

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
May 13, 2024  
7:00pm

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

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Nicky Cribb, Todd Cosgrove

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests attending: Nancy Patch, Tom Jamison, Mac Newett, John Vickery, Chris Ward, Jamie Curtis, Sharon and Pat Evans, Claire Polfus, Sue Sonski, Linda McCall, Alan Cook, Dan Forand, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: Todd made the motion to accept the previous minutes, April 22, 2024, as written, John seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0, Josh abstaining because he was not present at said meeting.

Warrants signed:

Selectboard's order #11-2024	\$848.26
Selectboard's order #12-2024	\$7,793.38
Selectboard's order #03-2024 BCA	\$320.00
Road Commissioner's order #7-2024	\$659.01
Road Commissioner's order #19&20-2024	\$14,881.41
Road Commissioner's order #21-2024	\$2,258.59

Finance- Tom Jamison met with the board, providing updated finance reports. He said that the Quick Books upgrade final proposal is around \$1,600.00. Josh said that we had budgeted \$2,500.00. Tom said that he intends to implement it this next week. Tom said that the State of VT is going to begin charging the town .44% on employee wages paid out for the Childcare Contribution. He said that the town is allowed to pull ¼ of that from the employees out of their wages, but he said he didn't see how that was really fair. The board agreed that it should be a town expense, not passed onto the employees. Tom asked about getting quick book checks for the little accounts at no additional cost, which would be printed out on a computer instead of the handwritten ones, and then all the information and accounts would be in one place.

Linda McCall had the board sign paperwork for the reapplication of the Village Designation. She said that this is a state program and the tax credits that Jim Cameron was talking about would be a benefit of this program. Linda said that the Village Center map needs correcting but that this is not the time to do it, that can get done when the town plan gets updated. She said that we don't want to delay in re-establishing the Village Designation especially when the Brigham Residence project can benefit from it. Linda gave Lance's name as the point of contact. Greta Brunswick from NWRPC assisted with this by sending a letter saying that they are in agreement with the Bakersfield Village Designation Center.

Linda asked about the \$750.00 in the budget for port-o-lets. Josh said that the handicap accessible port-o-let costs more money. Linda said that if you put a little ramp to the bathroom at the Historical Society, you could use the Historical Society as it is handicap accessible.

Nancy Patch and Claire Poltus met with the board to follow up from the last meeting and decide on a site visit date to go up to the site on Waterville Mtn Road to take a look at the issues and discuss what the next steps are. Claire is the State Recreation Program Manager and does work statewide with recreation, planning, and policies and gets called in to work with some of the bigger issues and is now on board as to how we can better support the town of Bakersfield. Nancy said that she is retiring at the end of June and that Dave Wilcox, the state AMP watershed Forester, will remain to work with Bakersfield and with the new Franklin County Forester. Nancy said that the next steps could include locating the road and putting signage up. She said getting information out that explains what is going on, such as a kiosk at the end of the road may be of value. She said that she recommends forming a committee regarding off the road vehicles, made up of property owners, conservation commission, interested members of public, rider organizations, etc. Nancy said that some of the wheeler organizations said that they were interested in helping with the situation by having some of their riders helping to put up signage. Nancy said that Claire could help with that conversation as well. Nancy said that all the lands up there are in Current Use. The arena is owned by Manchester Investments and the Baker family. She said that one of the owners of Manchester Investments was hoping to attend tonight via zoom but is appreciative that this issue is being addressed. Tami said that Tommy O'Connor of VASA is to meet with the board at the next board meeting.

