

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
Monday, December 28, 2022  
7:00pm

Called to order at 7:01 by Joss Goss.

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

Members absent: Terri Gates

Residents/Guests attending: Linda McCall, Linda Stanley, Katherine Rosenburg, Mac Newitt, Kathy Westcom, Maria DeRosia, Dan Forand, Mary Lumbra

Previous minutes: Motion made by Brenda to accept the December 12, 2022 minutes as written, the motion was seconded by John West and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Warrants signed:

Selectmen's order #31-2022	\$18,521.91
Road Commissioner's order #	\$14,581.79
Bridge Account #2-2022	\$20,000.00

Fairfield Community Center- Katherine Rosenburg met with the board to ask that the town consider increasing their previous support from \$2000.00 to \$4000.00 for 2023. Katherine said that the community center provides services for the whole county and that Bakersfield makes up between 25%-30% of the clients served, as well as many Bakersfield volunteers. Katherine said they maintain a food shelf and they currently serve 46 household and deliver 70 meals on Tuesdays. She said people can pick up produce at the center. Hannafords and Healthy Roots Eating, provide food. Katherine and Linda Stanley encouraged all attending to come by on a Tuesday and see the process. Linda said that they have a wonderful new space. They said meals get picked up between 1:30-3:00pm. We have a good number of volunteers who pack the meal bags and 5 people deliver the meals. Katherine said that their projected budget for 2023 is around \$10,000.00 for the Food Shelf and about \$16,000.00 for meals. She said that they do a lot of fundraising and grant writing. She said they wanted to begin having community meals together again soon. Katherine said that they are currently searching for a new cook. Their previous cook had to stop because of health reasons. Katherine said that the town of Fairfield gives \$15,000.00/year for us to spend anyway that we see it is needed, and another \$3,000.00. She said that they are hoping that Bakersfield can match closer to the percentage of clients that are served from Bakersfield. Lance asked if the community center did an addition to Operation Happiness and Katherine said yes, and Sharon is their turkey wrangler, and the Fairfield school provides a lot of the canned vegetables. The Lion's Club of Enosburg also contributes to the center. She said they do limit the Thanksgiving project to Fairfield and Bakersfield. Linda said they have amazing cooperation at the center. All the people working together, make this happen. Linda volunteers for 2 hours on Thursday afternoons. She said there were so many moving parts

and people are so appreciative. They said the center is so appreciative for Hannafords as they give us food nearing expiration date and it is good stuff. Everybody is thrilled. Katherine said that the number of people that the center serves has increased over the last couple of years, more young families and new faces. Katherine said that they would like to present a request for ARPA funds also when there is another ARPA meeting.

Linda McCall spoke to the board about the Historical Society and the Bakersfield Garden Club and said that both are asking for fund requests to be placed on the warning to go before the voters. She said that the Historical Society was asking for \$10,000.00, up from the \$5000.00 that they requested last year, for operating and sustainability expenses and the payment toward the \$40,000.00 loan with the town, for the completion of payment for contractor's work that needed to be done. She said they did get some grants and others were denied because we couldn't get an engineer's report during the Covid shut down before the vaccine. Linda said that the Historical Society is a 501C3 non-profit and the building is on the National Registry. She said that the Historical Society provides an education venue for the History of Bakersfield and a museum for that history. She said that they provide space for bereavement luncheons at no cost to residents. The Special concerns group is no longer but Lyle and Carol Willey have recently headed up a group called Bakersfield Bereavements and have had two so far.

Linda said that the Bakersfield Garden Club are a group of volunteers that have joined forces to revitalize the town common. They worked on the walkways and garden this last summer and created a path down towards the monument. They are planning on restoring the original walkways bit by bit. She said that Mark Allen recommended that we rent a sod remover to get down to the base. Linda said that the labor and equipment that was used for the improvements this year was donated and thanks to the Select Board and the Road Crew, the crushed stone was delivered with the town truck by donation of the town. Linda said there might be some confusion of what is the cemetery and what is the common. In 1963, the Select Board member who was taking care of the common passed off its care onto the cemetery committee. The property was deeded to the town as a common and burial grounds. Anyone can protest that if the position is violated. The Garden Club is setting up as a non-profit through the state with a tax-exempt number.

Josh said his only concern is if we begin contributing money to a club fund. Linda said that it's non-profit through the state, the same as the Special Concerns committee. Lance said that Special Concerns was a 501C3 and that he has that paperwork at home. Linda said that she didn't think that the paperwork was ever submitted. Linda said the group is currently trying to overwinter the geraniums to cut down on cost. She said that it's going to cost money to rent a sod remover, etc, and they don't want to be a drain on the cemetery commission. Josh said that what you all have done out there looks really nice and he would like to see that continue. He said that it would go in as any other line item and will be voted off the floor.

Josh said that Town Meeting may be held at the school. Tami is to check with Rhoda to see if we can get the fee waived for us to use the gym. If not, then we will have it at the Town Hall. Linda said that the Historical Society would like to do the luncheon at their building as the wiring is better.

Linda asked if the school got used as an emergency place to go for those who lost power during this recent storm. Josh said that the Emergency Management Coordinator did not reach out.

