

**BUCKSPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M., THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019**  
**TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS – BUCKSPORT TOWN OFFICE**  
**MINUTES**

**1. Call Meeting To Order**

*Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.*

**2. Roll Call**

*Councilor's Present: Mark Eastman, Paul Bissonnette, David Kee, Peter Stewart, Daniel Ormsby, Paul Gauvin, Robert Carmichael, Jr.*

*Councilor's Absent: None.*

**3. Presentation of any Town Council Recognitions - None.**

**4. Consider minutes of previous meetings**

- a. Town Council Minutes 6/13/19
- b. Town Council Minutes 8/11/16
- c. Town Council Minutes 4/2/15
- d. Town Council Minutes 4/9/15
- e. Town Council Minutes 4/16/15
- f. Town Council Minutes 4/30/15
- g. Town Council Minutes 5/14/15

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Bissonnette seconded to approve the above listed Town Council minutes. **Motion Passed 7-0***

**5. Receive and review correspondence and documents**

- a. Downeast Transportation Ridership Report – May 2019 - *Noted.*

**6. Ordinances to Consider/Introduce**

- a. Second Reading – Appendix K, Sections 8.53, 13.4, 13.15.8.2, 15.5.1, and 11.6

*Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Hammond approached the Council and explained various revisions to Appendix K of the Town Code that include school listing corrections, changing the size of parking spaces, adding criterion for the accessibility to properties, and deleting redundant portions that are already listed in the schedule of fees.*

**7. Discussion Items (Manager Clarification and Direction, or Council Discussion and/or Input on Issues)**

- a. Single Use Plastic Bag Committee Report

*Nancy Minnot, Donald White, Zoey Seigel, Lilly Therrien, and David Weeda all approached the Council on behalf of the group of citizens looking to ban single use plastic bags in Bucksport. They explained that Governor Mills has signed a bill into law that bans single use plastic bags statewide. They further detailed some of the topics that they covered and learned*

*throughout their year of work. The group thanked the Council for their time and encouraged all in attendance to help better our environment.*

b. Tim Emery Municipal Pool Condition & Options

*Town Manager Lessard brought to the Council's attention an issue pertaining to the Tim Emery Municipal Pool. It has become evident that the pool is losing a substantial amount of water each day. She explained that this issue was known prior to this year, and has in the past been manageable. When the pool was filled this year, there were issues uncovered unrelated to a leak such as structural failures. For many years the town has performed maintenance to try and address the complications, but Town Manager Lessard reminded the Council that the pool was built in the 1950's. She further stated that due to these issues, the pool will not be opening this year.*

*Economic Development Director Rich Rotella explained that the town has a Safety Committee who inspected the pool last fall. When they inspected the pool then these issues weren't present. They didn't happen until water was put into the pool. Mr. Rotella commended Nick Tymoczko, Operations Director of the Bucksport YMCA, and Peter Farragher, CEO of the Downeast Family YMCA, for their quick work in finding an immediate solution for swimming lessons for children.*

*Mr. Farragher explained to the Council that it would cost roughly \$150-\$200k to replace the pool.*

*It was explained that residents will be able to use Craig's Pond as lifeguards from Bucksport will be posted there. The town will be unable to bus individuals to this space due to liability issues.*

*Jean Mercer stated that she worked at the swimming pool for six years and the town has benefitted greatly having this pool. She would like to see an indoor pool but is unsure if the town could sustain it.*

*Renee Poloskis stated that her family moved here in 2005. During the summer months, her family uses the pool almost daily. She stated that having an indoor municipal pool would be beneficial for everyone and that membership could pay for the pool. She further stated that it would give residents something to do during the winter.*

*Matt Polaskis stated that there is a cost to opening and closing an outdoor pool each year. He explained that once an indoor pool is up and running, it's more easily sustained. He stated that an indoor pool would drive people to our community.*

*Ashton Gourley stated that his daughter participates regularly in the YMCA programs and that the pool needs to be replaced, whether it be indoor or outdoor.*

*Katy Eberhardt stated that the pool need to be rebuilt, and that the community needs to be involved in the decision.*

*Councilor Kee stated that an indoor pool would impact the entire community and has a broad appeal. He further stated that the town has money in the reserves which would help offset the cost.*

*Councilor Carmichael stated that the town needs to receive estimates as to how much it would cost to rebuild the pool as it is and to how much it would cost to build an indoor pool.*

*Town Manager Lessard dealt with this first-hand in 1994 when she was the Town Manager for the Town of Hampden. At that time, the cost of building an indoor municipal pool was \$1 million. The annual operations cost was close to \$400k per year. Town Manager Lessard stated that it's not just a matter of heating the building, the water has to be heated as well, and the building has to be staffed. She argued that there's not a recreational pool anywhere that can pay for itself without additional facilities such as fitness centers and programs. She stated that if an indoor pool is built, there's no way not to add significant annual tax dollar costs to the community.*

*Councilor Carmichael questioned whether or not there are still children in the community who walk to the pool.*

