

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
July 25, 2022
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Josh.

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

Members absent: Terri Gates

Residents attending: Linda McCall, Dan and Katie Forand

Motion to accept the previous minutes from the July 11th meeting as written was made by Lance, seconded by John, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Warrants paid:

Selectmen's order #3-2022	\$128.00
Selectmen's order #15-2022	\$11,841.99
Selectmen's order #ARPA 4-2022	\$94.19
Road Commissioner's order #8+9-2022	\$11,372.98

No Finance report since it has been moved to monthly.

Visitors on the Agenda, Booska and Atherton, were not in attendance.

Roads- Mac gave the board a permit to sign for Electric Coop to say that they have permission to work within the Town Right of Way near 962 King Rd. The board members signed, and Tami notarized.

Mac gave the board the Branon Rd access permit to sign. It is an after the fact permit application, for which the town charges double the regular permit fee, if the work done has been done in compliance. Mac said that the work is in compliance, and there is zero chance that it will negatively affect our roads.

Mac presented the board with 3 bids for paving Boston Post Rd. Three bids were required in order to use the Paving grant. Josh said that the board can decide that we have received all the bids that we have solicited and close the bids.

Lance made a motion to close the bidding process for Boston Post Rd paving project, Brenda seconded, and the motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Bids were as follows:

Whitcomb- 1596+/- ton @ 110.00/ton--\$175,560.00

Hutchins- 1680 ton @ 94.50/ton--\$158,760.00...and Mac noted that price was in July and could be higher in Aug.

Pike- didn't come up to measure but estimated around the same as Hutchins @94.44/ton--\$158,659.20.

Josh said we are literally looking at around a \$117.00 dollar difference. The board asked for Mac's recommendation. Mac said that he had never worked with Hutchins, they are a newer company. He said they work with Pike all the time and Pike has been doing this forever. It is also the lowest bid. Josh made

the motion to accept the bid from Pike Industries, Brenda seconded. John said he would like to see who could do it the soonest. Mac said they were all the same and were hoping to do it sometime in September. Josh asked if the job would require help from the Road crew. Mac said just the shoulder work afterward.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0.

Roadside mowing- Mac said that Mike Montgomery has a mowing arm that reached 14' and said that he had done the town of Albany and they are very happy with his work. He has two more towns and then should be here to do Bakersfield in late August, early September to mow where we can't reach. Mac said that he would have him start on East Bakersfield Rd, Joyal Rd and Witchcat Rd.

Mac said that after Mike does his pass, the Road crew would go in and cut places that he couldn't get.

Mac said that he and Lance had a closing meeting with FEMA. They said that they are at the final stage and it wasn't what they had expected. They are dealing with the State now and the State wants a lot of paperwork that has already been done for FEMA but the State doesn't have access to the Federal portal. Lance said that the State wants the original hen scratching and that is going to take more time.

Mac said Blow and Cody had quite a crew down at Goat Path Bridge today. He said that Richard Hopkins thought we should file for an extension. Mac thought he should give Blow and Cody a little more time before applying. Lance said it is not a prefab bridge and that it has a super structure that sits on the walls and then they still have to backfill. Lance said this would be the third extension that they have applied for on this job. Our current deadline is 9/15. Mac said that we could go another week or two and then decide. He said that it doesn't take long to get an extension. Josh said that they would go with Mac and Lance's judgement.

John asked about the Hydro-seeder. Mac said they were having a hard time with Harmon Motors. Mac said that he had a meeting with the NWRPC, who are currently doing the erosion study in Bakersfield right now, and they said that everything is still good. Lance said that there will be things in this erosion report that will need to be completed in 2022.

John asked about the grader. Mac said that he got a price from Caterpillar. A Chase 2015 772GD which is not the newer ones like a 672, which is bigger by a long shot. He said that they were going to check into sales of government rentals when they are through with them, and they take 80% right off the price. He said it would be good if we could get one a year or two old. Mac said they are all going up 3%. Mac said a ballpark on a new grader is \$330,000.00 with no trade in and that comes with a bulldozer blade and a 14' wing included. Mac said there was a ripper included but we probably wouldn't use that.

