

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
July 11, 2022  
7:00pm

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

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

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests: Maria DeRosia, Linda McCall, Mac Newitt, Deanna and Rodney Allen, Dan and Katie Forand, Mary Lumbra

The motion was made by John to accept the June 27 minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Lance and carried by a vote of 4-0, Josh abstaining since he was not present at the June 27 meeting.

Warrants signed:

Selectman's Order#14-22	\$34,492.15
BCC 2-22	\$45.81
ARPA 3-2022	\$67.27
Road Commissioner's Order Dirt#6+7-2022	\$11,928.72
Road Commissioner's Order FEMA# 4-22	\$902.66
Road Commissioner's Order New Equipment	\$617.00

Finance Report- Maria provided the board with updated financial reports and said that she had no updates. The board said that they had discussed and decided that a report once a month, at the first meeting of the month, would be sufficient going forward. Terri asked if Maria had answers to the questions that they had at the last meeting. Maria said she had emailed the answers to all the board members the morning following the last meeting as promised. Josh asked what the questions were since he was not there. Maria said that there were questions on the Brigham repair fund, the amount in that line item should have been in Brigham expense and has been moved there. And there was a question on the copier budget amount. The number in that line item was a place holder and has been updated. Maria said we are right on target for our copier budget.

Agenda item- Booska and Atherton had called to reschedule until the next meeting.

Linda McCall- Linda said she had a chance to check out the grant opportunities that John had forwarded to her that he believed the Historical Society could benefit from. She said that the Historical Society had already applied for and been turned down because they were unable to produce an engineer's report and they were unable to get an engineer's report due to the limitations created by pre-vaccine status of COVID. Linda said that the only organization that sympathized with their dilemma was Preservation Trust which worked with us, and we did get that grant for \$10,000.00. Linda said

that the first estimate that they received to correct the frost damage was for \$50,000.00, but when we were finally able to get an engineer out there, he told us that the gable at the back which was above the area of foundation damage scheduled to be fixed, could collapse and needed to come down before the construction began for the safety of the workers below. So that brought the cost into the \$80,000.00 category. John asked Linda if they had applied for the Hearse House and Linda said no because the Hearse House is not on the Historic Building list, and they don't have any estimates. She said that they have volunteers in town that will give us an estimate for materials and will donate their labor.

Linda also told the board that Jamie Stone should qualify to have his name on the War Memorial monument on the Town Green. She said that he served honorable in Iraq and Afghanistan and Bakersfield was his home of record at the time of his tours. Lance said that he thought that it was Ploof that did the previous engraving. Linda said that there are 3 or 4 places that could do it since they would have the same stencils, we would just need to make sure that it has the same font. There was another mention of a correction...instead of the War on Terror, it should read War on Terrorism.

Linda asked the board if it would be possible for the town truck to transport a couple loads of crushed stone for the Cemetery Commission so they can finish the cemetery driveway down by the circle at the bottom, and also a load of rock fine for the pathways on the common. She said they have looked for stone at a place on Pond Rd. Josh said that he didn't have a problem with the guys taking the town truck to carry the stone. He said they have already done so for the Little league field.

Josh made a motion to haul 2-3 loads of crushed rock for the Cemetery at the Road crew's convenience. Lance seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Brenda reminded all that the ARPA meeting had been moved from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm and will be zoomed and recorded.

Roads- Mac said that he is still waiting for a quote for paving on Boston Post from Whitcomb and Hutchins. The new paving will go from the Bakersfield/Enosburg line to by Hazelton's...about 9/10ths of a mile.

Terri said that Hutchins didn't finish what it promised on the road. Lance said that was a separate deal from the town between the Fire Dept and Hutchins. Mac said that all the stuff is down there now, so they are working on it. Mac said when evaluating the quotes, we need to compare the product and not just the money to make sure of what we are getting.

Mac said that Bethany and some assistants are coming on Wednesday to start the Hydraulicly Connected Survey throughout the whole town and make recommendations. It should take a couple of weeks. She will rank the jobs in

priority of when they should be done. We have a grant of \$31,000.00 to improve that sort of stuff. Mac thinks that it may be a matching grant but is not certain. There is a certain percentage that needs to be done this year.