*Councilor Bissonnette stated that bringing kids to the pool via automobile is more common now than when he was younger. He further stated that the municipal pool in Bucksport is a large part of the community. Councilor Bissonnette stated that he is firmly in favor of replacing the town pool.*

*Councilor Gauvin stated that \$200k seemed much more feasible than \$1 million. Councilor Gauvin would also vote today to start construction on rebuilding the pool.*

*Councilor Eastman questioned whether or not there is any option in allowing swimming on Silver Lake.*

*Town Manager Lessard stated that there seems to be consensus among the Council to look into options for a new pool – whether it be indoor or outdoor. She stated that the cost of building an indoor pool is easier to quantify in a short space of time due to various communities around us currently undertaking such a project. The cost for rebuilding the current pool will take more time to gather.*

*Mayor Stewart stated that indoor pool isn't feasible and that residents have enough options locally.*

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Ormsby seconded to authorize Town Manager Lessard to obtain a Request for Proposal for rebuilding the pool. **Motion Passed 7-0***

c. Report on Green Lawsuit Status

*Town Manager Lessard explained that she spent all of Tuesday in Superior Court for the*

*Green Lawsuit. The judge has allowed both sides three weeks to submit a five page post hearing brief.*

d. Infrastructure/Economic Development Committee Update

*Councilor Eastman stated that the Economic Development Committee went over a TIF proposal submitted by Whole Oceans.*

*Councilor Carmichael stated that the Infrastructure Committee discussed a connect project request to Silver Lake Trails, to which the committee recommended to the Council to do. The committee also discussed a request for more cigarette disposal receptacles on Main Street. Town Manager Lessard will be looking into what actions to take in regards to signage and communication to the public.*

8. **Agenda Items**

- a. To approve Resolve 2019-58 to set the mil rate for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year (reported by Assessor Jef Fitzgerald)

*Tax Assessor Jef Fitzgerald discussed the mil rate for the 2019-20 Fiscal Year, which will remain unchanged.*

*Paul Rabbs questioned whether or not the property that Maine Maritime Academy has purchased will be tax exempt, to which Assessor Fitzgerald felt that it will be.*

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Bissonnette seconded to approve Resolve 2019-58.  
**Motion Passed 7-0***

- b. To approve Resolve 2019-59 3 Year Labor Contracts for Police, Fire & Public Works

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Eastman seconded to approve Resolve 2019-59.  
**Motion Passed 7-0***

- c. To approve Resolve 2019-60 to approve Gas/Diesel bid for 2019-20

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Eastman seconded to approve Resolve 2019-60.  
**Motion Passed 7-0***

9. **Resignations, Appointments, Assignments, and Elections - None.**

10. **Approval of Quit Claims, Discharges, and Deeds - None.**

11. **Town Manager Report**

*The Town Manager's Report is attached hereto and therefore made a part of these minutes.*

12. **Set Public Hearings, and/or Hold Public Hearings and Approval of any Licenses or Permits**

- a. Public Hearing – Appendix K, Sections 8.53, 13.4, 13.15, 8.2, 15.5.1 and 11.6

*Mayor Stewart opened the public hearing at 8:19 p.m. and with no discussion closed the public hearing at 8:19 p.m. Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Carmichael seconded to approve the revisions of Appendix K of the Town Code with the removal of section 11.6.3.*

***Motion Passed 7-0***

- b. Liquor License Renewal – Northeast Historic Film d/b/a The Alamo Theater – 85 Main Street

*Councilor Ormsby moved and Councilor Gauvin seconded to approve the liquor license renewal for Northeast Historic Films d/b/a The Alamo Theatre. **Motion Passed 7-0***

- c. Set Public Hearing Date – Whole Oceans TIF - July 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

### **13. Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda for Council and Public**

*Economic Development Director Rich Rotella updated the Council on the fence on Route 1. He stated that the old fence is taken down and the new one has been put up. He also stated that Ian's Playground has new woodchips. He also told the Council that Bucksport hosted the Maine Port Authority Meeting and it went well.*

*Councilor Carmichael brought up the use of solar arrays and LED streetlights. He felt that the Council needs to continue to think about other ways that we can use solar arrays to help reduce our costs.*

*Town Manager Lessard stated the fire chief process is underway but is taking a little bit longer than originally anticipated.*

### **14. Upcoming Public Hearings, Designation of Topics for Committee Assignment, and Scheduling of Committee Meeting**

- a. Set Services Committee Meeting for 7-11-19 to discuss Memorandum of Understanding with Bucksport Bay Healthy Community Coalition – July 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- b. Set Regulatory Review Committee meeting for 7-11-19 to discuss Fees Ordinance – July 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

### **15. Executive Session Pursuant to MRSA Title 1 §405 (6)(D) Labor Contracts**

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Carmichael seconded to enter into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss labor contracts for Police, Fire, and Public Works. **Motion Passed 7-0***

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Eastman seconded to re-enter into regular session at 8:35 p.m. **Motion Passed 7-0***

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Eastman seconded to approve Resolve 2019-59. **Motion Passed 7-0***

### **16. Adjournment**

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Ormsby seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.  
Motion Passed 7-0*

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Jacob R. Gran, Town Clerk*