

Bakersfield Emergency Budgetary Meeting
January 25, 2023
5:15pm

Josh called the meeting to order at 5:33.

Members attending: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Brenda Churchill

Members absent: Terri Gates

Residents/Guests attending: Mac Newitt, Kathy Westcom, Maria DeRosia, Tami Brennan

Warrant signed:

Road Commissioner's Order #111-2023	\$212.69
Wage correction	

First budgetary item- the treasurer's salary- the board received a letter from the treasurer. The board would like to go back to the \$17,500.00 salary and increase it by 6.5% COLA increase for this year, bringing it to \$18,500.00. John made the motion to increase the current salary of \$17,500.00 by 6.5% to \$18,500.00. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

Library article new budget numbers-

#1 The budget for fiscal year 2024 is set for \$44,355.00.

#2 Shall the surplus of \$1,297.02, from the library's operating budget be transferred to the library improvement fund.

#3 Shall the town authorize surplus funds, due to a bookkeeping error beyond the library's control, of \$10,718.07, to be transferred to the library improvement fund?

The board reworded the article to remove, due to a bookkeeping error beyond the library's control.

Lance asked if the library money was residing in the general fund and Maria said, no, their money is currently in the library account. Maria said that their improvement fund stays in their savings account, but it is kept track of separately.

Kathy presented copies of the warning to be proofread by the board.

The board discussed wording and implications of wording for the article regarding the town's choice of whether or not to go to Australian ballot beginning in 2024, for voting on the budget. Josh said if this article does pass and that we go to Australian ballot, then the budget presented on the ballot will probably be a lump sum of road and town together. After discussion, the board agreed that they did have the option to list one sum for the road and one sum for the General fund on the ballot. They could basically take the ballot as written and have it voted in the polls and not on the floor, if the majority vote yes on the article.

The board signed 5 copies of the warrant to be posted and warned. Kathy said that the first day possible to post the warning is Monday, January 26, 2023, and the last day to possible post the warning is February 5th, 2023, which is 30 days before Town Meeting.

John did note that the library antivirus budget item had gone from \$1500.00 to \$180.00/year, and that brought their budget down \$1300.00.

Kathy said that anyone running for a town position, all petitions need to be in by Monday, 1/30/23, at noon. Each petition requires at least 10 signatures from Bakersfield registered voters. The Petition form and the Ballot Consent form, are located on the Bakersfield Town website and can found under the Open Positions tab.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn the meeting. John seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51pm.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Tami Brennan.