

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, February 14, 2022
7:00pm

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Josh Goss.

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, Brenda Churchill, Gary Denton, Terri Gates

Members absent: none

Guests/Residents: Ron and Laura Hathaway, Mac Newitt, John West, Dan and Katie Forand, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes-

Lance made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2022, Budget meeting, the motion was seconded by Brenda and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0 (Terri having not yet arrived).

Brenda made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2022, Regular Select Board meeting, for which there was no quorum present to accept at the Regular Select board meeting on February 24, 2022, and the motion was seconded by Lance and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0, Gary abstaining because he was absent for the February 11 meeting (Terri having not yet arrived).

Lance made the motion to accept the January 19, 2022, Budget meeting minutes, which were challenged as having been warned incorrectly at the January 24, 2022, Regular Select Board meeting, for which the discussion was repeated at the January 25, 2022, Special Meeting of the Select Board. After contacting the VLCT attorney, it was determined that the January 19, 2022, was not warned incorrectly and was a valid meeting. The motion made was to accept the minutes from the January 19th meeting, the January 24th meeting, and the January 25th meeting. The motion was seconded by Brenda and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Warrants signed:

Selectman's Order #3-2022	\$15,973.39
Road Commissioner's Order #6&7-2022	\$20,724.71
Road Commissioner's Order #2-2022	\$4,376.15

Lance began by saying that the checking account balance in the Tupper Fund is over \$12,000.00 dollars, which is unusually high and that we have had no requests for assistance lately. He asked the board if they knew anyone that was in need of assistance, to please let Lance know or any of the Town Advocates; Lance and Sharon Lawyer, Carolyn Bronz, Jan Ketchum Marcotte, Holly Crispell, Scott Fliieger, Pat Evans, and Tennyson Doane, all of which have phone numbers listed in the Town Report. The Tupper Fund is for "The Needy and the Poor", as stated by the will that began the trust, so would be available for those experiencing financial hardships such as fuel oil, family assistance, groceries, etc. The only requirement to apply is to be a resident of the Town of Bakersfield.

Josh said that Maria is catching on very quickly and that things are going well. Terri said that she liked the report that Maria provided to the board for the meeting tonight. Josh said that it liked it as well but that he would like to see one more column that would show remaining balance, and said that we can ask Maria about that.

Visitors- Ron and Laura Hathaway- regarding their property on Belvidere Mtn. Road. Ron said he was there because of a violation, and he presented the board with a letter drafted and signed by Mac. Josh asked if this was concerning that Ron allegedly put his driveway on his neighbor's property and Ron said no, that he had put the driveway in without a permit. Gary said that there was a dispute over boundaries. Ron said that it has been all surveyed. Josh asked if the issue had been rectified between Ron and his neighbor and Ron said that yes it had. Josh said that if it has been rectified, that now Ron can fill out a new access permit and bring it in for Mac to sign, and after Mac signs off on it, he'll bring it to the Select Board and we sign off. Brenda said that Ron had already paid the regular fee for the access permit that he was denied and that she would accept that payment toward the new access permit application and then Ron would just have to pay the penalty amount for placing the driveway without a permit. Ron agreed. Ron said that it has been 3 ½ months of misery and a lot of money. Gary said that a lot of people think that their property goes straight, but the lots are skewed. Ron said that's exactly right.

Road- Mac said that they had finally got a hold of Mr. Kroto from Milton Cat about the school generator. Mac said that they should be sending someone up this week and bring up some contract proposals. Mac said that the generator is running but it might not be starting each week. Mr. Kroto said that there is a 9-volt battery on the side and if that is dead, that could be the problem.

Mac said that he spoke with Bolio about ordering some American flags with fiberglass poles and metal fasteners. They run about 60 dollars/each and we need 35 of them which would be about \$1800.00 if we included every light in town. They are on the American Legion website, 3x5 feet, nylon, sewn. Lance said that he had one complaint. He said he just can't bring himself to buy American Flags made in China instead of the USA. Mac said that they are sewn stripes and dyed stars on fiberglass poles and made in the USA. Mac said that aluminum poles break, and he thinks that the fiberglass would last longer. Josh looked up on Amazon online at the meeting and found a Heavy-Duty flag for \$120.00 for just the flag. Mac said that we need about 25 hangers this year. He said you really only get 2 years out of wooden poles. John West looked up on Home Depot and found flags for 40/50 each with plastic hangers and aluminum poles. The legion website has them for \$59.99 for the pole/hanger/ and flag. Someone said that maybe they would give us a deal if we bought them in bulk.

