

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
March 9, 2020

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

Members in attendance: Lance Lawyer, Josh Goss, Sam Cribb, David Houston, Gary Denton

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests present: Randy Mathieu, Mac Newitt, David Pratt, Jerry Brown, Abbey Miller, Kathy Westcom, Tami Brennan

Warrants signed:

Selectman's order #5-2020.....\$5,703.08

Selectman's order #07-2018.....\$1,678.90

Road Commissioner's order #2-2020.....\$2,663.36

Road Commissioner's order #9&10-2020.....\$12,442.45

Motion made to accept Feb. 24 meeting minutes made by Sam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Josh, and approve by a vote of 5-0.

Randy Mathieu shared concerns regarding the mounting collection of trash and refuse on a property on the Avenue, adjacent to his residential lot on Smith St. His concern included the trash, the bad smells, and its growing number of rodents, people dwelling in campers, as well as the many animals kept on the property. With a background in Waste water management, he also pointed out concern for residential well contamination. The property has 2 trailers and 2 campers, that show evidence of being lived in throughout the year.

The Select board said that they would alert the town's Health officer to contact the State Health Officer to investigate the situation. They noted that this has happened twice before and that the residents had made some progress toward improvement last year but apparently had let things slide again. The Select board will also have our Zoning Administrator check on the situation of the possibly occupied campers, since that goes against the town's zoning ordinances.

The Select Board held an election for Select Board chair, and vice chair, since we are beginning a new term. Sam nominated Josh for chair and Gary nominated Lance for chair, the vote was 2 votes for Josh and 3 votes for Lance. Sam nominated Josh for vice-chair and votes were 5 votes for Joss.

Abbey presented a new form of quarterly report to collect and include in the town report next year. The Tax Anticipation Note through Community Bank was approved and is in place for \$200,000.00, to be drawn as needed until taxes are collected on Oct. 5, 2020, and needs to be paid in full by Dec. 31, 2020. The intent is to borrow as little as possible, to keep down the amount of interest charged. Abbey said that she would keep the road account and equipment repair fund as close to \$0.00 as possible and only borrow the minimum to get by. If the entire \$200,000.00 is drawn, the 2.88% interest accrued would be around \$6000.00. At this point, the town has had to borrow

from the Bridge fund to pay the warrants signed at the Feb 24, 2020 meeting. The Select board made a motion not to borrow from the TAN loan to pay back 31,662.00 to the bridge fund to save on interest, noting that at the time the bridge fund would be needed, they could then borrow from the TAN loan, which would reduce the time that interest has a chance to accrue. Also, in hopes that after the tax bills go out in July, many residents pay their taxes before the Oct. deadline and they could possibly reimburse the bridge account with those monies. This decision was moved by Lance and 2<sup>nd</sup> by David and approved by a vote 5-0.

The town will also have to apply for a separate loan in anticipation of FEMA reimbursement. As soon as we have a reimbursement number from FEMA, we can borrow on that amount to fix the flood damage.

Mac spoke to Larry Lawyer and received permission to use the native sand material on Maria's land, near the damage site, to fill in holes in the road under the layer to be overfilled with gravel, which will save the town money. Research is being done on sub-contracting work on road restoration and upgrades. The material to line the ditches will have to be purchased.

The Select board discussed researching other solutions to present to voters in November, to help solve the current challenge of gathering operating funds for the current year so late in the year in which they are needed. One consideration would be to change to a fiscal year, which would cause a rise in taxes for one year and improve the timing in funding. The Select Board will begin plans on this issue immediately as any plan put before the voters will have to be warned by the end of September in order to be voted on in November. David will do some specific research on Fiscal year implementation. Abbey will attend each Select Board meeting to give a brief statement on finances.

Josh said that Stone's service station has reported a lot of punctured tires from crushed stone this spring. Mac said that Bakersfield has not yet spread any crushed stone on the roads.

Mac presented research collected regarding new truck prices. After consideration and discussion, Lance made the motion to accept the bid from Clark's, David 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, and the motion was accepted by a vote of 5-0. The Select board will schedule a meeting with Rusty from Clark's to finalize the package on an International Automatic transmission truck (\$88,000.00), a Viking dump body, plow and sander (\$71,000.00), stainless steel oil pan (\$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00), Extended warranty (\$18,000.00), totaling about \$179,000.00. Clark will finance the entire package.

The Select board accepted the resignation of Melissa Dion from holding the position of Representation of Bakersfield on the Board of the NWSWD, and accepted the appointment of Mark Doremus in her place. Tami will send the signed acceptance to the NWSWD.

Sam will provide Town Health Officer, Ginger Miles, with information for continuing training.

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has approved feasibility study funds up to \$8,000.00 for considering the Brigham Residence Inc. project.

The Select Board approved a letter to go out to the property holders that still owe back property taxes regarding collection of delinquent funds.

The Select Board also was notified of lease fees still unpaid for 2019 on the meadow by the Gravel Pit.

David Pratt resigned from the position of Constable since he wasn't present at Town Meeting when he was voted in.

Jerry Brown came to ask the Select Board if they had given permission to the electric Company to wire the electric pole on Belvidere Mountain Rd, that he has been disputing the position of. The select Board assured him that they have given no permission or easement to the electric company. Jerry will deal with the electric company directly with his dispute. The Select Board told him to call on them if he needed their assistance with anything.

The Select board appointed Sharon Lawyer to the position of Town Agent and Town Service Officer, Mark Doremus to the position of NWSWD representative, Tami Brennan to the position of Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, and accepted David Pratt's resignation as Town Constable. Lance made a motion to reappoint all the other town offices as previously held with the addition of the above changes. The motion was seconded by David Houston and approved with a vote of 5-0.

Sam made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26pm, Josh seconded the motion and it was approved by a vote of 5-0.

The next Regular Select board meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2020, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.