

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
May 28, 2024  
7:00pm

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

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

Members absent: Todd Cosgrove, Nicky Cribb

Residents/Guests: Rebecca Anne Bennett, Tommy O'Connor, Laura Thomason, Nancy Patch, Sharon Evans, Mac Newett, Steve Magnant, Nicky Magnant, Alex Barkley, Alan Cook, Sue Sonski, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept the previous minutes, May 13, 2024, as written, Lance seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner's order #1&2-2024	\$6,625.26
Select Board's order #13-2024	\$16,873.98

Finance- John said that the town credit card limit needs to be raised in order to avoid superseding the limit due to annual purchases and subscriptions, even though we don't carry a balance on the card. This came to light when the credit limit was not high enough to order the Quick Books upgrade. John made the motion to raise the credit card limit from \$2500.00 to \$3,000.00. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0. John also made the motion to remove Hadley's name from the town credit card, since the library now has their own credit card, and put Tom's name on it instead, Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Steve Magnant, Nicky Magnant and Laura Thomason met with the board regarding the explosions heard earlier in the week on Joyal Road and the surrounding area. Steve said that one of their neighbor's had been setting off Tannerite nearby, creating explosions that shook their houses. He said that there had been no notice that they were going to set off the Tannerite. Steve said that his daughter trains horses and if the students had been on the horses when the explosions went off, it could have been a tragedy. Everyone on the road was terrified, not knowing what the explosions were. Steve said that clearly this was a misuse of the product. Steve said that 911 was called and responded. A game warden and State trooper came up. In Vermont, Tannerite is considered in the same class as Fireworks and a permit applied for through the Fire Dept, is required to fire it off. Steve, Nicky and Laura also asked the board about a noise ordinance. The board said that having a noise ordinance in addition to the state statute, without the ability to enforce it, would not be effective. Josh said that Tannerite is already regulated at the State and Federal level, which carries much more weight than a town ordinance.

Josh said that it might be most effective if his neighbors were to write a letter telling their neighbor of his action's effect on them and on their animals. Steve thought that maybe a letter from the board would have more of an effect. The

board told them to call the state police if it happens again and to keep calling until they get satisfaction, but they told them that they will have to be willing to give the police a name.

Nicky asked if it isn't better to have an ordinance in place even though we are not in a position at this time to enforce, since it may dissuade some from going against it. The board asked Tami to draft a letter with the concerns and the neighbors to draft a letter as well.

Listers- The listers asked the board to approve a Grand List Extension. John made the motion to sign the extension request for the deadline for lodging the Grand List, Lance seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0. Sharon Evans, Sue Sonski and Tami Brennan spoke with the board about the need to update our town mapping since our tax maps have not been updated since 2005. We have about 125 survey and subdivision maps that have not been updated on the tax maps or uploaded to VCGI to reflect on Vermont Parcel Viewer. The maps really need to be updated before we begin our town wide reappraisal on July 1, 2025. The listers met with a mapping vendor suggested by VCGI and brought the quote to the select board. The board said that they didn't budget for a mapping update. The listers asked if we could borrow from the trustees of public funds and include a repayment in next year's budget so that we would have a good amount of time to get the mapping done before the reappraisal begins. The listers said that once the mapping vendor has updated our tax maps, then for 800.00/year, they will maintain and upload to VCGI to update the Vermont parcel website each year, and update our tax maps, so we won't fall behind again. The board told the listers to get two more quotes from mapping vendors and then the listers can meet with the trustees of public funds to see if we can apply for a loan. The board also asked the listers to see if Tyler Technologies has a mapping vendor dept that can do the update at the same time as the reappraisal.

John said that the lister computer had been order, had apparently arrived and then returned to the company he ordered it from. John said that he told the company to send it back here again so it's still on route.

