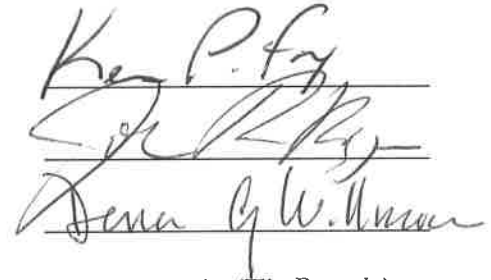


**BUCKLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Buckland Town Hall
March 28, 2017, 5:30 p.m.**

Kevin P. Fox

John R. Riggan

Dena G. Willmore



Attendees: Kevin Fox, Rob Riggan, Dena Willmore, Karen Blom, Diane Broncaccio (*The Recorder*), Ed Grinnell, Lynne Kelsey, Carmela Lanza-Weil (GSFABA), Andrea Llamas, Linda Overing (Breezeway Consulting), Megan Rhodes (FRCOG), James Sullivan (Falls Cable), Martha Thurber

Rob Riggan opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m..

1. Appointments

5:30 p.m., Davin Ojala – Nuisance Dog Hearing – Dena Willmore moved to open the Dog Hearing at 5:30 p.m.; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Rob Riggan swore in Ed Grinnell, Animal Control Officer. Davin Ojala was not present at the Hearing. Ed Grinnell indicated there were continued violations with Murray, dog owned by Davin Ojala. There was a complaint on March 6, 2017, of two dogs roaming; Mrs. Ojala came to the door, rescued the child at the door, and never returned. Ed Grinnell taped a violation ticket to the door; they acknowledged receipt of the ticket; it remains unpaid. On March 7, 2017, Murray was in the neighborhood again, checking out the neighbor's chicken coop. On March 12, 2017, Murray was on the neighbor's back porch, barking at 11:00 p.m.. On March 13, 2017, Murray was loose in the neighborhood (two callers). On March 26, 2017, Murray in two neighbor's yards; calls at 1:00 p.m. and 1:10 p.m.. Mrs. Ojala insisted the dog was at home. Kevin Fox indicated Davin Ojala said he was going to install an invisible fence at a prior Dog Hearing; this has not been done. Dena Willmore moved to close the Public Hearing; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Rob Riggan moved that pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 140, Section 157, and based on the facts stated in this Public Hearing, including testimony of the Animal Control Officer, the complaints by neighbors and residents of Murray running loose on private property and barking; and the fact that this is the second Hearing regarding these complaints, that the Board of Selectmen find Murray to be a nuisance dog due to excessive barking and causing interference a reasonable person would find to be disruptive to one's quiet and peaceful enjoyment. Further I move that the owner take remedial action to ameliorate the cause of these nuisance behaviors, and that upon further complaints, the Board of Selectmen authorize the Animal Control Officer to take further enforcement actions, including, but not limited to the seizure of the dog; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

Ed Grinnell left the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

5:45 p.m., Linda Overing, Breezeway Consulting, Megan Rhodes, FRCOG – Village Downtown Study – Linda Overing spoke about a possible Slum and Blight designation per HUD description which would allow Buckland and Shelburne to apply for CDBG funding opportunities such as downtown parking, streetscape, handicap accessibility. No guarantee we will qualify for the designation. Megan Rhodes, FRCOG, said FRCOG will conduct the study this spring. FRCOG staff will evaluate each parcel in the study area; look at levels of deterioration. Public infrastructure will be evaluated. Public Meeting on April 5, 2017, 6:30 p.m., at the Village Information Center. Will come back with analysis in June; Board could agree that it fits the definition of Slum and Blight (downtown study area).

Linda Overing and Megan Rhodes left the meeting at 5:56 p.m..

2. Documents to Sign

- a. Selectmen Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2017 – Dena moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2017; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.
- b. Use of Town Hall – Democratic Caucus and Democratic Town Committee – Kevin moved to approve that; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

Karen Blom entered the meeting at 5:59 p.m.. Martha Thurber entered the meeting at 6:02 p.m..

