

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
January 22, 2024
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Josh Goss.

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

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests present: Pat Evans, Larry Krygier, Dan and Katie Forand, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept the January 8th minutes the with the amendment that advertising has rising steeply in cost so they increased the Road advertising budget, Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

John made the motion to accept the Jan 17 and the Jan 19 as presented, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Warrants signed:

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| Selectmen's order # 1-2024 | \$3,997.74 |
| Road Commissioner's order # 3&4-2024 | \$18,921.68 |
| Road Commissioner's order # 1&2-2924 | \$11,580.71 |

Finance- Vera sent a letter to the board requesting approval to give the new treasurer the keys to the office and desk, have the signature cards changed, and allow access to the safe. The background check is good, and all paperwork is in. Lance made the motion to accept Vera's recommendation, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Lance suggested that the board lay down some guidelines for the treasurer's computer. Lance made the motion that access to the town computer and town files be only accessed at the Town office. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board told Vera to put the \$6,495.00 that came back from Land Use into the Hold Harmless Fund.

The Vermont Center of Independent Living had sent their request for \$95.00 before the warning was drawn up and signed. John made the motion to accept the addition of the \$95.00 request from The Vermont Center of Independent Living, added to the warrant, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

BCC- Pat Evans and Larry Krygier met with the board about wind damage in the park. They said that during the windstorm, a tree came down in the park and took part of the fence down. There is also a tree hanging over a section of trail, and then another 5 trees down toward the end of the trail at the back of the cemetery, blocking access completely. They said that there are two metal panels off the Bell gazebo and the boarder that goes around that roof. They wanted to know if the damage would be covered by the town's insurance. Josh said to have the trail flagged off with a sign to restrict access because of the

danger of the trees hanging over the trail. Larry said that he thinks that one tree ended up in the cemetery. The board asked Tami to call the VLCT insurance to see if it will cover property damage like that, the bell gazebo, the fence and the tree removal and to let the board and Larry know. Lance said that he would talk to the Road Crew to see if they can take care of the trees on Brigham and the town common. The board said to wait until Tami gets the information from VLCT. We will need to fill out a report and will need pictures. Pat said that he could take pictures and would send them to the board's email. Larry said they would document the damage. Josh said if insurance covers it, then we will let you know and if not, then we'll get the wood cleaned up and will wait for warmer weather. Terri said that she saw in the BCC minutes that you are concerned about the electricity on the common. She said we are working on that to get it upgraded.

Pat said that the BCC is recommending that Mary Lumbra, who is recently deceased, be remembered in memorandum on the Town Report. She was the town treasurer in the past.

Pat also wanted the board to add to the warning to the town to create a BCC reserve fund because there are certain properties that we would like to acquire, for example, a town forest. Pat said this is done all over in other towns, such as Richmond, etc. Pat said they have whittled down the wording for the warning. Larry said that the grant people like to know that the town is behind the projects by trying to save funds for the projects, and then they are more likely to help. Lance said that he thought that the proposed ½ penny added to the tax rate of the Grand List is too much. He said that he agrees with John that you should ask for a specific amount. The % amount will change with the reappraisal so we don't know how much that we would be committing to. Lance said that the warning that we have been working on has already been created has just been signed tonight. To change that would require a new warning and a special meeting, so this is really too late for this year. Josh said that the initial warning that you presented was taken to be understood that this is a beginning of the process in which we begin to consider, not as ready to be placed on the warning for this year. Lance told Pat that if the BCC has representation at Town Meeting, they should bring this proposal to the town's attention and explain the need, to see if you have their support. Josh said that we haven't seen wording like this before so it will take time for consideration. Josh also explained that the BCC budget needs are now included in the budget instead of a separate line item on the warning. Larry asked if RDAG was as well and Lance said no, that RDAG is funded by a trust. Pat said that the BCC appreciates what the board had done for them. Josh thanked the BCC for what they do for the town.

Todd said that he wants to go on record saying that the ramp on the side of the building has to be cleared by state law because it is an exit to this room and has an exit sign. Josh asked if it outlined as a roadcrew responsibility. Todd said no but they plow and keep the sidewalks clear. John said that we need to look at the job description and update specific jobs. Josh said if you listed

every single job that should be assumed in a job responsibility, you would have a 40 page document. Terri said that we all have responsibilities, and we have leaders to direct. Todd asked whose responsibility it is to shovel off the roof. Josh said not the road crew. We would not want them up on the roof doing that. Terri said she has a problem with asking for things to be done and they don't follow through. Todd said that as we did with the common, we're asking for them to add an additional duty assigned. Josh said that if we start making one of our three employees mow the common and Brigham, we would be taking an employee out of Road work for one day a week.

The upcoming Informational Meeting is to Discuss Articles 2a and 2b, which are the Budgets for the General Fund and Road Fund. **The Informational Meeting regarding the General and Road budget, to be voted on by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7:00pm.** This Informational Meeting will be accessible via zoom by clicking the zoom link located on the Town of Bakersfield Website Home page. This link is for listening to the meeting only. **The board will not be taking questions during the Informational Meeting via zoom. All stated questions must be asked from the floor.** We are not set up to answer question over zoom at this time.

New Mail- the board received the completed DD-214 form from Adelard Paradis to verify eligibility to be placed on the Veterans monument. The board said they should form a small committee in town that would be willing to take over the veteran's monument. Todd said that he is willing to work with Linda on this. The board said they would need to bid this out for the engraving.

The board approved the liquor license for the Jolly with a vote of 5-0.

Todd said that he spoke to Corey and told him that he had developed a new culvert policy. He said he sent it to Mac for review before we accept it. The board tabled this discussion until Mac is able to be here. The policy states that the main access point of a driveway or a road needs to be a minimum of 30 feet to allow for emergency vehicles, fuel trucks, etc. to make the turn, along with regulations and procedures regarding culverts.

The Luneau property on King's Hill- the board will follow up in the Spring regarding the grievance to the listers regarding functional depreciation.

Parking lot on the VASA trail- Lance said that the town owns an acre or two by the bridge on Whitney Rd. but that is a swamp. Lance said that to develop that for a parking lot would take a lot of money.

The board said that the Emergency Mitigation plan needs to be updated.

The State Police report of Police Action in Bakersfield throughout the year to be included in the town report.

Lance said that he had a meeting with Tim Smith of Franklin City Industrial Development Corporation, along with the prospective contractor to do the work. Lance said he came out feeling the best he has about the project. This contractor is willing to spearhead the project and guide us through this and actively seek funding. The largest possible grant that is proposed is through National Parks, but they don't want us to change anything in the building so you can't put in enough apartments. The developers want to take the gym and change it into tri-levels for 16 apartments. Lance said that he plans on giving information out on Town Meeting Day.

Todd made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and Town Meeting topics. John seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board entered executive session at 8:11pm.

John made the motion to exit Executive Session, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board exited Executive Session at 8:45pm. No Decisions or actions were taking during Executive Session.

The board asked Tami to warn a Special Selectboard meeting of Executive Session for Monday, February 5, at 7:00pm, and to invite Mac, for Personnel discussion.

John made the motion to adjourn, Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.