Finance- Maria said that we received an additional small payment of \$93.59 from ARPA. Two municipalities were unable or chose not to accept their ARPA money, so that amount was divided between the remaining municipalities. This brings the total received from ARPA to \$391,004.33.

Maria pointed out that, on the warrants tonight, we had received the invoice for legal fees for zoning and after we issue that check for \$6,250.00, zoning will be in the negative at \$-2,692.09.

Maria told the board that in the Town Hall Repair fund within the General fund, we have a balance of almost \$54,000.00, so instead of budgeting a special line item to replace the Town Hall furnace, we could use money from that fund. Josh said that Kathy had said that it would be better to get the furnace replaced sooner, rather than later. Josh said to get some quotes. Kathy said we already have quotes. John said that many refused the job, and some were too busy, so the only quote we finally got was from the only guy that would clean it so we could get through the winter. They will have to remove the wall and haul it out and put the new one down there. John said he called Bennett's, and they didn't get back to him, Bernie Gage said he doesn't want the job. Maria gave John the number of a couple of her uncles and Kathy gave John Larry's number, to check and see if one of our local people would like to put in a bid. John and Josh both said that they were told that heat pumps would not work for the large space in our building and we would still need a furnace for back up when the temp goes down too far. The board said they thought one furnace with two zones would work the best. Linda asked the board if they were going to upgrade the electric. The board thought the Town Hall currently has only 90 or 100 amps.

Josh thought it would be best to keep the budgeted amount for the new furnace in the proposed budget because this work could deplete our repair fund. That way we have some in case of an emergency.

Roads- Mac said that they are pretty well caught up with the snow and the damage from the weather. He said there are still two trees to deal with one is on Witchcat. He said we were told not to touch trees on the powerlines. John said there is a tree down on a powerline on Joyal Rd. Mac said that it wasn't on a powerline, it is on a Consolidated telephone line. Mac said it is very difficult to get them to come out and fix it.

Mac said that they got the grader and are still waiting for the wing, but they are not in a big hurry because they still have the old grader. Josh said if anybody

gets a chance to go down and look at the new grader, it's a pretty impressive piece of equipment.

Mac said that there were a couple of trees down on Pudvah Hill. The Geddes Barn was taken down by the wind. Lance said the storm took it down just as neat and flat as can be, not interfering with the electric wires or poles. Now we can someone to safely come salvage what they can and cut it up. John said that Rosalie had a camper that flipped completely over.

John said that the service plan that Milton CAT proposed with a 3-year quote for maintenance on the generator at the school. He said the cost of the three-year contract is cheaper than one year contract renewed yearly, so three years is the way to go. Year one will be \$1,221.45; year two will be \$1,264.20; year three will be \$1,308.45; for a total of \$3,794.10.

Lance made the motion to accept the three-year contract from Milton Cat for regular maintenance service on the school generator, John seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Lance said that Shawn Coleman from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission emailed to say that the governor is poised to declare the whole state of Vermont a disaster area which may provide some funds to fix some damages in road or infrastructure. Mac and Lance said the Bakersfield really doesn't have any road or infrastructure.

Lance and Mac said that FEMA wants more documents for Whitney Rd, all the forced labor accounts. Josh thanked Mac and Lance for dealing with all this FEMA paperwork.

Maria said that there is assistance for people who had agricultural damage such as Farms and Sugar woods. She said to contact their local FSA office for assistance. Lance said if the state is declared an emergency, we will have local numbers to call for assistance as well.

Next meeting- Josh said that the next budget meeting will be for salaries. The board opted to make this an additional public meeting of the Select Board. People can still come in but none will be put on the agenda for this special meeting so the board can focus on salaries. Josh asked if the Road Crew were willing to sit down to discuss a three-year salary schedule. He asked Mac and the guys to come up with a proposed three-year schedule with a proposed percentage. Josh said a salary schedule was suggested by a community member and the board agreed that it was a good idea.

This special Select Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00pm.

The next regular Select Board meeting is Monday, January 9, at 7:00pm.

Organizations usually meet with the board regarding their support requests for the year. **Kathy said that January 23 is the last day to submit a**

**request. The 26<sup>th</sup>, being the absolute final day because that is the first day that we can post the warning for the town meeting ballot.**

**The final day for a nominating petition is January 30<sup>th</sup> by noon, with a consent to be on the ballot. There are two papers required and both are on the website. The number of signatures required is 1% of the checklist which is about 12-15 registered voters.**

**One voter can sign multiple petitions for separate positions but not multiple petitions for two candidates competing for the same position.**

Maria gave the board an updated proposed budget.

John said that he spoke to NEMRC about the modules that would be needed to switch our treasurer software over to them and it would mean about \$10,000.00 for the first year and then \$5,000.00/year after that for licensing and support, so the town sticking with Quick Books at around \$800.00/year, is definitely the way for us to go.

Lance said that he was meeting with Kathy Lavoie for an update on the Brigham Academy.

John said the URL for the town website is set to expire on 4/22/2023. He said that the town is set for auto renewals and should be billed to the town credit card.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn, the motion was seconded by John and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Meeting Minutes were recorded by Tami Brennan.