Mac said that he and Lance have finished the quarterly report for FEMA. The bridge is 50% done and should jump to 90% done when they pour the headwall in one day. He said that we had filed for the time extension needed and we have a deadline of 9/15. Blow and Cody were involved in making a deadline they believed they could meet. They expect to be finished mid-August. The major projects need to be 100% complete to be reviewed by the State and be reimbursed. Mac said all the jobs except Whitney are all obligated and have been signed off on. Lance said that FEMA owes us the reimbursement on the gravel. He said that FEMA gives the State the money and the State writes us a check. The State of Vermont has \$48,696.00 in hand from FEMA for the gravel work, and also \$121,728.00 for Waterville Mountain Rd and \$156,114.00 for Whitney Rd, which totals to \$326,538.00 that the State of Vermont is sitting on, and we are waiting to receive it. Josh asked what the reason is from the state as to why we haven't been issued the funds. Lance didn't know why but he said they were told to be patient. Josh said that maybe a call needs to be made. Lance said that they were going to put in a call to Penelope. They had a meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> and many issues were discussed. He said they may need to request another draw down to speed things up. Lance said it's coming up on three years. Lance said that Paul and Richard Hopkins are to come up to meet with Lance and Mac this coming week.

Josh said they had received a PDF that went along with an email that obligates us to \$2000.00 or in-kind grant for Better Back Roads. Mac said that comes from the NWRPC in-kind. He said she'll send the bill, we pay it, and then we get reimbursed.

Terri said that she had heard about an email complaining about someone filling a storage tank with water down by the old garage. They were asking because the town pays for the water. Mac said that the town has nothing to do with the water and that it pays a flat fee. Someone asked if the town was charging so much a gallon to make some money. Mac said the individual is going to make a donation just like he did last year.

Mac said that the school parking lot was supposed to start today. Brenda asked about any extra plywood from boarding up the school. Mac said they did have some. Josh told Mac to keep 10 sheets and return anything over that.

Roadside mowing bids- the deadline has passed so the board opened the one bid it received. Mac said that Dan did make a phone call to Pete's to find out what they have for a mower, and they will rent the mower with the tractor for \$3000.00/week for a similar machine. Mac said they either repaired or purchased a new blade for the pole saw which extends to cut higher branches.

Lance said that since the type of bid that they received was hourly, they are going to have to say do what you can do for a certain amount of money. He said that not all the roads will get done this year. He said we're looking at about one week of brush hogging. He asked if we should hire it out. Lance said that the bid comes out to about \$3000.00/week. Lance asked if we could afford to have Danny doing this for a week to two weeks. Mac said that it depends on this survey that is being done, some of those things need to get done this summer. Mac said there are places that we are going to ditch that won't need to be brush hogged. Terri said that the hourly wage bid would be cheaper because it includes labor. Lance agreed. Mac said that they would tell him not to waste his time doing some of these places. We'll find out if he can give us an average of how much he can cover in an hour. Mac said it would be good if he could come up and we can take a ride and I can show him. Josh said that he thought it would be best to prioritize the roads as they are classed....Class II and then Class III. That Boston Post and East Bakersfield Rd should be first. Our cap for Roadside mowing this year is \$4000.00. Lance said at 8 hours/day, it should give us 1½ weeks. With the money from the sale of our old mower, we might be able to get 2 weeks. Mac said that he would prioritize roads and have spots chosen that need it most. He said that some of the corners on the back roads are bad and may need 2-3 passes on those spots to open them up.

John asked for an update on the Hydro-seeder. Mac said they haven't heard for 6-8 weeks but they have extended the deadline as long as it is paid already, and it is.

John asked about an update on the grader search and Mac said that he's been playing phone tag with the John Deere dealer, vacations and all, but they are still making contact with them.

New mail-

Josh noted the resignation letter from Sonya, the town office custodian. There was an ad placed in the Courier that appeared last Thursday asking for application letters to be sent to the town office with a deadline of July 25<sup>th</sup> at noon so that they would be ready for the board to review at the July 25<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting.

Josh said that Homeland Security wants to talk to us. They would like us to list all the activities that the town is going to have for the next 1½ years. He said the letter states that this is not mandatory. Josh said that he was not feeling very compliant. Lance said that he wasn't either.

Josh mentioned the NWPC Enhanced Consultant Report. John noted that report is for the Planning Commission regarding a previous meeting.

Brigham Academy Update- It's all boarded up.

