

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
Monday, December 12, 2022  
7:00pm

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Josh Goss.

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Brenda Churchill, Terri Gates

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests: Mac Newitt, Maria DeRosia, Linda McCall, Heather Jewett, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: Brenda made a motion to accept the November 28, 2022, minutes, with the correction of the comment by Bob Gaudreau that rats “they could get into his basement through the stone foundation”, instead of “they get in his basement through the stone foundation.” The motion was seconded by Lance and carried by a vote of 4-0, Terri having not yet arrived.

Warrants signed:

Selectman’s Order #30-2022	\$10,290.60
Road Commissioner’s Order #222	\$120,000.00
Grader purchase	
Road Commissioner’s Order #04-2022	\$60,000.00
Road Commissioner’s Order #24&25-2022	\$21,004.40
Road Commissioner’s Order #14-2022	\$2,824.79

Road Report- Mac said that Truck #1 is back from the repair of a leaky seal that they had just fixed. Truck #3 wouldn’t run and had to be towed to the garage. That left just Dan with his truck to plow, and he was on the road from 2:00 to 12:30, for this last storm. Both trucks are expected back by this expected storm on Friday.

Mac gave the board a form to sign from Regional Planning to get the reimbursement for the Hydro-seeder, which will be deposited back into the New Equipment Fund. He said that they are still working on the reimbursement from Pike.

Josh said that last Tuesday, the Town of Bakersfield received an email from the Town of Johnson, stating that they were placing their 2012 770G grader up for bid and that all bids were due by Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. Josh said that there was not adequate time to call an emergency meeting of the Select Board, so the meeting was done on the phone. He said that the minutes for that meeting will be coming. The board decided to submit a bid of \$120,000.00 and Josh received confirmation a few hours before this Select Board meeting that Bakersfield had won the bid. Josh called Kathy to draft up a warrant for the board to sign so that they could go pick it up. The board had Maria transfer money from the new equipment fund to go toward the purchase. They also bought the longer wing attachment, for a total of \$150,000.00 which is a third of the cost of a new grader. Josh said this is a good thing for the town. He said the town is still going to apply for the cost to be covered by ARPA, and since it’s only

\$150,000.00 out of \$417,000.00, there will still be ARPA funds to cover other projects. The board said that they may put our old 1990 grader up for sale in the spring, or they may keep it and then two of the crew can grade at the same time.

Lance said the FEMA application is proceeding. All the paperwork should be done. They needed so send 4 canceled checks, so that they can get reimbursed. Those were sent this morning. He said hopefully those are the last 4 things that she needs.

Finance- Maria met with the board as they worked on the budget.

Advertising- 2022 budgeted amount was \$250.00. Spent to date \$16.40. The board kept the budgeted amount at \$250.00.

Ambulance Contract- 2022 budgeted amount was \$38,880.00. Spent to date \$34,326.99. Final payment will be needed. This item is a fixed amount that is charged to the town for service.

BCA Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$1500.00. Spent to date \$180.00. The board kept the budgeted amount at \$1,500.00.

Brigham Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$5,000.00. spent to date \$31,599.35. This includes the fees for the architect working on the Brigham Residence project and will be reimbursed. The board kept this line item at \$5,000.00.

Brigham Residence- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$0.00. This is the line item that the architect expense will be transferred to. The board kept the budgeted amount at \$250.00.

Building expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$128.39. John said that the furnace quote for the town hall building was \$8700.00, given back in June, for one unit, and costs have gone up since then. The guy who cleaned the furnace said that the furnace was running ok for now but when it fails, there is no fixing it and it would need to be replaced. Josh said that the furnace seems to be able to make it through the winter. To replace both furnaces, it might be doubled. He said they talked about a furnace with dual zones that might not be quite double. The board decided to add, \$15,000.00 to the \$250,00, with the full intention of replacing the furnace next year. The board said they would also look for a grant that might help. Brenda said that she was meeting with someone tomorrow at 2:00, to speak to them about writing grants, if anyone would like to join her for the meeting. Total 2023 proposed budget for this line item is \$15,250.00.

Cemetery Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$175.00. Expense was for the engravings on the monument. Terry asked why this wasn't

paid by the cemetery committee. Josh said this wasn't for a gravestone, it was for the Town memorial monument on the Town Green. The board changed the line-item name to Monument Expense and budgeted \$250.00 so that we can cover any engravings that are needed and if we don't use it, then we'll have it for next year.

Copier Contract/Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$1750.00. Spent to date \$1653.08, with one more payment due. The copier is leased, and the amount is fixed. The board budgeted \$1750.00 for 2023.

Court tax- 2022 budgeted amount \$11,000.00. Spent to date \$10,542.24. This is a fixed amount, so the board budgeted \$11,000.00 for 2023.

