the Solarize account that we have been using for expenses. The money should go toward renewable energy and conservation. Some of our ideas: Mass Save Program for some of their programs that don't come free (insulation, deep retrofit), funding workshops on renewable energy. We would like to survey people who have contracts. Rob Riggan said it's about \$5,750.00. Kevin Fox said you have to set up another account, maybe an Energy Committee donation account.

Ellen Kaufmann, Margaret Olin, and Brian Summer left the meeting at 8:00 p.m..

- b. **Cultural Council – Change of Term Request; Cultural Council Appointment** – Janice Sorensen, Chair, looked into terms – we presently appoint three two-year appointments; she feels it is better to appoint two three-year terms as recommended by the State. The Board agreed. Kevin moved to appoint Sarah Neelon to the Cultural Council for a three year term; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.
 - c. **Highway Facility Project Management Discussion** – Rob Riggan said we should think about an engineering study. Also have an advisory group with skilled local people. Dena Willmore said we need a professional project manager. Rob Riggan said the Board will be the Building Committee. We can have an advisory *ad hoc* group who will come back to the Building Committee with their ideas. Check with Andrea Llamas. Kevin Fox said it should be a workable group – seven members? Bring back to the second February meeting.
4. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** – Village light fixtures – Sherry said Andrea spoke about approaching vendors at the MMA Conference regarding fixing the light fixtures that are chronically not working.
 5. **Public Comment** – None.
 6. **Volunteer Recognition** – The Energy Committee.
 7. **Announcements** – License your dogs; rabies clinic Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – noon, at the Shelburne Falls Veterinary Clinic.

At 8:45 p.m., Dena Willmore moved to adjourn the meeting; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m..