6:00 p.m., Finance Committee – FY2018 Town Budget – Kevin Fox moved we request the Assessors to release any excess Overlay; Rob Riggan seconded. Discussion about Overlay as a revenue source as we are above the levy limit. Discussion about unanticipated Smith Voke costs. Discussion about Highway Garage study line item. Discussion about Senior Center capital request; suggested we use the money designated for Highway Garage study line item and to fund the Senior Center capital request. Kevin Fox suggested cutting Reserve Fund by \$10,000 as we have only spent \$1,000 so far. Winter Roads still a concern - currently at negative \$33,799. Kevin Fox felt that \$10,000 below the levy limit is a precarious place to be.

3. Agenda Items

b. Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Discussion about changes to the Zoning By-Laws being on the warrant. Discussion about the Rowe amendment; waiting for response from DESE; there is a change and we may have to re-vote. Martha Thurber indicated Heath has three issues - regional school amendment; tuition agreement between Mohawk and Hawlemont; memorandum of understanding or a lease buy-out agreement. Martha Thurber explained Heath is concerned about paying more money to close a school than to keep a school open; negotiations are still on-going. Discussion about having a Special Town Meeting for the Rowe vote by June 30, 2017; can cover Winter Roads, too.

Karen Blom and Carmela Lanza-Weil left the meeting at 6:22 p.m..

- a. School Committee Appointment – Kevin Fox moved we appoint David Parrella to the School Committee to fill out an unexpired term through June 30, 2017; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

6:30 p.m., Sewer Commissioner's Meeting – Dena Willmore moved to open the Sewer Commissioner's Meeting at 6:41 p.m.; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Kevin Fox moved we set the 2018 Sewer Rate at \$.0536 per cubic foot; Dena Willmore seconded. Kevin Fox moved we grant the abatements as listed on this March 22, 2017 Sewer Commissioner's document; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Kevin Fox moved to sign the Sewer Commissioner's Warrant to the Tax Collector for Sewer User charges; Dena Willmore seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. At 6:36 p.m., Rob Riggan moved to close the Sewer Commissioner's Meeting; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor.

At 6:36 p.m., took a five-minute recess.

Lynne Kelsey entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.. Meeting resumed at 6:42 p.m..

- c. Conway 250th Parade – Request by Conway to See if Buckland Wants to Have a Presence in Parade – Will see if Fire District is interested.
 - d. Zip Code – U.S. Post Office – Table to April 25, 2017 meeting.
- ## 4. Town Administrator Updates – Woodlands Partnership – Andrea Llamas sent a copy of the Town's letter of support to the Board. Tax Collector/Treasurer Software – Initial license agreement

needs to be signed. \$4,000 for the initial purchase; send to Finance Committee for Reserve Fund request.

5. **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting** –

Appointment of Camp Director – Kevin Fox expressed concern about hourly rate being offered. Andrea Llamas indicated they are unbenefited positions. Dena Willmore moved that we accept the recommendations of the Rec Committee to hire Raelene Lemoine and Stephanie Coutu as the Director and Assistant Director of Mohawk Summer Camp; Rob Riggan seconded. Dena Willmore – yes, Rob Riggan – yes, Kevin Fox – no. Rec Committee working on recommended pay rate.

6. **Public Comment** – Lynne Kelsey said many districts are running into huge cuts. Asked about Superintendent’s contract – expiration date? Kevin Fox said he thought it is a five-year contract, and they are in negotiations. Kevin Fox suggested talking to the School Committee. Building Committee – Dena Willmore reported they had their first meeting.

e. Possible Executive Session – under M.G.L. c30A, Section 21, 2 – To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Administrator’s Contract – At 7:11 p.m., Rob Riggan moved to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. c30A, Section 21, 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Administrator’s Contract; Dena Willmore seconded.

Roll Call: Kevin Fox – yes, Rob Riggan – yes, Dena Willmore – yes.

Rob Riggan announced we would reconvene in public session to go into a second Executive Session, and reconvene in public session only to adjourn the meeting.

Exited Executive Session at 7:35 p.m..

Dena Willmore moved to adjourn the meeting; Kevin Fox seconded. **VOTED** unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m..