Direct tax- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,871,988.00. Spent to date \$1,786,656.27. This is the amount voted by the town.

Dog Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$112.69. The board budgeted \$250.00 for 2023.

Education- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,000.00. Spent to date \$184.00. This is for employee training. The board kept the budgeted amount at \$1,000.00.

Electricity cemetery- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$330.66. The electricity was left on all year to cover the fourth of July. Terri said that electricity rates are going up. The board budgeted \$500.00 for 2023.

Electricity Office- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,050.00. Spent to date \$937.90. The board budgeted \$1,500.00 for 2023.

Fire Dept. Contract- 2022 budgeted amount \$83,814.00. Spent to date \$147,628.00, which is for two payments of \$73,814.00, paid in 2022 because we had asked the Fire Dept to wait for the 2021 payment until after the first of the year when we had more tax money. The budgeted amount for 2023 is to be \$83,814.00.

Fireworks- 2022 Budgeted amount \$3,686.73. Spent to date \$3,759.75. This money was carried over since 2019. Heather Jewett asked when the town stopped having fundraisers. Heather said that since so many come from out of town to watch them it would be nice if they helped pay. The board said that all the town likes the fireworks and that it's hard to hold fundraisers with a lack of community participation. Heather asked if we could use some of the ATV sticker money for more than just roads. The board said that the Fire Dept is the main supporter of the fourth of July celebration. The church is there, and Special Concerns is no longer an entity. Heather said that we were told that we'd always fundraise and then a few years later, it went into the budget. Heather said it was one thing when we had a local store for out of towners to

support and now, we don't have that. Lance said we've been having fireworks for 15 years. Terri said the Fire Dept would welcome anyone who wanted to do that task. Heather asked who to reach out to. The board gave her the names, Matt Hull, Paul Stanley, Ginger Parent, and Robert Willey. John told Heather that last year, the Coop that was trying to get a community store going, had a fundraiser selling burgers and made around \$800.00. Terri asked if since the store has been sold, would they donate the money toward the fireworks. John said the group has to decide if they will continue to pursue the possibility of a town store or if they will just donate it. The board said that the hard part was to get people to donate their time.

Flags- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$1,581.26. The board said that the severe weather has shredded the flags. We have to leave them up until after Veterans Day. Mac said that most of the poles survived so we only need to replace 4 or 5 poles and the poles are the greatest expense. The board asked Mac if he thought we could replace the flags for \$1,000.00 and he said yes. The board budgeted \$1000.00 for 2023.

Flowers- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$75.00. Terri said she felt like we had spent more than \$75.00 and wondered if Sarah Jo had sent all invoices yet or donated some of them. Josh said we usually call Sarah Jo and ask her for something within that price amount. The board decided to put \$500.00 in this line item for 2023.

Generator- 2022 budgeted amount \$100.00. The board decided to roll this line item into Road Expense.

Health Officer Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$0.00. The board kept the line item at \$250.00 for 2023.

Heating fuel – Town Hall- 2022 budgeted amount \$2,500.00. Spent to date \$3,188.51. Due to the rising cost of fuel, the board budgeted \$5000.00 for 2023.

Insurance- VLCT Property and Casualty- 2022 budgeted amount \$21,296.50. Spent to date \$0.00. Maria said the new invoice just arrived, \$24,000.00 to be paid in quarterly installments. The board budgeted \$24,000.00 for 2023.

Internet- Comcast- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$149.50. Budgeted amount of \$250.00 for 2023.

Late Fees/Penalties/Interest- 2022 budgeted amount \$500.00. Spent to date \$763.49. We had unexpected fees last year, but we don't anticipate that this year. The board budgeted \$500.00 for 2023.

Lister Education- 2022 budgeted amount \$250.00. Spent to date \$149.50. Budgeted amount \$250.00 for 2023.

Lister Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$700.00. Spent to date \$471.61. Budgeted \$500.00 for 2023.

Lister Mileage- 2022 budgeted amount \$100.00. Spent to date \$65.54. Budgeted \$100.00 for 2023.

Medicare Employer- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,160.00. Spent to date \$1,196.10. This amount is a fixed percentage of total salaries.

Membership/dues- VLCT- 2022 budgeted amount \$3000.00. Spent to date \$2,687.00. Budgeted amount for 2023 is \$3000.00.

Memorial Day Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$750.00. Spent to date \$0.00. This is for the small flags placed by the gravestones. Budgeted amount for 2023, \$750.00.

Mileage- 2022 budgeted amount \$100.00. Spent to date \$0.00. Budgeted amount for 2023, \$250.00.

Misc.- 2022 budgeted amount \$1000.00. Spent to date \$226.76. Budgeted amount for 2023, \$1000.00.

Office Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$3,000.00. Spent to date \$3,614.67. Josh said that he spoke to Kathy, and she said that office costs are going up. The board budgeted \$6,000.00 for 2023.

