

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2023
7:00pm

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

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

Members absent: Terri Gates

Residents/Guests: Mac Newett, Dan Forand, Katie Forand

Previous minutes: Lance made the motion to accept the previous minutes as amended. Todd seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Finance- Vera will be inviting someone from every entity in the town to go over the requirements and paperwork needed for hiring contractors.

Road Report- Mac said that they have gotten through the current phase in the gravel pit, and he'd like to have an engineer look into expanding. He has someone who used to work for Barnard and Gervais to mark out the wetlands. He said he thinks that we can get a little bit of expansion. He said he knows that Act 250 permits are expensive but it's possible to maybe get 8000 yards of gravel which would be around \$80,000.00 of material.

Mac spoke to the board about the truck that they are planning on replacing. He asked Josh about disabling the system that was malfunctioning. Josh said that would be a good question for a mechanic. Josh said it wouldn't be able to trade it in, but we would be better off if we sold it outright. Mac said that the dealer agrees.

Mac said that they did get 25 signs and the posts, and they put them up today. Todd said that they are posted beyond the Gervais farm and just the other side of Ovitt's and centered in between.

Todd asked about the excavator. Mac said it threw a code the other day and they came up and played with it and they couldn't get the code to show again. He said it could be as simple as needing an update. Todd said they haven't found a trailer yet. Josh said he has been looking and found a couple for around \$15,000.00 to \$25,000.00. They said that in Loudon, NH, they had some brand-new trailers for under \$30,000.00. Josh said that Draper could also move the excavator for us if needed.

Class IV Roads and Trail Policy- Todd said that he emailed copies out to everybody to read over and asking for corrections/amendments to be sent back to him. He then modified the document, which is what he handed out to the board tonight. He said he began with a combination of model policies from Starksboro, Montgomery, and a third. He said this is the finished policy that Bakersfield would like to adopt. John said that it's a really good document. Todd said it addresses the purpose of what we wanted to do. Lance said that he

thought it was a good document as well. Todd said it spells out clearly our stand of what we are expected to do but it also allows us to maintain control of these even though we are not maintaining them. That's to say we're not trying to control it totally, we are just trying to control the effect it can have on our other roadways. John said it removes the liability from us if somebody does something. He said he thinks this document meets everything and Todd did a great job.

John made the motion to accept the Town of Bakersfield Class IV Road and Trail policy as presented by Todd this evening. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0. Todd had the board sign the document to record the date that it was ratified. John said that we should do that for all our policies. Todd said that he has looked at other towns and they have a tab on their websites for just policies. John said that he thinks we should look into revamping our website. Lance said that he agreed.

Todd began a Reclassified to a trail discussion of actually taking the Class IV Road and Trail Policy and actually picking a road and applying it. He said you have to notify the Forest and Parks Dept, and to write all the adjoining landowners a certified, registered letter and then post it for a period of time and have a date where people can appeal that decision. Mac said we have a map that shows all the Class IV roads and basically, on top of Stagecoach Rd, there is nobody up there. He thinks there is one camp and there are very few landowners. Josh said he would like to find one that doesn't have many landowners, not so that we can try anything underhanded or anything, but so we can try our system, make sure it's going to work and see if there are any hiccups in it before you get into a Class IV Road with around 20 people on it. Josh noted that it's been recommended by one of the town employees to try Stagecoach Road first. Mac said that the board had talked about County Rd, but Stagecoach is way up there and only a couple of people own a lot of it, the top portion of it. Josh said that Stagecoach is up by the old 4 corners where the south village was with a schoolhouse and everything. Josh asked what the next step is in the process. Todd said finding the appropriate landowners that we need to notify and putting up a notice, and also the mailing of the certified mail, and then find out who we need to notify at the state level. John said we need to put all this on the next agenda which will give us time to get this together. Todd said that maybe Kathy can gather some of that for us and asked Mac to talk to Kathy. Mac said that is a snow mobile trail. Todd said that is why the Parks and Rec dept wants those maintained. Josh said it does require a site visit. Todd said he believes so and, in the meantime, he will try to find that VLCT document for order of operations.

Employees Insurance Discussion- The board said they have some documents from BC/BS and Terri was going to request information from MVP and she is not here tonight, so tabled for the next meeting.

MERP Update- John said he did sign the document acknowledging the two buildings so that they can move forward with the examination.

Mail- The board signed an error and omissions form certificate for the listers. They said it looked like it regarded the change and expansion of Right-of-ways for the power companies and gets put at the end of the grand list.

Lance said that Lyle Willy approached him and would like to continue the work on the Hearse house as they planned it. He said they would supply the volunteers and Lance would supply the raw materials. He said that it doesn't look like Lyle will be able to do anything himself this fall so he is looking more hopefully in Spring which give us the winter to get the raw materials processed. Lance said he has a list of materials. He said they need to add to the perimeter. Lyle brought up that the BCC and the CC and the town didn't mesh together well and didn't serve the purposes of the town common and town park. He suggested one person to oversee the Town Common and park, as a point person to contact the Select Board and oversee issues and Lyle is volunteering to be nominated for that. Josh said that when we talked with the BCC, that is what they had recommended but nobody has stepped forward. Lyle Willey is saying he would like to do this. Josh said at the next meeting, when we have the BCC here, we will recommend this to them. Todd said that the didn't want them to feel that we are taking away any power. Josh said that when the BCC met with the board, they were quite clear that they didn't want the responsibility for the care of the Town Common. Josh said we told them that we were not asking them to do that, we were asking them to absorb this group that would like to care for it and make them into a subcommittee within the Bcc for the parks, and Lance is stating that Lyle is now volunteering to head up that subcommittee. Lance said that Lyle is volunteering to make these two or three organizations mesh together. Todd says that Lyle wants to be a coordinator. Lance said that's exactly what he wants to be. John said he thinks it's best to present this to the BCC since we handed them that role and say that we have someone who is willing to do it and let them talk to Lyle. Lance said that Lyle brought up the subject of the Hearse House and about who controls what is going on with the Hearse House. Lance said it depends on whether there is money required or not, which is a matter of public record. Lance said we need to decide who has the final say on and over that building. He said that it was publicly stated that the CC was done with that building at a Select Board meeting and is a matter of record. Lance said we have people who are willing to volunteer their time and money to put the basic structure back into square and shape. He said we have seen estimates from the state that come to around \$244,000.00. Lance said he thinks we should go proceed and follow the advice of some of the people who are willing to volunteer time and labor. Josh said that he agrees and said as far as who has the final say on the Hearse House, while the input from the other two entities is valued but it is the Select Board has the final say. Josh said to tell Mr. Willey that we are ready and willing to help and we can work out an arrangement to stock pile materials at Josh's place. Lance said that he is going to have to provide enough material

already cut for the 12' boards, so he will provide more. Josh said it is a good opportunity for his students to cut for specs. Lance said he senses there is some descent between members, but we need to gather together to keep the building together.

John said that the Municipal Technical Assistance program appears to assist if we don't have a certified carpenter in town and we need one...things like watershed, sewer, infrastructure and things like that. Tonight, we just need to decide if we want to explore the program. John said they came to us and said that we were prequalified based on the parameters required. Josh said that his concern is that it came from the State of Vermont and every word that is highlighted is free, and there is no such thing as free. John said that he doesn't think it will cost us anything to look deeper. Todd said that we will need more info. Josh said to invite a member of Regional Planning Commission to explain this to us. John said that Katherine Demitrick is the contact.

John made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.