

BUCKSPORT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 P.M., THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 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

Councilors Present: Mark Eastman, Paul Bissonnette, David Kee, Peter Stewart, Daniel Ormsby, Paul Gauvin, Robert Carmichael, Jr.

Councilors Absent: None

3. Presentation of any Town Council Recognitions

- a. Service Recognition – Kathy L. Downes

Town Manager Lessard and the Town Council thanked former Town Clerk Kathy L. Downes for her over 26 years of service to the town of Bucksport. The town's Poet Laureate, Pat Ranzoni, also recited a poem in honor of Kathy.

4. Consider minutes of previous meetings

- a. Town Council Minutes 4-4-19
b. Infrastructure Committee Minutes 2-28-19

Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Ormsby seconded to approve the minutes from the April 4th Town Council meeting, and the February 28th Infrastructure Committee meeting.
Motion Passed 7-0.

5. Receive and review correspondence and documents

- a. American Red Cross – Thank you

Noted.

- b. Police Call to Verona – 3-28-19

Noted.

6. Ordinances to Consider/Introduce

- a. First Reading – Article 4, Weight Limits & Restrictions
b. First Reading – Council Rules Update
c. First Reading – Proposed Charter Change - Attendance

All of the above items were tabled by the Regulatory Review Committee until the meeting on April 25th.

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

a. Plastic Bag Group – Update and Information

Resident Nancy Minott approached the Council and requested that the town of Bucksport consider banning single-use plastic bags. She explained that a group of citizens had joined together in support of the ban and have been meeting regularly. She showed the Council a preview of the documentary, “Bag It The Movie: Is Your Life Too Plastic?” Ms. Minnott closed her presentation by inviting the members of the Town Council and those in attendance to the group’s next meeting on April 29th at 4:00 p.m. in the Bucksport Bay Area Chamber of Commerce meeting space.

b. Regulatory Review Committee Update

Tabled.

c. Town Manager Annual Evaluation – 4-25-19

Town Manager Lessard provided evaluation paperwork to the Town Council, which upon completion is to be delivered to Mayor Stewart. Mayor Stewart requested that he have the evaluations back by April 22nd. The Council will review the evaluations with Town Manager Lessard in executive session at the April 25th meeting.

8. **Agenda Items**

a. To approve Resolve 2019-43 to commit sewer user charges for the period January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019 in the amount of \$193,842.18

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Carmichael seconded to approve Resolve 2019-43. **Motion Passed 7-0.***

9. **Resignations, Appointments, Assignments, and Elections**

None at this time.

10. **Approval of Quit Claims, Discharges, and Deeds**

- a. Hasenbank, David – Map 39 Lot 16 – Real Estate Tax
- b. Cation, Nancy – Map 31, Lot 66 – Sewer
- c. Howard, Darrell – Map 33 Lot 6 – Sewer
- d. Howard, Darrell – Map 33 Lot 5 – Real Estate Tax
- e. Greenlaw, Eva (Heirs of)-Map 13 Lot 37 – Real Estate Tax
- f. Ireland, Alice – Map 13 Lot 36-1 – Real Estate Tax
- g. Appleby, David – Map 47 Lot 12 – Real Estate Tax

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Carmichael seconded to approve the above listed Quitclaim Deeds. **Motion Passed 7-0.***

11. Town Manager Report

The Town Manager's report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

- a. Department Head Reports – March

Noted.

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

- a. Main Street Bucksport – Use of Town Dock Parking Lot 7/29/19

This item was passed over as it was approved at a previous meeting.

- b. Gazebo Event – Balloon Release 5-9-19

Town Manager Lessard explained to the Council that she had received a request to hold a balloon release memorial ceremony at the town gazebo. The Council expressed concern in the releasing of balloons in that it's harmful to the environment. The Council gave their approval for a memorial ceremony excluding the release of balloons.

- c. Pole Permit –Town Farm/Silver Lake Road

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Carmichael seconded to approve the pole permit for the Town Farm/Silver Lake roads. **Motion Passed 7-0.***

Doug Knoblock and Val Shaffner approached the Council on behalf of the Buck Memorial Library. The Library is planning on doing a story walk on the walking path in the same manner as last year, to which the Council gave their permission.

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

Resident Stacy Leafsong approached the Council and requested that the town of Bucksport organize an organic lawn and land care ordinance banning synthetic pesticides. Mayor Stewart urged Ms. Leafsong to attend the next Regulatory Review Committee meeting. Town Manager Lessard told the Council that she had suggested to Ms. Leafsong that she come before the Council to receive their input.

Councilor Carmichael posed an inquiry to Town Manager Lessard questioning where the town stood in regards to solar panels. Town Manager Lessard explained that they are moving forward with having the area at the Sewer Treatment Plant scanned to determine if there are any remains. Town Manager Lessard also explained that she had contacted the Maine Department of Environmental Protection Behind in regards to the landfill behind the town garage. D.E.P. advised that the landfill would be eligible to use as a potential solar array location.

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

None at this time.

15. Budget Review

a. Police

Mayor Stewart pointed out to Chief Sean Geagan that the town has been budgeting far more than they have been spending in various accounts over the years and questioned whether or not they could budget less, specifically for training. Chief Geagan expressed concern with this as budgeting what they have in the past allows those on the department to have various specialized training of their choice. He also stated that there's more mandatory training coming out in the near future.

Chief Geagan stated that the department has two individuals going to the police academy this year. Their training will commence on July 29. Upon the completion of their training, the department will be fully staffed.

Councilor Bissonnette questioned whether or not Chief Geagan was committing more hours to animal control. Chief Geagan advised that the town's animal control officer is also a full time dispatcher, and that he has to be paid for the extra hours that he works as ACO.

Resident Jim Morrison approached the Council and inquired where funds go at the end of the year if they aren't used. Town Manager Lessard advised that they go back into the undesignated fund balance. The Council then appropriates that money to reduce the amount of taxation.

b. Dispatch

Town Manager Lessard explained that the primary increase for dispatch was due to the 3% cost of living increase.

c. Fire

Town Manager Lessard again explained that some of the increase for fire was due to a 3% cost of living increase as well as merit raises.

Mayor Stewart further stated that several line items in the fire budget have had funds that consistently haven't been used.

An extensive conversation was held in regards to comp time and the amount of hours that firefighters work. Mayor Stewart expressed concern with the way that the funds for comp hours were noted in the budget. Town Manager Lessard stated that she would update this and bring it back to the Council.

d. Ambulance

Councilor Gauvin inquired as to whether or not the same people are getting paid on the ambulance side as well as the fire side. Captain Connor responded that the payroll on the ambulance side goes to the on-call people after the first call comes in.

e. Public Safety Building

Mayor Stewart inquired to Town Manager Lessard as to whether or not the custodian salary is included in the public safety building budget. Town Manager Lessard stated that it currently isn't, and that the cost would be split between several accounts.

Councilor Carmichael questioned whether or not the solar panels were helping costs at the town garage, to which Town Manager Lessard responded that they don't generate enough energy in the winter months. She further stated that the solar panels do help offset eight different bills.

16. Adjournment

*Councilor Gauvin moved and Councilor Bissonnette seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.
Vote: 7-0*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob R. Gran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

*Jacob R. Gran
Town Clerk/Council Secretary*