

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2024
7:00pm

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

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Todd Cosgrove

Members absent: Terri Gates

Residents/Guest attending: Sharon Lawyer, Pat Evans, Alice Foote, Dan Forand, Tami Brennan, Mac Newitt

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept the February 12 minutes with the correction of two grammatical errors. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0, Todd abstaining having not been present at the meeting.

Warrants signed:

Selectmen's Order #4-2024	\$11,038.99
Road Commissioner's Order #8&9-2024	\$44,083.34

Finance- The board signed the warrants to be paid out by the treasurer. Vera to write the checks as Tom is on vacation and John to sign the checks in his absence.

Sharon Lawyer met with the board to ask permission for the Church to sell pies on Town Meeting Day at the Town hall. The board said that before and after Town meeting, that pies could be sold in the front office, but to reduce noise during Town meeting, no business is to be conducted at that time. Sharon asked if it would be ok to set up their table with pies on the front porch during the time that Town meeting was in session, to reduce the noise and the board said that would be fine. John made the motion to allow the church to sell pies at Town Meeting inside, both pre- and post- Town Meeting, and outside on the porch while Town Meeting is in progress. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Pat Evans met with the board to ask advice as to what to do about the trees that are still down and hanging over the trail that goes behind the cemetery. Pat said that you can't use the trail as the trail is inaccessible and not safe. He said that the trees were hanging over the trail and into the cemetery pretty close to the ground. He said they could probably be cut up and just let the pieces roll down the hill. Josh said that he would take a look at it and see if it was something that he and his son could do this week while he's out of school. Josh said if it looks like he can do it, he will, and if not, then he would get in touch with Pat. Pat also said that as part of the Guardians of the Common, Old Glory is in tatters. Lance said that it didn't last a year this time. Josh said that is the first thing that you see as you roll into town.

Pat also asked for clarification as to matching grants with ARPA funds. John said that the ARPA funds are not to be used for matching grants but for matching funds for grant writing. Pat said that the last grant that they tried for

didn't fly. Alice said that the grants tended to go with economic activity in the town. She said that out of 42 legitimate applications, only 8 were selected. Lance said that he doesn't want to discourage them from bringing a grant that looks good. Pat confirmed then that the funds are strictly reserved for grant writing and John said that is correct, we have to make this stretch. He said that we had a lot of people who wanted grant matches. Alice said that Alex really wants to continue to pursue this cause and he was really disappointed. Lance said that they were looking for grants from Preservation Trust for Brigham Residence and they also were turned down from another entity. Alice said the organizations that are giving grants also are looking at geographical distribution and Bakersfield may prefer that any work to be done by grants be done on Brigham rather than a barn. Lance said the BCC should ask NWRPC for help with finding grants to fund this project. Alice said that they were going to help us get the barn listed as a historical building.

Roads- Mac gave the board the Highway Mileage Certification for their signatures. Mac said that they have broken into the pit and started pulling some gravel. He said that they have limited supply of stone at Leeches' and Burbo's. Mac said that we have quite a pile of gravel and some stone from Leeches' that we will save. Josh said it's supposed to be up to 60 degrees then freeze. Mac said that it's only supposed to last 2 days and then 4 days of good days with no freezes. There are also no school buses this week but still garbage trucks, etc.

Mac said there were some repairs made this week...an alternator on the loader and 2 batteries, a relay for the grader, routine breakdowns and maintenance. Josh said that after Town Meeting we should focus on selling the old grader as it might be a prime time to sell. The board discussed doing a sealed bid beginning at \$40,000.00, and getting that advertised. That would definitely give us more than what was offered as a trade in. Josh said it is good to keep it running as prep for the sale.

Todd asked Mac to keep the Fire Dept notified is a road becomes impassable or really bad so they can plan to go a different way in case of an emergency, and then he can let Enosburg Emergency Services know too.

Todd asked if there was a Report of the Road Crew. Josh said that there is not an end of the year report, but we have a weekly binder that shows all the roads worked on and what was done that week, etc. Todd said it would be nice to have a general overview of the year that said how many yards of sand was used or hours on equipment or ditching, etc.

Josh said that the town would like to move away from having the Road Commissioner and the Road Foreman being the same position. Mac said that a lot of towns have a member of the Select Board be the Road Commissioner and say that that works out pretty good. Josh said that is something we will start discussing right after Town Meeting. He said that we need to start getting someone prepared for when Mac retires, and we should definitely have Mac in on the discussion.

MERP Update- Mac said that Nick Thompson came and inspected the buildings and asked questions about the Town Hall and the Library, such as when were the windows put in, how old the buildings were, how many people are in the Town Clerks in a day. He looked at the furnace at the library and kind of laughed and the hot water heater that is from Montgomery Ward, and the front door. He asked about insulation, etc. We are just waiting to hear back, and he made it sound like we might get something for both.

Bullet Points for the Town Informational Meeting this Wednesday at 7:00pm. The meeting will be to discuss and answer questions on the Proposed budget published on page 9,10,11 and 12 in the Town Report. This meeting is to discuss Ballot items 2a and 2b. This is the time to ask questions about this budget as we can't really discuss those items on the ballot on Town Meeting Day, while the vote is in progress.

Brigham Update- Lance said that things are moving forward slowly but making progress. He said that there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday morning at 9:00am with NWRPC and Preservation Trust, Franklin County Development Corp and we will be discussing the next step and fill in the gaps. Todd said that at some point we should give/donate the building to the project. Lance said that the town is involved now because the town can access grants better than a private entity, but the town does not want to be involved in running the business. Lance said that he will share a bit of information about Brigham at Town Meeting and give the date of the final phase of the Brigham Information Project informational meeting.

New Mail-

The email from Samantha at Probation Services to explain the part Bakersfield would play in allowing Community Service in town. Josh said it says no obligation and it doesn't sound like a bad idea for the town to put our name in. Todd said that they flushed the Fire Hydrant's one year, and that they can spread gravel, plant flowers, rake leaves, paint, flag while you ditch with the excavator. John made a motion to answer yes to the request for being on the list to provide Community Service Opportunities, Lance seconded the request and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Lance said there was someone that was interested in being involved in Brigham project who wanted to buy some of these chairs. Lance told them they could probably make a donation. He said there are some upstairs, some at Brigham as they probably came from the auditorium.

The board responded to an email from Corey Doxler asking if our Road Budget went up due to the condition of the roads this spring as he was writing an article. Josh said that the Road Budget only went up \$25,000.00 this year and this was due to inflation more than the road conditions this year. The board asked Tami to respond to Corey and tell him that road conditions are always

taken into consideration when building the budget but that is not the reason for the rise in budget as that is due to inflation and rising costs of materials, equipment, services, etc.

There is a Historical Conference coming up and the board asked Tami to send the information to Alice Foote, Linda McCall at the Historical Society and Pat Evans of the BCC in case they might be interested in attending.

There was an email from the Dept of Housing and Community Development that they are seeking input to a draft of the Second Amendment, and asked Tami to make Bill Irwin and the Planning Commission received this information in case they would like to join that committee.

John made the motion to adjourn, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Tami Brennan.