

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, July 12, 2021
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Josh.

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

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests present: Deanna and Rodney Allen, Ron Marcotte, Mack Newitt, Willy and Stacey Maynard, Katie and Dan Forand, Megan Buckley, Heather Tanner, Eddy Robtoy, Harmon Mayo, Tami Brennan

The motion to accept the previous minutes as written was made by Lance and seconded by Brenda and carried by a vote of 4-0. (Terri having not yet arrived)

Warrants signed:

Selectman's Order #15-2021	\$2998.36
Road Commissioner's Order #6&7-2021	\$15,919.47
Road Commissioner's Order #9-2021	\$1,214.47
Equipment Repair	
Road Commissioner's Order #FEMA	\$15,850.00

Financial- Audrey gave the Select Board a copy of the treasurer's report before the meeting and the Select Board said that they would look it over at their convenience.

The Cemetery Commission attended the Select Board meeting at the invitation of the Select Board to discuss the dead trees at the end of the cemetery on East Bakersfield Rd. The trees are on cemetery land but in the town's right of way, so the discussion was about whether it was the town's responsibility to take them down or the Cemetery Commission's. Willy said that the town could have at um. Willy said that he was intending to take them down and send them through the chipper. He just needed to be able to stop traffic long enough. Josh said that they could also reach out to Green Mountain Power to see if the trees would interfere with the lines and the electric company would take them down. Willy said that it would be easy to take them down. They are small. If we could just stop traffic on a Saturday long enough to take them down. Mac said it would almost be easier to flag the road during the week. Ron confirmed with the Select Board that these were the trees on the perimeter and not inside the cemetery and the Select Board said that is correct. Lance offered that the town would take them down and the Cemetery Commission could replant them. Willy said that he was willing to take them down for free, if the town would close the Rd, and he would set up the chipper at the town garage and skid the trees across the street and chip them up. Lance said that he would volunteer to pick up the trees with his tractor and skid them over to the town garage. Josh said that the only other cost would be for stump grinding and replanting. Willy said that he can do it this Saturday. The board said to hammer it out with Mac. Josh said if you cut the stumps nice and level, they would rot out pretty

well. The town can put up a caution sign and Willy would be working off the road. The town will take care of them, and the cemetery committee will replant. The board asked the Cemetery Commission if they had any other concerns. They said that all was going good, and that Ron was doing a great job.

Eddy Robtoy came to the board with a permit request to bring power across the Rd from his neighbor's pole and will go underground. The pole is on his neighbor's property about 138' up, out of the town right of way. Eddy said that he spoke to the CoOp and they don't mind. Eddy said that the CoOp needs an easement across the Rd from the Select Board. That they would do the work and get the easement afterword. Eddy said the CoOp said that they would take care of that. Mac had no problem with it as long as they went deep enough. Eddy said that they would make it 4'deep and mark it good and put it in conduit. The project needs to be flagged. Eddy thought they planned to begin on Saturday. The board told him to get in touch with Mac and Mac could get him some Road signs. They will need to call Dispatch for Ambulance/Fire Dept to alert them. Eddy said he will know more Wednesday and will stop by and see Mac. Josh said that the Select Board would sign the permit.

Roads-

The board discussed an access permit for Danielle Laplant on Hennessey Rd. The land slopes toward the Road and needs to be adjusted, leveled out or make sure his access Rd slopes away from the Town Rd. Mac has to check it out for final approval. The Select Board signed off on the first step of the Access permit.

Mac said that he had a rough estimate for the Guard rail to be placed on East Bakersfield Rd. It needs about 100-150 feet at 14.00/foot so it would be about \$1400.00 with Lafayette installing...under \$2000.00, unless you need an anchor on both ends which would be an additional 1000.00/anchor. Mac doesn't expect that they are needed. Terri said that's cheap if it saves a life.

Mac talked about Roadside mowing. To rent a tractor with a boom mower from Pete's equipment would be about \$3000.00/week. Mac said that the little tractor that the town has would handle a 5 ft sickle bar with hydraulic. Mac said that a sickle bar would cost...at Champlain Equipment \$4603.00, at Pete's Equipment \$3750.00, and at Fournier \$4350.00. And Mac said that we would always have the option of selling this piece of equipment. Mac said that the town has been spending \$3000.00/year for mowing. And he said that he's sure that we wouldn't get the complaints about the roadside mowing that we have been getting. Josh asked Mac if he was asking if he could purchase the sickle bar. Mac said that the equipment fund has money in it.

Lance made the motion to purchase the 3-point hitch 5' sickle bar attachment from Pete's Equipment for \$3750.00. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Terri asked Mac what the \$607.00 charge from Clark's was for. Mac said that a window broke on Mark's truck. It came down and wouldn't come back up and it was not covered under warranty.

Job descriptions- The Road crew will look over the job descriptions and give feedback to the Select Board and the Select Board will vote to accept the job descriptions at the next Select Board meeting.

FEMA- Paul and Richard are coming to Bakersfield to help Mac and Lance with the workbook and get things all set. Paul's expecting for us to see money...75% of the goat path demo and Jordan Rd and Trobridge. Lance talked to Audrey and the money hasn't come in yet, but she will keep checking. Lance and Mac will be working on Whitney and Waterville on Wednesday with Paul and Richard.

The Select Board received the Educational Tax Rate that is set by the state for the fiscal year of 2022. Now they need to set the Municipal tax rate based off from the budget voted in by the taxpayers. Lance said that they total all the assessments and figure what we need to meet our budget. The Board said that the rough figures were .5586 for them municipal rate and 1.4789 homestead and 1.7328 non-homestead. The Select Board will figure that out and vote it in at the next meeting.