Jamie Curtis met with the board about improving Pudvah Hill Rd in the future. He said that he runs a maple business on Pudvah Hill and there are about 15 kids that ride up and down the road and about 14 people with their vehicles. He said that our road is a short road, and he would like to see it get some attention, not all at once, but progressively work to get the road better. Josh said that Mac put a significant amount of time and material up there and Josh said that he went up that road and it is better than some of the other roads in town. Jamie said that he is still driving on crushed stone. He said whatever you put on the road up there is not going to get washed away. He asked for some ditching on the sides and wanted to schedule a time for the board to come to the site and discuss it. Jamie said that the crew does a great job plowing it in the winter. He said it's a more traveled road than it used to be. Josh said that the road was not designed for the large trucks on it now. The board is to have a site visit on Pudvah Hill at 6:00pm on June 10<sup>th</sup>, meeting at the bottom of the hill.

Chris Ward met with the board about the duties of the town constable and discussed ticket writing. Chris said that he doesn't want to have to write tickets but when events warrant it, he wants to have the board's backing. The board said that the town has elected him, and that he represents them. Chris said that he hasn't billed the town and has answered a few calls and tried to do his best. He said that he has responded to calls that have complained about dogs chasing their chickens or livestock or are threatening people. He said that his approach is to deliver the town document with the ordinance and tell them that it is free to access online, and that it is their responsibility if it is not being followed and we can have a conversation. John said that our town ordinance is outdated for some scenarios. John said if it's written, we follow what is written. The board asked Chris to evaluate the ordinance and give them some input to what is needed as an update. Todd said that monetary penalty is to be an administrative fee, not a fine. Josh told Chris that if there is ever a situation that holds a possible conflict of interest, to call him and he would come and he has no problem signing a ticket. Chris said that he has also gotten some other oddball calls that he has referred to dispatch and their feedback has been beneficial. He said that he has been asked to serve subpoenas and he has been asked what his fee is. He asked if that is a bill to the town or a bill to Chris Ward. He said there are standard fees and mileage fees. Josh said that it is documented through the town but that the fee should go to Chris because he is doing the work, like a clerk fee. He said we just need a paper trail. Chris also told the board that his work has gotten busier as has his homelife and he would not be able to do the training in Pittsford at this time. He said that he is comfortable fielding the phone calls, but as for elevating himself to a law enforcement capacity, he doesn't feel that he is capable of doing that right now. The board told Chris that Enosburg is working toward having their own police force, partnering with Richford. Todd is attending their meetings to keep informed and if Chris is ever interested in that, the board would recommend him to Enosburg.

Listers- Sharon Evans, Sue Sonski and John Vickery from Tyler Technologies, met with the board about the town wide appraisal. John said that they have staff in Middlebury and St. Albans with a team in Franklin County and Rutland City. He said they are new to Vermont and want to establish a good reputation. The board and John negotiated a payment plan and the following info to be sent via email as Bakersfield's proposal:

As per discussion at last night's meeting, the Select Board's proposal is as follows...

Original bid....\$87,400.00

15% down at signing of contract....\$13,110.00

20% to be paid at the completion of State acceptance of said reappraisal in the fall of 2026....\$17,480.00.

\$56,810 balance divided by 12 months.....\$4,734.17 monthly payment.

Lance made the motion to accept Tyler Technologies bid for Town Reappraisal for \$87,400.00 with the payment plan as proposed as a verbal commitment

pending payment plan approval. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Lister Computer equipment to replace the Lister's old computer- John did some research on a computer with a second monitor that should last 7-10 years for the listers. The price comes to \$1,669.26. John made the motion to accept the purchase for the replacement of the lister's computer. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Pat Evans spoke to the board about the roof of the bell house on the town common and also about the stuff that has been left on the town park. Pat said that the green up collectors cannot pick up something that is recyclable. Mac said to call the guy and tell him to move the stuff. The board asked Tami to draft a letter to send to the person who deposited the stuff on the green and require him to remove it.

Roads- The board received Mark Allen's resignation letter from the road crew. Josh said that Mark has put in quite a few years, and that they appreciate his commitment to the town and they said Thank you for all your time and good luck in your future. Todd made the motion to accept Mark's resignation, Nicky seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Todd thanked the crew for putting up the stop sign at the bottom of Boston post. Mac said it was pulled out by a manure truck and they got it back up even though that is a state sign.

