

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, July 10, 2023
7:00pm

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

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, and Terri Gates

Members absent: Todd Cosgrove

Residents/Guests: Mac Newett, Vera Lawyer, Dan Forand, Katie Forand, Alex Barkley, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept June 26 meeting minutes with amendments in grammar, Terri seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0, Lance abstaining since he was absent at the last meeting.

Warrants:

Road Commissioners order #10-2023	\$460.80
Road Commissioners order #11-2023 Dirt	\$534.21
Road Commissioners order #5&6-2023	\$9,714.90
Selectmen's order #14-2023	\$5,672.35

Finances- Vera met with the board and provided finance reports. She explained that the \$2500.00 that was transferred into the zoning account is not really a receipt item but a budgeted item that was transferred. She said that the other \$10,000.00 was transferred to the Grand List. This also was a budgeted amount that was transferred from one item line to another and is voted money. Vera said the quarterlies are all done. And FEMA is all paid out and the loan is all done. Lance said that the 5% of the FEMA total, that the state of VT is supposed to pay us is still to come, about \$55,000.00, and also the repayment for the admin costs of Mac and Lance, so another \$5,000.00 for the CATZ for admin. We will have to wait to submit that last part until everything is done before we can do that. John asked Vera if the businesses in town pay business tax to the town. Vera said no, the town does not receive business tax, just real estate tax. Josh said that the only way that the town would get taxes from businesses is if the town decides to implement a business tax. John asked Vera, if now that ARPA is done, should we close that account. Vera said that she thinks we should leave it until the end of the year so that can be audited. Vera said that she has been contacted by Community Bank regarding debit/credit cards/electronic payments. Darren Trainer emailed from the bank and asked if we would be interested in scheduling an informational meeting and Vera told him that she wanted to talk to the Select Board first. Darren said that this can actually be done at no expense to the town if we assess a processing fee. Vera asked John if he would be able to sit in on the meeting if they decided to have one. Terri said that they charge 4% at the restaurant. Vera said that we can make a list of questions to ask at the meeting. Terri said that it's a lot, you need to take their name, account number, exp date and the 3-digit code. Vera said that she doesn't want to add more work. Josh said they would probably give you a credit card machine. Terri said she likes the check

and cash. Josh said that check and cash are the best, but credit cards and digital payments are the way of the world, so we should at least look into it. A lot of people don't carry checkbooks or cash. Josh said if you think it would be beneficial to the town and its members, and if it can be streamline and will work, then ok. If it more trouble than it's worth, then we can say no. John and Vera discussed available times to attend a zoom meeting.

Alex Barkley met with the board as the town grant writer. He said that he had received an email that they have officially opening the MERP grant applications and there are a couple of steps. He said there is an energy assessment where they look at the building and its systems. There are two levels, Level One which is basically a walk through, and level two, which is more detailed with more documentation needed. He thought they would need 3 years of energy bills, architectural drawings, etc, and that would provide a more detailed report, the benefit of that being that you may possibly be able to apply for more than just the MERP. He said that the level one would be less work for the town. He said after the assessment is done, then there is another application step. Terri asked if we could have Efficiency Vermont do a level two assessment. John said, no that we have to have a rep from Regional Planning in St. Albans do this. There is a URL we can go to and we can fill out what we want and they will send someone out. John said there are grants to pay for the assessments and also grants up to \$500,000.00 to make buildings more energy efficient, which includes windows, electrical systems, heat, doors, etc. John said that they have been told that less is more, in that we should pick what is the most important. He said the library needs the door and the furnace, which we waited for the MERP grant instead of using ARPA funds. John said that the town hall building needs a furnace, cooling and insulation. John said it would be up to \$500,000.00 to complete all projects. Josh asked John if he was suggesting that we not do the town garage. Alex said that you can prioritize projects. Terri said, the Town hall, the library and the town garage, and the old fire station. Lance said to take off the old fire station and stick with the three. Lance asked if they could budget to paint the old fire station roof. Josh said that he doesn't think that paint is enough, he said it needs new metal. Lance said that he thinks that Roger Lindala did a smoke test and infrared test report on the Town hall years ago. Josh said he thinks that we should do a level one assessment and we should go for the Town Hall, the Library, and the Town Garage. Alex said that John was going to do the arranging for the assessment but if that needs to change, then Alex said that he could help. He said that his father's health has improved so he would be more available. John said that Mac will have to be available to open all the building when they come to assess because they will not wait while someone gathers keys. Josh asked Tami to contact Nicky Cribb and get a spare key to the library until the assessment is complete. Lance made the motion to authorize John West to represent the Select Board in regard to the MERP grant. Josh seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0, John abstaining. Alex said that final deadline for

