

**BUCKSPORT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
MEETING
6:00 P.M., SEPTEMBER 14, 2015
JEWETT SCHOOL CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by Chairman Jef Fitzgerald
2. Members Present: Michael Ormsby, Mary Jane Bush, Mark Eastman, Valerie Shaffner, Hans Krichels, Christopher Johnson, Sandra Robshaw, Larry Wahl, David Grant
Staff Present: Jef Fitzgerald, Jeff Hammond, Kathy Downes, Craig Bowden.

HCPC Representative: Tom Martin

3. Chairman's Report:
 - a. Town Manager Susan Lessard would like to come. She has not had a chance to be involved in the process. The council needs to make decision on who should be appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, as well as perhaps appoint two Councilors to attend or monitor.
4. Public Facilities and Services
 - a. Fire Department Chief Craig Bowden addressed the Committee
 - i. Chief Bowden discussed the possibility of a fire substation in the rural Bucksport area. Insurance rates are determined by the distance of fire apparatus in buildings to residences in the surrounding area. Currently, Bucksport ISO ratings are Class 5 in village compact area, Class 9 up to five miles from the station and Class 10 over five miles from any station, including those of other towns with a mutual aid agreement. A local insurance agent says that homeowner rates almost double in Class 10 rating areas over Class 9 areas. The only current way to change the 10 rating to 9 is by locating a fire station within five miles. A substation in Millvale would cover most remaining parts of Bucksport not yet in Class 9 areas. A substation could use equipment that the town already owns and could be staffed by "on call" personnel. The \$100,000 estimated price tag for this facility could be recovered by homeowners in insurance rate savings in about a year. The primary benefit however, would be a shorter response time and increased safety for this service area.
 - ii. The Chief also discussed the increase time spent on meeting various Federal and State requirements in training and equipment. NFPA, OSHA, and the Department of Labor all have increasing stringent demands on staff and budget.

- iii. Bucksport Fire Department is involved in safety programs such as “Safety Works”, and the “Shape” program. New programs are driving requirements for training.
- iv. Mutual aid agreements are in place with surrounding towns as well as with Hancock County. BFD is looking into tri-county mutual aid.
- v. The budget (other than salaries) has been stagnant over the last 25 years. Trucks are usually kept for 30 years and ambulances are replaced after 4 years.
- vi. Forestland fire issues are managed along with the Maine Forest Service. Trees downed by storms offer the greatest potential for forest fire issues. The Chief does a “fly over” every three years with the Maine Forest Service.
- vii. Other issues related to Department responsibilities include Search and Rescue, EMS, and Emergency Planning. EMS is a large part of man hours expended. 900 EMS calls to 200 Fire Rescue calls.
- viii. Staffing remains an issue. Full time staff is not adequate. Comparable departments have many more staff hours budgeted. The mill closure may affect the number of members available on the force.

5. Marine Resources Chapter Seven

- a. Tom Martin: Who monitors Marine Water Quality?
- b. Mike Ormsby addressed the Committee with observations from his experience from employment on the Penobscot River/Bay. His comments included:
 - i. The LOBO tests are no longer being used.
 - ii. UMO and UNH have been active in testing river and bay waters in the past
 - iii. The fisheries closure (Orrington plant effects) by the State has eliminated all commercial fish landings in Bucksport.
 - iv. The science is suspect on the closings.
- c. Mary Jane Bush asked that a copy of the State report be referenced in the final Comprehensive Plan.
- d. The Bucksport Marina needs dredging as a result of River currents and sunken sawdust reefs.
- e. Parking close to the Marina is requested by marina customers.
- f. Customer base is increasing – Services and supplies are viewed as reasonably priced.

- g. Work had started to improve Verona Island launch ramp. Realignment to improve access was started, but money ran out before a float system could be installed.
- h. A day marker should be placed along the Bucksport shore to mark a potential hazard. (area across from the hotel)
- i. Chris Johnson disagreed with Mike Ormsby on his assessment of the effects of the State decision on the Orrington mercury issue.
- j. Mike Ormsby: The area around the mill site is a “gold mine” of opportunity.
- k. Hans Krichels: So who’s going to monitor water quality from the mill site once demolition is complete?
- l. The Committee discussed the Native American Water Management legal action against the State of Maine.

6. Adjournment

It was motioned by Kathy Downes, seconded by David Grant, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Johnson
Recording Secretary