The board received a list of the 263 ATV Wheelers who have registered and purchased a sticker in Bakersfield, with a notation next to each resident. The board said they appreciated everybody who is doing the right thing and registering.

Brigham Academy Reimagined- Lance and Josh applied for a grant in April for a planning grant. Lance explained that it was a planning grant so Paul Dryer and Heidi can go forward and hold public meetings for public opinion and find out exactly what the town wants for the Brigham Residence, as well as pay for engineering studies and cost evaluation studies. The planning grant is for planning the next step forward. They applied for \$50,000.00 and they were awarded \$45,000.00. The project's focus is to make 3 stories of senior apartments. They will probably lose the gymnasium. They want to keep at least one staircase. If they keep both staircases, it will take away from residential space. The exterior of the building should basically remain unchanged, but the infrastructure inside will be completely rebuilt. There is nothing salvageable. The basement is to be reserved for the janitor. There will be a public information meeting.

ARPA- Josh received a phone call from Kathy Lavoie and said Kathy explained the ARPA funds to him completely and contacted Brenda about the motions that need to be made tonight. She said that there is specific stuff that the money can be used for. We can accept this money and if we don't use it, we can

return it. Brenda said that we can use it for COVID stuff. Brenda said that the \$130,000.00 is the first step and that there is about \$289,000.00 behind this. The preliminary step is tonight. She said that public meetings are suggested. We need documented public input for anything that we spend it on. But we have to get through this step to even get to the next step to discuss. On the portal tonight, during the meeting, we will go through the approximate 15-minute process to request the funds.

Brenda sent the Select Board the overview of the steps needed to be completed tonight. Brenda will make a couple of motions to discuss and approve. This has to happen before we can request the funds. Bakersfield is one out of two towns that have not yet applied. Michael McCarthy contacted Brenda because he was looking at the list and he noticed that Bakersfield wasn't on it.

Brenda asked Josh...Mr. Chairman, can I go ahead with the draft. Josh said yes.

Brenda made the first motion... "I move that the Town of Bakersfield accept its allocation of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, along with the Award Terms and Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements that are requirements of accepting these funds." Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The next required order of business is to appoint a Town Authorized Representative. This is the point person for all paperwork which is a similar process that the FEMA process was. The town needs to use their DUNS number. The check gets deposited in escrow. Brenda said that she is willing to accept this responsibility and be appointed if the Select Board so desires.

Lance made the second motion... "I move that we appoint Brenda Churchill to serve as the Town's "Authorized Representative" as required by the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funding (CLFRF) from the US Treasury, to sign the Award Terms & Conditions and Assurances of Compliance with the Civil Rights Requirements by 7/12/2021." Josh seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0, Brenda abstaining.

Lance made the third motion... "I move that we name Brenda Churchill to be the "Contact Person" for the Town's CLFRF Award from U.S. Treasury."

Josh seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by a vote of 4-0, Brenda abstaining.

The board filled out the application on the portal as they appointed the motions. The board completed the ARPA application/registration for requesting ARPA funds on the Portal during the meeting. The board officially submitted the application/request for the ARPA funds.

Brenda will keep the board updated at each meeting. ARPA update to be an ongoing item on the Select Board meeting agendas, under Board Business.

Complaints for ATVs- Brenda received a complaint last night on Facebook. She will take a screenshot and save it. She noted that both sides are not told fully. She said that people complain on Facebook anonymously, but she would prefer that they come to and register their complaint with the Select Board. The State

Police were called to the residence to report property damage on Peaked Hill Rd. The riders were angry that the trails up there were closed, that there is no trail, they went off the road onto the resident's property and damaged her lawn. She was unable to see who it was. Brenda will ask for a copy of the State Police report.

On Skinner Hill Rd, there was a guy who started to take the chain off the gate and argued with the landowner that this trail is always open. People have been unchaining the gate or going around them with their ATV. The board discussed putting a lock on the chain and giving the property owners a key. Mac said that technically since the Select Board did not throw the road up, but made it a legal trail, you can't lock it. Terri said it was good for property owners to call the cops because it's not a town issue. Private landowners can post their trail closed. Gary said since VASA moved out, it's been so much better. There are no late-night runs on his road. Josh said that our roads are open, they are just closed on the ATV assoc., but anyone can buy a sticker to ride. And we really have had no complaints until this weekend.

Josh said that he had previously spoken with Dan from VASA and since the town said that they would not change their policy this year, the town is observing and gathering input from residents, Dan is going to wait until the fall to talk to the board. Josh had thought that Tim Joyal had some ideas of how the town and VASA could make it work, but he is also waiting until the end of the season.

Mac asked the board about reimbursing Lance for some of the time that he has put into the FEMA project. He said whatever the town paid Lance to work on this project, was reimbursable through FEMA. Mac said that Lance had at least 60 hours into the project to date. And also, Abbey Miller has put in hours and hours of time. Lance said that he has documentation for the meetings. Mac said that the meetings are nothing compared to the time that they have put in. Josh asked if the town had a set rate. We could pay them from the FEMA LOC and then pay it back with the reimbursement. Josh asked to add this subject to the next agenda, and they would discuss it at the next meeting. Also to be discussed at the next meeting will be the ARPA compensation rate.

Lance said that he had been reimbursed at the initial time of the road inspection, as an ad hoc position at \$15.00/hour, but it was not voted on. Gary said that FEMA may have their own administrative rates.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:15pm.

The next Regular Select Board Meeting to be held on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.