Mac said that we received the structure grant for engineering on Whitney Rd. No more payments from FEMA yet. Josh said that he has driven the roads and the crew has done a really good job. John said that all the roads are in decent shape.

After two months of advertising there have been no applicants for the Road Commissioner position. Lance said that at some point this needs to be addressed but that Mac has done this for many years, and he has done a great job and is fully capable of being Road Commissioner. He said if someone has a complaint, the job was open for two months and no one applied. John made the motion to continue with Mac as Road Commissioner. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Update on the grader- Sheldon had enquired. Josh said that we, as a board, spend a significant amount of money to outfit the road crew and now we are short a road crew person. He said that Marky's position will be hard to fill as he was a good operator. Nicky said that to be good stewards of the equipment, we shouldn't be selling it for less than it is worth. Lance made the motion to continue to advertise the grader and use it in the meantime, Todd seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Nicky asked if someone had an update about getting the speed cart from the Sheriff's office for Rt 108. The board asked Tami to contact Chris Ward to contact the Sheriff's office to see if we could get the cart for at least a week and to have them drop it off and Mac and Josh would get it positioned and set up.

MERP Update- John said that we received assessment reports on the Library and the Townhall from the MERP inspection audits, each 40 pages long and quite in-depth. They estimate \$96,000.00 for the town hall and \$38,000.00 for the library. They have quite a few recommendations, some of which we wouldn't be able to do because of space. The front door of the library really needs to be done. The board said that they would read over the reports and at the next meeting determine what the next steps are. Tami to contact Alex and a representative from the library to attend the next meeting.

Personnel Policy- tabled for the next meeting.

Constable Update- Todd said that Enosburg is moving forward with Richford to establish their own police force. They have a budget proposed and we will try to get a copy of that document. Josh said that he would like to see the budget and the manpower.

The Quote from Todd for adding one more name to the Veteran Monuments. He said that he is getting together a committee and they are going to make an actual form to differentiate who qualifies and who does not. Nicky made the motion to approve the expense of \$345.00 for the purpose the adding of a name to the Veteran's monument. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Josh said that he didn't see why we wouldn't be able to include all the names of the Veterans in town. Todd said that is something that we want to look at going down the road.

The Grants for VT Small towns- the board received an email from Alex that he would like to see the town try for some of these grants. Tami to send the VTrans grants to Alex.

John made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board entered Executive Session at 9:18pm.

Nicky made the motion to exit Executive Session, Todd seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board exited Executive Session at 9:39pm. Personnel paperwork was completed and filed during Executive Session.

Brigham Residence Presentation was canceled due to the verbiage of the warning and rather than take a chance that the meeting would be discredited by the State, Lance made the decision to cancel. He said that the presentation

will be held at 7:00 and not on the same night as a Select Board meeting. As soon as he receives a date, the meeting will be warned as a Hearing, 15 days prior to the date.

Update on the Town Hall roof- Josh has not seen the person he was going to check with. Nicky said that he will be working at the library this week.

John asked if the building that was pushed down on Waterville Mtn Road is going to be cleaned up before the kids get out of school as it is right across the road from where the kids have youth camp for health and safety purposes. Josh said this is an issue that we have run into in the past and if you require it for one, you need to do it for all.

John said that according to the new requirements for Open Meeting Law and he said that we have been all set with these requirements for a while, and we do much more than the 30 days required to hold recordings of our meetings. The board said that people attending the Select Board meeting has requested that they be able to see the monitor to see the people attending via zoom and any presentation presented via zoom. John said that he recommends getting another TV to mount for public view. John made the motion to purchase a 32" TV to mount on the back of the pole where the board monitor is mounted, required for public view. Nicky seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The next Select Board meeting is to be Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, due to the fourth Monday in May being Memorial Day.

Todd made the motion to adjourn, John seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:57pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.