

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 23, 2021
7:00pm

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

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Gary Denton, Brenda Churchill

Members absent: Lance Lawyer, Terri Gates

Residents/Guests present: Leon Walls, Ewing Fox, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: The board will postpone approval of the Aug 9 minutes, as there is not a quorum present who had attended the Aug 9 meeting.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner's order #12&13-21	\$16,797.93
Road Commissioner's order #FEMA 11-21	\$30,537.00
Selectmen's order #19-21	\$7,503.71

The VTrans rep will not be attending the meeting tonight. They feel that everything is settled.

Leon Walls met with the board to share a concern. For the past few years, Leon, who said that he lives down the road at the end of Penny Lane, and his previous neighbor had worked together to keep the culvert clear. And now, after his new neighbor had moved in, Leon said that he had tried to clear a beaver dam that was blocking the culvert and his neighbor came out and yelled and screamed and said that it was on his property. Leon has been away for three months, and he returned to find that it is no longer just a beaver dam. His neighbor has constructed a large dam about 3-4 feet above the water. The culvert comes out of the marsh and was what was kept clear so the water could flow. Leon said that the state says that you do not have the right to alter natural environments. The board referred Leon to Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and gave him two contacts with their contact numbers, along with the name of the warden for our district, to alert them that his neighbor has constructed a dam and is effecting wildlife. The board told Leon that if something is not done that is legal and right, and not satisfactory, then come back to the board. Neighbors do not have the right to cause damage on someone else's property.

Audrey was not in attendance so no treasurer report.

The board considered a Building Use Agreement application. This form is filled out and submitted to the board if you'd like to use the Townhall building for something. Kathy Westcom applied to use the building in December for her daughter's graduation ceremony. She had the date requested with the time TBD as soon as the college announced it.

Gary made the motion to accept the application for Building Use and approve Kathy's request to use the building for her daughter's graduation in December. Brenda seconded and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

ARPA update- Brenda Churchill

The Town received its first payment for around, 69,000.00, which is the first half of the ARPA money slated for Bakersfield. Brenda said that she put in about an hour going over details required. Brenda proposes that we hold informational meetings in November, December and January. We can post what we can spend the ARPA money on and keep minutes on what is proposed and guidelines along with any ideas. We know certain things do qualify....such as, audio/visual access through the internet, and digitizing town records so that people can access records anytime remotely and will pay fees through the website.

Brenda said that Paul Snyder sent an internet request, and a similar letter in April, for NWAccess TV yearly contract regarding storing and archiving town meetings. We are working on sending this meeting, that we are recording now, to a place that won't cost anything. We, as a town, do not want to get involved with storing and archiving these meetings which would lead to tremendous cost.

Brenda will create a list of what we can spend ARPA funds on and what we cannot spend the funds on. The Select Board can narrow down the list. Brenda is to check and see if the ARPA funds can pay for a town audit. We do not need to spend our ARPA funds on any Broadband, the state is planning on spending to upgrade broadband and set us up for blinding speed internet service.

NWCUD- Brenda said that the NWCUD organization may be appointing an Executive Director because the work is so intense that they can't staff with volunteers. They need to hire someone, and they are looking for a town to create that position that the town would pay for, but NWCUD would fund it. It would take a motion and a formal proposal. They are having a meeting on Thursday. The NW Planning Commission houses a lot of this work and wanted an alternative, so they will put it out to the public. Brenda said that she wanted to voice it and recognizes that we don't have a full board in attendance to discuss.

Inside audit- Still no information on the inside audit for the months of January and February before the change of the town treasurer. Tami asked if the board, since it's almost September, would like her, as the Select Board secretary, to try to reach Jason Bapp to ask about his availability to audit these months, and the board said yes.

Fire Dept Contract- Board recognizes that the Fire Dept Contract has already been completed.

Future Agenda-

Gary said that there is a new purchaser of a lot on Belvidere Mtn Rd that has done extensive clearing and hauling gravel and already put in a large driveway, with no access permit. Tami said she talked to Ralph Sweeney that morning,

who called the Town Clerks, with the same concern and he believes the purchaser is also encroaching onto his land, since the lot sold is only 2 acres. Gary said that we need to have Mac go up and look at the access on Belvidere. We need to get the contact information of the purchaser. Zoning takes over from there.

Josh asked if all the board members had received their letters and instructions, regarding the BCA meeting on Monday, the 30th at 6:30pm. Gary and Brenda said that they had.

Zoning Administrator- The board said that one person had responded to our ad published on the VLCT website for Zoning Administrator, Shannon Lumbra. The board said that they would move forward to arrange an interview.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm, Gary seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

The next regular Select Board meeting will be Monday, Sept 13, 2021, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.