

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 9, 2022
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Lance Lawyer, Vice Chair
Members present: Lance Lawyer, John West, Brenda Churchill via zoom, Teri Gates

Members absent: Josh Goss (chair)

Resident/Guests attending: Linda McCall, Maria DeRosia, Katherine Young, Pat Evans, Tami Brennan

John made a motion to accept the July 25th minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Brenda and carried with a vote of 3-0, Terri abstaining having not attended the July 25th meeting.

Warrants signed:

Selectman's Order #16-2022	\$8333.61
Road Commissioner's Order #5-22	\$1219.02
Road Commissioner's Order #10&11-2022	\$7071.47
Road Commissioner's Order #8-2022	\$811.76
Selectman's Order BCC #4-2022	\$672.37

Finance- Maria presented an updated Financial Report to the board. She said that she had completed and mailed all the tax bills last week. Lance said that the board would table questions on account balances until the board has had time to review the report. Maria said that taxes are due on October 3rd this year. Maria said that she would post her hours for collecting taxes during the first week in Sept. Her baby is due Sept. 14 and Vera will fill in for her. Maria reminded the board that the payment due to the IRS on tonight's warrant was for a penalty owed the IRS, due to June 2021 not being filed correctly. Vera and Maria discovered the error and filed it late, so the town owes \$420.00. Brenda said that the town should be expecting the remainder of ARPA funds by the end of the month and asked Maria to let her know when she sees that it has been deposited to our account.

Katherine Young met with the board regarding the Custodial position for the Town Hall. Heather Jewett had emailed a letter of reference for Katherine which the board received. Katherine said that she could be flexible for hours. The board said that since the Town Clerk's office is open Monday through Thursday, 8am-12pm, they would prefer that Katherine clean anytime between Thursday at noon to Monday at 8:00am. The board stated the wage at \$20.00/hour and said it should take about 1½ hours/week to clean the front Town Clerk's office area, and additional time once a month to clean the Town Hall section in the back, and before and after large events.

Linda McCall asked for an update on who is following up on having the new name carved onto the War Memorial on the Town Green. Lance said that currently no body is following up on this project and said that they were

considering asking Linda to do the paperwork. John said they didn't know who to contact about having the name engraved. Linda said she believed it was Plouf that had added name additions in the past. The board asked Linda to get 3 quotes and then they could choose one and get the project going. Linda said she will get 3 quotes.

Hearse House- Linda said that she had presented the repairs needed on the Hearse House at the ARPA meeting on behalf of the Cemetery Commission, but that it actually should be presented by the town since the building and land is owned by the Town and not the Cemetery. Linda said the survey pins show just around the building. Linda said the Town owns it and has insurance on it. She said the town only has \$10,000.00 liability insurance on it, and she's not sure that would be adequate today. Linda said that since the town owns it, she is giving them the estimate that Lyle Willey prepared. It requests funds for materials and all the labor is donated. Linda said that Lyle said there are parts that need to be addressed right off, i.e, the front porch needs to be rebuilt and they have a concern that a heavy snowfall would collapse it and the hearse house garage floor in the back where Maria parks the mower that she uses for Cemetery mowing, is not safe. Linda said that Lyle has a professional painter to paint it when it's ready.

Terri said that they are not making a decision tonight, but they will have to have Maria stop parking in the garage. The board discussed alternate places to park the mower but the other buildings on the green are not secure because they don't have doors. Lance asked Pat Evans if it would be possible to add a door to the barn or shed. Pat asked if there was somebody who lived near the cemetery had room for Maria to park her mower. Linda said if the board is going to fix the Hearse House, she would allow Maria to park her mower in her garage on a temporary basis. Terri said that Maria mows for the Cemetery Commission so it's up to the town to fix the building, but it is not up to us to find where she parks the tractor. She said that they were unaware that the town owns the building, and they didn't know that Maria was parking her mower there, so Maria will have to trailer her mower for now. Lance agreed that Maria should not park in the Hearse House garage if the floor is unsafe and said that the board would table this until we have the full Select Board in attendance. He asked Tami to put it on the agenda for August 22 and to notify Maria in writing that she can no longer park in the Hearse House garage.