MERP is October, so we have time. John said that as soon as possible is best. John and Alex to meet next week to proceed.

Roads- Josh said that he got a call from Shaun Coleman from Northwest Regional Planning asking about our roads and if we were having trouble with our roads. Mac said that Bethany also texted him to check in. There are a couple of small washouts but nothing too bad. Mac said that he's been watching the weather to see how things are going. He said that things are ok as of tonight. Terri said that it is really bad in the south.

The board discussed the \$130,000.00 transferred into New Equipment from ARPA and will talk about equipment at a later date.

Terri asked what the garage would need. She asked if it was worth fixing or have we thought about building new. Mac said the only thing about new is that new town garages cost about 3 million dollars. Lance said that the underground stuff adds up really quick, and if we apply for grants then we'd need to upgrade septic/water, etc. John asked about the steel building that you see around. Lance said they have interlocking panels that are steel on the outside and inside with foam insulation in between. He said they are interlocking and bolted together on the inside. The board said they would need a concrete floor and a sludge tank for the seepage from the trucks, and a setting pond tank. Josh said the metal building is a great idea and it's worth looking into. Mac said that the doors are the biggest thing. An automatic door opener would save some heat. He said that by the time you open the doors manually and move out the trucks, and then get out and shut the doors, you've lost all the heat in the building. Lance asked how many bays would you need to be able to put the grader in there too. The board said at least 5 bays. Josh said he wondered if the land could be permitted for that, Scribner's old property. Lance said it would need a change of use. Terri said we won't know unless we look into it. The board said the gravel pit loan is coming off the budget and ARPA money is taking care of some of the expenses that we had coming up.

Terri said that it's known throughout the town that people are stealing stone from the town garage. She said that people on King's Hill Rd saw it happen. She said that they took 5-7 loads with their bucket, and they need to pay for it. Terri said that she would go and research as it won't be hard to find who took it. They will have to pay for it. That is tax-payers money. She said that is stealing for someone to line their whole driveway with stone is unacceptable. Mac said that we need a camera down there. He said even a trail camera on that pole. He said we have the same problem with salt in the wintertime. He said the gravel is ok because we have a gravel pit, but the stone is expensive.

Mac asked about getting Fidium Fiber at the Town Garage. Mac said that Mark is paying about \$70.00 for phone and internet and we pay \$65.00 for just the phone at the garage. The address of the garage is 203 E. Bakersfield Rd. Josh said that the guys could check the weather from the garage. Terri said that if we had internet down there you can also get security and we could see

everything down there. The board asked Tami to check with Fidium Fiber about internet and phone at the town garage and have some numbers for the next meeting. Josh said that if it was near \$70.00/month, it would be worth it. Josh said that Mark had told him that with all the storm water runoff, he is supposed to document on the state website, and he is 6 months behind because he can only do that on the computers when the town office computers are not in use. With the internet, he could input at the town garage. Mac said he has two old gateways and Terri said that she has an old Dell. John said he can look at reclaimed equipment at work.

Terri asked Mac what Taylor and Seth were to do with that culvert. Mac said they took the culvert out and put the swale in and it its working perfect.