Josh asked about getting a price for the boom attachment for mowing. Mac said that he spoke with John Deere, and they said the boom mower was the biggest mistake. It pretty much nulls your warranty because you are not really using it as intended and would cost around 60,000.00 to 70,000.00. Josh said the school he teaches at has been pricing tractors and you can get a 66-70 horse powered tractor for around \$40,000.00. And for the price of a boom mower, you would get a tractor with a long arm mower.

The board said that they had received a minor complaint on Lawyer Rd and Lance said that he and Mac had gone up and looked and took care of it.

The board noted that there was some wash out on Witchcat Rd. Josh said that the rain washed out where it was pretty hard packed in his driveway so it's not surprising that the rain washed out some of the soft shoulders.

Mac said that today Dan brought the Cemetery Commission the two loads of stone for the lower loop.

Linda McCall gave a thank you to Mac and the Road crew for trucking the stone and that it looks really nice.

Linda also wanted it noted that the authority that determines if James Stone is eligible to have his name carved in the War memorial is his DD214 which is the record that the town maintains. Bakersfield has to be the home of record at the time of active service. Linda said that she sent a copy of James' DD214 to all the Select Board members.

Outside Audit- The bids are in and closed and we received two bids that the board will go over at the next meeting. Our fiscal year closes Dec. 31 so the board said they would like to hire an accounting firm in Sept.

Town Hall custodian- We received two bids by the deadline of noon today and one of the bids has been withdrawn by the sender. The board asked Tami to invite Kathryn Young to the next meeting for an interview.

The American Red cross sent a form that needs to be returned asking for protocol information to request a donation to be considered during Town Meeting. Tami is to fill out the form and send it back to them.

Brigham Update- Lance gave an update on the Brigham building. He said that last Thursday, 4 test pits were taken which took about an hour and it was determined that the soil is perfect for a conventional septic system. Lance said that the bad news is that they found septic tanks and they are not where they are supposed to be. He said they are on the property that the Supervisory Union District claims as theirs. Lance said that wouldn't have been an issue 40 years ago when the Town of Bakersfield owned all the property. He said that it is frustrating that the Supervisory Union says that they own that land since

the Supervisory Union has never put in a cent to purchase any of it. It was built with money from the Town of Bakersfield.

Lance said the tanks are S T Griswold tanks and haven't been used for 30 years so they are still viable. The engineer said they were an asset. Lance and the board discussed whether to put 3 pavement lids for access through the new pavement, and they discussed lid types to accommodate for the shallow depth of the tanks, but after discussion they realized that at the time they want to hook them up, the pavement would have to be dug up in that section to replace inlets and outlets and add conduit and a pump, so it would be best to just pave it for now and deal with it when the time comes to use them.

Set Municipal Tax Rate- Josh said that, with the help of our treasurer, the board, based on the budget that we voted in, has set the municipal tax rate at 0.6081. The tax rate for the Homestead/Non-Homestead rate is determined by the State and we have no say in that and that goes for the school. The state determined the Homestead tax rate to be 1.3806 and the non-Homestead tax rate to be 1.6515. The municipal rate is set the same for Homestead and non-Homestead. This year, the combined municipal and Homestead tax is 1.9887 for Homestead and 2.2596 for Non-Homestead. Last year, our non-Homestead rate was 2.3035, so the tax rate has dropped slightly.

The board was in agreement with the tax rate determined by our treasurer. Lance made the motion to approve the municipal tax rate of 0.6081 and the combined Municipal/Homestead tax rate of 1.3806 and the Municipal/non-Homestead of 1.6515. The motion was seconded by Brenda and the motion was approved with a vote of 4-0.

The Select Board signed and accepted the tax rate.

John said the Coding group that used the building thanked the town for its use. It worked out great.

John said that the town has been given 200 free Covid tests for residents to pick up and use. They are expired tests, but they are believed to still be viable. Brenda said that she will put in a call to the health Dept to inquire into their actual shelf life.

Lance made a motion to adjourn, Brenda seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

