

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
November 9, 2020
6:00pm

Meeting was called to order by Lance at 6:00pm and Select Board entered into Executive session until 7:30pm.

Members present: Lance Lawyer (chair), Josh Goss, Terri Gates, Sam Cribb (via zoom)

Members absent: Gary Denton

Residents/Guests present: Mac Newitt, Abbey Miller, Tami Brennan

Warrants signed:

Selectmen's Order #29-2020	\$1640.63
Road Commissioner's Order #10-2020	\$5456.49
Equipment repair	
Road Commissioner's Order #10/26-11-8	\$7587.04
Winter work	
Selectmen's Order #28-2020	\$2719.49

Executive session ended and the Select Board meeting opened to the public at 7:30pm.

Motion to accept the minutes, as written, for Oct 26 Select Board meeting, was made by Lance, seconded by Josh, and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Lance spoke of the event, to take place the following morning, that the Brigham Residence Group had arranged for the purpose of inviting State committees to attend to encourage their interest in the project, but after the event had been scheduled, it turned out that the State officials had a conflicting event and were unable to attend. Invites had been sent to the Historical Society, Select Board, Brigham Residence Association, and the Planning commission, in town. Without the presence of the State committees, the meeting was to be an open house.

Abbey attended the meeting to follow up with the select Board as to progress on the Town budget that needs to be completed by the end of this year. The Select board said that they had not gotten as far as they needed to with the Personnel policy in order to discuss employee salaries, which they said needed to be done before they could progress in budget planning. The Select Board agreed to meet again to further discussion on the Personnel Policy and Employee salaries, on Next Tuesday beginning at 6:00, for a Supplemental Select Board meeting in executive session to progress to the point needed to in order to continue with budget planning. Tami is to post the agenda and warn the Nov. 17 meeting.

Abbey spoke of the coming deficit in the Town budget. The town needs to pay back the bridge account by the end of the year, almost \$32,000.00, and also to pay the TAN loan that is due by Dec. 30, along with the interest of \$4600.22.

There will be around \$100,000.00 in the road account to see us through until next Oct. taxes. The Town budget began as \$225,000.00, the town has spent \$172,000.00, leaving a balance of \$53,000.00. The Town payment of \$72,000.00, to the Fire Dept is due in November and would normally have been paid a month ago, but Abbey delayed paying it because of lack of funds. After payment, the town would be in the hole by \$19,000.00, and we additionally still owe the school between \$50,000.00 and \$70,000.00. Every year, the Fire Dept. Contract increases by 2%, for 2020-2021, the town owes \$72,367.00; For 2021-2022, the town will owe \$73,814.00. And the Enosburg Ambulance contract increases every year. For 2020-2021, the town pays \$32,968.55; and for 2021-2022, the town will pay \$33,627.00. The Town has level funded the budget for these items too long and covering the increase in cost without the increase in funds is difficult. Abbey said the taxes are still trickling in at a super slow rate.

The warrant for the next meeting will include the Direct taxes owed and the reimbursements for overpayment of taxes due to residents filing their Homestead Declaration later this year because of the extended deadline of filing by the State due to COVID. And also, the Enosburg Ambulance Service still needs our payment for November and December.

Terri asked Mac who wanted to be laid off. Abbey said that it wasn't the Road budget that was depleted. It was the General Fund, the Town budget.

The Select Board said that they would invite the Fire Dept to the next meeting to discuss a way to work through this situation. Sam will reach out to Matt and Lance Boardman to invite them to the Supplemental Select Board meeting on Nov 17 at 6:00pm. For now, the Select Board decided to delay signing the warrant to pay the Fire Dept.

The Select Board received a request from Nathan Reed for the final sign off on an access permit that he had been issued. The Select Board discussion included speaking of a second driveway that had been constructed on the property without applying for a second access permit.

The Select Board decided that they would sign off on the first access permit after Nate had applied and paid for a second access permit for the second, already constructed, driveway.

Roads-

Mac contacted Zach of Land Vest regarding the Select Board's request for him to submit a proposal of the work that he had asked the Select Board's permission to do in order to prepare King's Hill Rd for his logging trucks to travel on. Zack told Mac that he would gladly email the Board a copy.

Mac said that the work on Cook Brook was to begin tomorrow or Wednesday and will take until early to mid-December.

The crew to work on 108 have been unloading material at the Fire Station.

Darlene Marrier, Zoning Administrator for Bakersfield, submitted a resignation letter to the Select Board giving her two-weeks notice. The Town is to advertise

this position in the Courier for two weeks. Tami to write up the ad and submit to the Courier. Terri said that she would put an ad on the Bakersfield Town Community Face Book page. The position does not require Bakersfield Town residency. Lance made the motion to accept the resignation Darlene, it was seconded by Josh and approve by a vote of 4-0.

Josh reported a complaint/question regarding the ATV ordinance. A resident asked why The Avenue was not closed to ATV or why there was no sign to say that it was closed to ATVs. Josh told them that there had been a sign and the sign had been stolen.

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm, Josh seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

There will be a Supplemental Select Board meeting to discuss Personnel Policy on Tuesday, Nov 17, at 6:00pm in executive session.

The next Regular Select Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 23, at 7:00pm.

Minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.