Tommy O'Connor, the Executive Director of VASA, met with the board and said that VASA's attention was brought back to Bakersfield over the issue of the arena on Belvidere Mtn Rd., and even though VASA doesn't have any trails up there, he said that they are a resource. Tommy said that they are working with 6 towns right now and they would never tell a town what to do. He said that VASA approaches a town when they are looking for connectors as they have networks that go all the way to the Canadian Border. He said when they hear of towns opening, if they do come in, they do put up signage. He said that he went to the VCGI platform, and it showed the arena with three different road configurations. He said there were 4 maps, and all were different. Tommy said that they cannot expand as they just opened two new networks and they need to build up our resources. He said that if VASA is to utilize town roads then the town has to sign off as the owner of the roads for 3 years. He said that VASA is

struggling with law enforcement resources. He said they contract with wardens of fish and game. He said that the Franklin County Sheriff's dept focuses on Enosburg. He said that their biggest thing is that they are working to improve their education component. He said that they push to keep the state statute of required helmet on side-by-side. Tommy said that he had heard that there were incidences in early May so there are still issues with the arena. He said that VASA is currently very limited as to how they can help us down the road. Josh said that when VASA was here before and we were on the Polaris Map, we were getting constant complaints from residents about riders speeding and tearing up the roads at all hours. He said we asked VASA for enforcement, and we got nothing. He said we had a VASA member saying that he paid \$40,000.00 for his ATV and he'll ride wherever he wants whenever he wants. Josh said as soon as VASA left and we got pulled off the Polaris app, 90% of the traffic stopped. He said we had a lot of people traveling up here and had nothing to lose tearing up our roads and they didn't care if they angered our town people. Lance said that the volume has gone down and with it the violations and complaints. Nancy Patch, Franklin VT County Forester said that she had a team up on Belvidere Mtn road today and they brought landscape stakes to stake out the road. She said that they laid out the trail where we could see and track usage. She said if we were to build a wetland crossing it would change. She said that they have notified the game wardens and they were up there last weekend. She said she heard there is to be a party up there 6/14th or 15<sup>th</sup>. It would be good to have someone up there. She said this should be a community effort and forming a committee to help with this issue. She said that signs and stakes will go down and they need to be put back up. She said people will learn where the road is, and it will get corrected over time. She said that it is staked out now if anyone wants to go up and see where the road actually is. Josh asked about the owners which are Bakers, Manchester Investments, and Maple Horizons. Nancy said that Mary Baker spoke at the first meeting and the other owners have been in touch with Nancy as Franklin County Forester and also the consulting forester for Manchester and the consulting forester in Jeffersonville.

Alex Barkley- Alex said that he still doesn't have a contract with the town. He said that John asked him to put together a draft for a contract as we would like a framework in place so if someone sees an opportunity, then we already have a contract in place. Alex said that he could come to a monthly meeting to alert regarding updates of possible grants. John said we already talked about the rate meetings ago and authorizing a certain number of hours, searching for viable grants up to one hour/week. Alex said that he bills in quarterly hour increments. It would be 100 billable hours at \$60.00/hour, so \$6000.00 would be the absolute max. The board requested that Alex include an agreement that he would continue to carry insurance while working for the town, and that invoices will get paid on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. The board agreed to have Alex try for a grant that would enable the town to purchase and install a flashing crosswalk sign.

John made the motion that the board conditionally accept the contract with Forward Written, LLC, with the two addendums added regarding the required insurance and billing dates. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

Roads- Josh said that the roads are great and there have been a lot of compliments coming in and people are very happy with the way the roads look. Road Crew position- we have two applicants and a third one is on the way. The board to enter Executive Session at the end of the Select Board meeting on June 10. Mac and all to join the board in Executive session to review applications.

1990 Grader Sale- continue to advertise on VLCT and Front Porch Forum, changing the ad to no minimum bid.

MERP Update- John said that we are waiting for the next piece. We have received the inspection report with recommendations. Alex said that he keeps checking the website. We are waiting for the implementation funding. John said that he reached out to Regional Planning a couple of weeks ago and he will reach out again and cc Alex on the email.

Milton Cat- We are to get a quote for the needed repairs on the school generator and plan for the repairs to be done during the next scheduled maintenance service.

Brigham Academy Update- Lance said that they are done with the quick application for public/community space in Brigham Academy that will help with construction costs. It was submitted last Thursday, and we have received the response that it was received.

**The Brigham Residence presentation is to take place Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.**

John made the motion to adjourn, Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