Mac said that the signs for the golf course have arrived, and they are on a warrant for tonight. John asked who approved the ordering of the signs and Josh and Terri said that the board did. They said that since we agreed to order the signs before we knew that it is the golf course that is responsible for providing the signs, then we should honor that and pay for them. John agreed. Mac asked if they had looked into adding the third crosswalk. Josh said that in order for them to have a legal crosswalk, the speed limit needs to be 40 mph or below, so they would have to petition to lower the speed limit, and a pedestrian crossing calls for 6 signs. Mac said that there is a 59-page report of regulation that he will send the board. Josh asked Terri if Carl and Dana would be willing to come to the next Select Board meeting. He said, from a fairness and equity standpoint, Todd should be sitting on the other side of the table when he argues for the business. Terri said that she would excuse herself from the conversation as an employee as well. Josh said that the first thing that has to happen is to petition to lower the speed limit and they need x number of signatures. We have to have a hearing on that to get it approved. One of the board members asked about having a seasonal speed limit. Terri said the golf course usually opens April 15, but they have had snow golf with tennis balls before. Terri said that the problem is that two of the cross walks are already approved. Josh said that those two would be grandfathered in since they were before these regulations. The lease agreement was with Wolf Run and Lance said he didn't know if we could hold them to it. John said he would think so since the agreements would travel with the golf course. Terri said that it is unbelievable how fast the traffic goes on Boston Post. John said that the unapproved crossing is on the top of the hill with blind spots. He said the golf carts just jet out in the road. Lance said whoever owns the golf course might consider small stop signs at the edge of the road for the pedestrians and the golf carts to stop and look for their own safety. John said all it takes is once. He said he doesn't think that top crossing should be there. Josh said that he like to take John on a cart so he could see the better visibility from the golf carts point of view. He said that on the one on the bottom part of the hill, you can't see past that hill. Josh said the top crossing is the safer crossing. Lance said that he agrees with Josh and John. He said if we approve the top one and

it's not done correctly and someone gets hurt there, then the town is open to a lawsuit. The board discussed asking them if instead of adding a third access, they consider exchanging the bottom one for one on the top of the hill. Josh asked Tami to invite Carl Stone, Dana Kittel, and Jordon Stone to the July 24th Select Board meeting, this way we can get everybody on the same page. And that he doesn't feel that Todd pleading the case for the golf course should be on the Select Board side of the table. Josh said to put one sign down by Jerry Brigham's, the cart crossing at the top of the hill and the pedestrian once by the club house. John said don't put anything on the 3rd crossing until that is a legal access. Terri agreed that no sign should go there as it's not approved yet. Lance said not to give the signs until after the meeting. John said they should put the Golf Course ahead signs up just not on by the 3rd access that isn't approved and hold off on this permit until Carl or someone can come in and talk to us.

Josh told the board of a letter from Garry Smith outlining his solar panel and wind turbine project. A 34-panel solar array for a total of 63'8"x15'. He said it looks like just a notification. John asked if he needed a zoning permit to do this. Josh said this is a zoning question and asked Tami to pass it along to Brenda and ask her to have all appropriate permits filed. Josh said that this is a copy of the letter that Garry has sent to his neighbors. John said there must be some permit whether at the State level or town level.

Brigham Academy Update- none

John said he spoke to Chris Ward, and he will not be able to do Berkshire Rd right now. He said he will be at the SB meeting on the 24th and can talk about it then. Josh said we'll only need a folding table, pen, sticker application, stickers and a citation book for the town and also the wardens will have theirs.

Terri said the fireworks were really good this year. She said thank everyone that did the 4th of July. The parade was great with such short notice. The music was good too. Terri said that hopefully we can expand the 4th in the future. She said we need is a committee that starts planning in March. Terri said it would be nice to have the lawn party stuff like we used to have, the spinning of the wheel/roulette, Go fish, an obstacle course. Josh said what would you think about having a soap box derby from the intersection. Terri said we should have a Dunk the Select Board chair! Tami said they have an Outhouse race in Bristol, that could be fun.

John made the motion to adjourn, Terri seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.
Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