Update on the East Bakersfield Culvert project- Mac said that Tyler bid to do the East Bakersfield Culvert and he found that the bottom of the culvert had rusted, and he thought they could put a concrete slab over the bottom with some fish baffles, so the fish have a place to breed. And then upgrade the 18" culvert to 36" in case the other culvert happens to go, the water would go there. Tyler thought this would be a fairly cheap way out of it. He said that if Bakersfield doesn't have the money, the Fish and Game usually can come up with money. Lance asked if we had a timeframe to do the work. Josh said we had a time frame to sign up for the free design, but we can sit on the design indefinitely. Lance said that he thought we should see the FEMA project through first. The board agreed. Mac said Tyler said they might group this project with the Richford Culvert at the same time and that may bring some money here. Josh said that if they want to pay to fix our roads, we'll take it.

External Audit- Josh said there were no updates on external audit and said that they would ask Tami when she returned.

Discussion on Brigham Donation for Repairs-

Josh summarized the situation for the board. Josh said that he received a call from Kathy to come to the office to look at what had arrived. It was the same day that we received the apology letters. The stack of papers included an envelope with a check with no recipient's name on it. It had been delivered to the school. He said the note was worded funny. It was a check for \$1000.00 donation made to what entity, not written out on the check with a note that said for Brigham Academy repairs. Josh said I, the Select Board chairman, and Kathy, the Town Clerk, decided to write the Town of Bakersfield on the check. We were not sure if it was to go to the school or the town. The school thought it was supposed to go to the town so they sent it, and we took it, put the town of Bakersfield on it and put it in the general fund so that if it was supposed to go to the school, a check could be written out to the school out of the general fund or to the donator. Lance said that the school does not own Brigham Academy. Josh said that note said for Mr. B's class for Brigham Academy repairs. Mac said that the class that the students were in had a Mr. B. Terri said that according to the Donator's Face Book post, it said that the check was intended to go toward plexi-glass and that is not what we did with it. Terri made the motion to thank Mr. Terry Gerrow for his donation but at this time we have no use for it because the Town of Bakersfield has no means of restoring Brigham Academy. Josh agreed. Thank you for your kindness but we are going to refund the check. Brenda seconded the motion to return the \$1000.00 donation to Terry Gerrow. John asked if anybody had reached out to Terry and asked him. Josh said that Terry has been invited to a board meeting and been placed on the agenda and has not attended. His Facebook posts said that we were not using his funds appropriately. The motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Lance said as much as the people of Bakersfield like to post opinions on FaceBook, we, the board, do not respond to comments on FaceBook. We are happy to address issues at a Select Board meeting. If you want your issues to

be taken seriously and addressed, come to a Select Board meeting. Josh said that he had responded to previous posts with the times of the Select Board meetings. Terri said that she had responded and corrected wrong information. Josh said there has been a lot of that.

Josh said the Board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month at the Town Hall or via Zoom. Feel free to join anytime. We welcome anybody from the town. For flow purposes, it is better for the board if you call the office and get placed on the agenda. Josh said that we can discuss issues that are not on the agenda but to have a binding vote, the item discussed must be warned on the agenda.

John asked the board to give approval to get some line filters for the mics to stop the humming. He said we are getting some interference and he is not sure why. John said it should be under \$300.00, \$400.00 tops. John wanted to get them and have them in place before the next meeting because of sound issues with attendees on zoom and the recording. Lance made the motion to approve the expenditure up to \$300.00 maximum for line filters for the mics. Josh seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Lance gave an update on Brigham Academy. He said that the test pits were supposed to be performed this week and have been moved to Tuesday of next week. They will do 3 test pits on the Brigham Green between the trees for septic purposes. The test pits should take one day to perform and then will be immediately filled in.

Josh said that the Brigham Library has requested to use the Brigham Academy Green for movie nights for the community. Terri asked if we had a lawn use fee. Josh said that we have a form for the use of the green anytime they are used by other than town entities. There is no power in the box on the pole so Josh said that he told them that they would have to pull it from the Elementary School. The planned dates for the movies are on July 13, July 28, August 11, and August 25. Four separate movie dates.

Josh made the motion to approve the request for the use of the Brigham Academy Green by the Brigham Library for the four dates stated. The motion was seconded by Lance and carried by a vote of 5-0.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brenda, Terri seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Tami Brennan