Office Water Bill- 2022 budgeted amount \$180.00. Spent to date \$160.00. This is a fixed amount. 2023 budgeted amount is \$180.00.

Overpayment of Taxes- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$18,663.37. This is a reimbursement of taxes to residents who have overpaid, so it doesn't come out of the town funds. Budgeted amount for 2023 is \$0.00.

Park Water bill- 2022 budgeted amount \$180.00. Spent to date \$160.00. This is a fixed expense. 2023 budgeted amount is \$180.00.

Planning Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$100.00. Spent to date \$234.20. Terri said it would be good to have the Planning commission come and talk to the board about any anticipated expenses for 2023 due to revising the town plan. Budgeted amount for 2023 is 250.00.

Portolet- the portolet on the park- 2022 budgeted amount \$100.00. Spent to date \$128.00. Budgeted amount for 2023 is \$150.00.

Postage- 2022 budgeted amount \$200.00. Spent to date \$700.90. Ballots for the Primary and General Election was included in this. No elections planned for next year, but the cost for stamps went up from .60 to .63, so the budgeted amount for 2023 is \$250.00.

Public Announcement System- For Town meeting and fourth of July- 2022 budgeted amount \$725.00. Someone asked if we could use the media equipment that the town bought for remote meetings, but John said we'd still have to rent or buy speakers. The board budgeted \$725.00 for 2023.

Quick books- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$710.00. Maria said that the Quick books cost is going up to \$800.00/year. The board asked John to speak to NEMRC about what we would need and how much it would cost to switch the treasurer program to NEMRC and bring the information to the next meeting. Maria said most of the other towns use NEMRC.

School Generator- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$2,389.53. The board asked if we have a contract for service on the generator. Mack said that we talked to someone at Milton Cat, and she was supposed to send them something, but she never did. Mac is to call about a contract. Lance said that we should have a contract and a service plan to have it serviced every year.

Select Board Expense- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$710.87. The board asked Maria what that expense was for and she pulled various warrants of payments for classes through VLCT. The board said that the classes should come out of the education fund.

Select Board legal- 2022 budget amount \$5000.00. Spent to date \$0.00. Budget for 2023 set for \$5000.00.

Social Security Employer- 2022 budget \$4,960.00. Spent to date \$5,114.78. This is line item is a fixed percentage of total salaries. 2023 proposed budget amount, \$5,500.00.

Streetlights- 2022 budget amount \$2,200.00. Spent to date \$2,093.81. Terri said the electricity rate for Street lights are a fixed rate. 2023 proposed budget of \$2,200.00.

Telephone- Consolidated- 2022 budget amount \$1,500.00. Spent to date \$1,452.07. The board budgeted \$2,000.00 for 2023.

Town Park Expense- 2022 budget amount \$180.00. Spent to date \$113.74. the board budgeted \$250.00 for 2023.

Unemployment VLCT Qtrly- 2022 budget amount \$725.00. Spent to date \$574.00. This is a fixed percentage of salaries.

Workers Comp- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,000.00. Spent to date \$1,000.00. Budgeted for 2023, \$1,000.00.

Zoning- 2022 budgeted amount \$500.00. Spent to date \$424.68. Budgeted for 2023, \$500.00.

Zoning legal- 2022 budgeted amount \$1,000.00. Spent to date \$0.00. Invoices from Mike Gawne should be coming for his work on the Hathaway/McSweeney hearings and the Hathaway complaint regarding a building permit. The board budgeted \$2,500.00 for 2023.

Brenda said that there are a lot of grey areas in the town's zoning by-laws and she is working with the planning commission about this.

Zoom- 2022 budgeted amount \$0.00. Spent to date \$149.00. The board budgeted \$200.00 for 2023.

The board asked Maria if she could have an updated proposed budget report for the next Select Board meeting.

Tami said that she called Consolidated about the cost for internet at the garage. For DSL, 25 download speed/2 upload speed. It's a \$30.00 install fee and \$53.98/month with a 3-year contract for a business account.

Tami said that VLCT said that "the select board can put an article on the 2023 town meeting warning that if approved would make all budget votes by Australian ballot until rescinded by voters."....Read from the VLCT email. The board said that can be included on the warning and voted from the floor.

The board signed the papers for the FEMA loan.

The Road erosion report- Josh signed the report.

Brenda said that she is meeting with Alex Barkley regarding writing grants for the town, tomorrow at 2:00pm. She said there have been no negotiations yet.

Tami said she talked to VLCT Property and Casualty about insurance coverage for the town if they use the school's gym for Town meeting and was told that the town would be covered. The insurance follows where there is a contract. Josh asked Tami to ask the school if they would waive the fee for town use.

John made the motion to adjourn. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:08pm. Minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