Pat Evans told the board that he had good news. He said that the Conservation Committee had been working to name 3 streams in town...the stream behind the school, down in the gulf, to be named School Brook, the second stream that runs down Hyde's Hill is to be named Paige Book, and the 3rd, which we were going to name Heron Brook, after the Rookery, crosses Lawyer Rd, and we have since discovered that this brook has been called Bub's Brook, because Lance Lawyer's great uncle Bub Lawyer, used to own the land. The library will not name a brook with a name that uses an apostrophe, to indicate ownership, but if we call it Bubs Brook, it will be accepted. Pat asked the board if they

would consent to re-sign the consent letter without the apostrophe and the board agreed.

The Pollinator Garden was briefly discussed. Pat said that the original site planned didn't work out and they had to move it to a corner that we all agreed on, but the builders piled stuff on it and then we heard a septic might be going through. Lance said that we now have the report, and we won't be needing outside property for the septic for Brigham.

Road Report- Mac was not present as he was recovering from surgery. Terri said that she has been traveling Waterville Mtn Rd to see her mom and it is horrendous. Lance said that the heavy rains have been washing it out.

On one of the warrants signed tonight was the amount for renting John's backhoe for \$275.00, to do the 4 test pits at Brigham.

Lance said that Trudell Engineering did the 4 test pits and determined that the soil to be very drainable and is suitable for a conventional septic. Lance said they also found septic tanks nowhere near where they are supposed to be. The engineers said that those tanks could be an asset in the future. They are located in between the two schools, not behind where the plans show them to be. Lance said that he met with Kathy Lavoie and Paul Dreher on July 28, to discuss the next stage, the Implementation Stage. He said that we have to declare an owner and it needs to stay the same for the next 20 years. Cathedral Square declined the opportunity to own it. Bakersfield has been strongly urged to take ownership of the building. Heidi's group and Tim Smith are still involved, but there have been some changes with Heidi's accessibility to State grants. Paul Dreher is the architect of record, and he has headed up the gathering of information, structural and civil.

At the next Select Board Meeting, Aug 22, Paul Dreher will go over the complete report. Terri asked what our financial piece is. Lance said that we are still relying on grants and in-kind. He said that we are donating the building, so that's a huge chunk. He said we need to be able to acquire some implementation grants.

Lance said that public engagement is planned for Saturday, October 1st, hopefully on the Brigham Green and they are considering allowing access to the common area in the building. They will need to get lights in there, since it is dark being boarded up. He said that we need to get some public interest. The Community Collective could sell burgers and dogs and the Church could sell pies. He asked Linda if the Historical Society would do something.

Lance said that his next meeting was planned for 8/17 at Kay Tech and anybody who would like to go with him is welcome. Brenda said that she would like to go. Lance said that in order for some of these grants to be accessed, it would be better if they were applied for by the town. Terri asked how that would work when it came time to rent out the units. Lance said that they haven't discussed that yet. There are 22 units planned. The auditorium and the common room with the 4 pillars need to be maintained as is and could be used as public meeting areas. He said that the school could go back to having

their shows there. Lance said that we are going to lose the gymnasium. He said there would be three floors in there and we will lose one of the staircases. Lance asked Tami to add Paul's presentation to the Select Board agenda for 8/22 and said to plan on a longer meeting than usual.

The Bakersfield Fire Dept has scheduled a Safety Day for Saturday, Sept 10th from 11am to 3pm.

FEMA- Lance said that FEMA has turned out case over to the State of Vermont Emergency Management. The State has our FEMA money in their bank earning interest and they are making us jump through hoops. He said that some projects turned into large projects, and they will go over every receipt. He said that their 90% share for project #169693-Gravel project for gravel scattered throughout the town is \$48,696.00, for project #141075-Waterville Mtn Rd is \$121,128.00, for project #141063-Whitney Rd is \$156,114.00, so a total of \$464,000.00 is what they owe us now and after that it's the bridge. Lance said from rough calculations it looks like we will be able to pay everything, and then we pay the town for management, Mac and Lance. Lance said when the feds changed their contribution from 75% to 90%, the State dropped their contribution share. The difference that we are owed on previous 3 small projects is \$122,500.00.

Lance said that Blow and Cody are close to dropping the deck on the bridge within the next couple of weeks and then it will be considered 90% done. The completion deadline for the bridge is 9/15/22 and Mac and Lance are deciding if they should apply for another extension. He said that Blow and Cody have had trouble hiring workers for the project. Terri asked how difficult it is to as for an extension. Lance said not difficult if we have a good reason. He said they have been told to wait until the middle of August before we make a decision. He said that Tyler Billingsly said that he is confident that it will be done by September.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm

The next Regular Select Board Meeting is to be held Monday, August 22, 2022, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.