Mac said that he wanted to give the board a heads up that Johnson was getting ready to trade their grader, depending on the availability of a new grader. He said it was a 770, 2012 with 7000 hours on it. He said it has new tires, a blade ripper which changes out with the front blade. He said that it is plumbed for a wing but doesn't have one. It has the front blade/bulldozer and a 14' mow board, and a leaf blower that you can use when you are grading. Mac said that it is in really nice shape and that they really take care of their stuff up there. He said that the mechanic that we use said that if they sell it, we'd be fools not to get it. Mac said that Mark saw it and called about it when he heard it was for sale. Josh asked Mac what he expected they would ask for it. Mac thought maybe \$100,000.00. He said it's only 10 years old. He said that you would usually pay about \$150,000.00 to \$175,000.00 for a used one. He said it was a Deere with 4-wheel drive and the next size bigger than what we've got. Mac said that Johnson is supposed to have a meeting with their Select Board about it. Josh said to double check to see if our wing would be compatible and asked if we would be able to add the brush mower to it, and if we could add equipment to it to make it work for us. Mac said that it should definitely be possible. Josh said to keep an ear on it and see what they say. He said that a number would help us to be able to say yay or nay and there was no problem looking into it. He asked if Mac thought that we could get anything for our grader. Mac thought maybe \$20 or \$25,000.00. Our grader is a 1990, so 32 years old. Josh thought there was \$113,000.00 in the New Equipment fund and with adding the \$15,000.00 from this year, should bring us up around \$130,000.00. He said we're going to have to get new equipment at some point.

FEMA update- Lance said that the board is filling out the Dept of Public Safety form and if Josh signs it, it will allow the State of VT to release 75% of the 75% of the government money we're supposed to get. This will be \$64,500.00, instead of \$640,000.00, like we were expecting. We are still getting that money, Paul said that the money is obligated to us. He told us that we would be getting \$640,000.00 and this would be sent to the bank. Kim Kanerecci, the head of State Emergency Management said that Paul was wrong, and he got reprimanded for that. Lance said that we have expended \$118,000.00 and we are getting 75% of the 75% that we were expecting. When Josh signs this form, we can submit and get our \$64,500.00.

Mac said that they had gotten Truck #3 back...the new truck 2021. He said that the DEF light came on and blew off the input turbo hose. The light lit up and told Mac to do a burn off. They replaced the particulate filter which was under warranty. Mac said that it happened about 3 hours into the snowstorm. He said that we got it back Tuesday and everything seems good.

Culvert Project – The NWRPC sent an email from Luke Rosetti about planning to replace a culvert with some rust on the bottom in Bakersfield, up on Ross Brook by Tony Snyder. The email said that it was a fish passage and water quality concern and that they would pay for the design. The NWRPC and the

Fish and Wildlife, both approve and have the funding to do so. They didn't mention a price to replace the culvert. They said that they wanted to do the design work and hope to have the town on board so that it could occur soon. The email said that Fish and Wildlife will cover the full cost of the design. The board and Mac agreed that there is nothing wrong with the culvert. Their concern is that if we are interested and they design it, then we could be on the hook for a \$200,000.00 bridge or culvert. Lance said the culvert on Whitney Rd was \$115,000.00, and this culvert is larger than the one on Whitney Rd. Mac said that this one was put in in the 80's, around 30-40 years ago. Lance said to replace a structure that size, we will need a Hydrologic Study. Lance said that he would guarantee that it will need to be bigger. He said that the new requirements need to be able to handle the 100-year flood. Brenda asked if we had the option to say no. Gary said that we could apply for a Class II Road grant. Josh said that they are not saying that it needs to be done at this time, but that we start the procedure. Josh said that he didn't see us affording this now and Mac said that there are a lot worse places than that. Josh said that we are not interested at this time, and he gave the email to Lance to respond.

Brigham- Dept of Public Safety- The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board is willing to give us a grant for the feasibility funds, an award not to exceed \$1,670.00, over and above the money they have already given. Josh needs to sign the form and then we can submit for the money.

There was an inspection done, this week, by the VLCT insurance inspector, at the Town Hall, Town Garage, Library and at the Academy. Mac said that they wanted a yellow stripe on the steps. Tami said that they wanted us to put something on the window on the stage upstairs to keep someone from falling out, and the temporary stairs to the stage removed. Mac said we will get a report soon.

The board signed 3 liquor licenses tonight.

The Town Meeting Informational Meeting was warned today for 2/22/22 at 7:00pm. Terri asked if we are going to have better sound for that. John West said that we are to be spending \$15,000.00 on better sound equipment so people can hear, but it won't be in place by the 22nd. Terri said that we are going to have to keep the background noise down. She said that people are saying that they can only hear Josh and Lance. John said that he would talk to Roger about getting better mics for next week. Josh said that he is asking B&N if they will invoice us instead of putting money up front. He asked the board if he had the approval to get the mics and mixer and cables, which will come to around \$15,000.00, which will be paid from the ARPA funds. Lance made a motion to give approval to John to purchase and order the mics and the accompanying equipment for better sound quality during meetings. Brenda seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

Brigham Residence- Lance said that we owe Paul Dryer one more amount we have to pay before we get reimbursed for our expenses.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

The Town Meeting Informational Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 7:00pm and can be attended in person or attended via zoom. The zoom link, as well as the phone number for technical assistance can be found on the agenda page, the Town Meeting page, and the Home Page on the Town of Bakersfield website.

The next Regular Select Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.