

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, Oct. 26, 7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Lance.

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

Residents present: Sharon Evans, Mac Newitt, Abbey Miller, Tami Brennan

Motion to accept minutes for October 20, Site Inspection as written was made by Lance and seconded by Josh and approved by a vote of 4-0, Sam abstaining since he was not present.

Motion to accept minutes for Oct 12, Select Board Meeting as written with the correction of a name change to Janet Machia, was made by Terri, seconded by Josh and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner Order #22&23-2020	\$41,122.34
Road Commissioner Order #8-2020	\$2556.90
Equipment repair fund	
Selectman's Order #27-2020	\$210,218.00

Josh said that he had spoken to the resident at the address given in a recent neighbor complaint, and was assured by the resident that the Select Board would not receive another complaint in the future.

Sharon Evans appeared before the Select Board regarding a letter of intent for the open lister position and a request to upgrade Kathy's computer to Windows Pro II so the two computers can network on the Nemric Program, making it possible for two listers to work at the same time. Currently, the town has one computer with the lister program that is linked to the State and the town has three listers, so only one lister can work on the computer while the others wait for computer access. The upgrade is expected to cost around \$200.00. Once the town upgrades both computers, the State will tell them how to link them to each other. Lance said that he believed spending \$200.00 to make the listers more efficient would be a good use of funds. Lance made a motion to approve the expense to upgrade the two computers, Gary seconded it, and the motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

The Letter of intent sent by Maura Horne stating an interest in the lister position was read. Sharon said she was comfortable and enthusiastic for Maura to be appointed as lister. Terri made the motion to appoint Maura Horne in the lister position until the March elections. Gary seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Kathy asked Sharon to have Maura come into the Town Clerks office to take the lister's oath.

Road Report- Mac's truck is down again. The ABS brakes and the air compressor are not working. The concern is that the truck has to be in inspectable condition in order to qualify as a trade it in toward the new truck.

Mac's new truck has been delayed by months due to COVID. We've been told that the new truck should arrive "shortly", but still no date.

Land Vests contacted Mac regarding King's Hill Rd. The logging company plans to log up on Kings Hill and would like permission to start working on the road to prepare it for the trucks. They want to put in 4 culverts and bring in gravel to repair the road at no expense to the Town. The Select Board told Mac to have Land Vests submit a proposal of what they intend to do and the Select Board will review to make sure that the work is done to State Standards and that the work won't interfere with any other natural systems, i.e. beaver pond, etc. With a proposal it will also make it possible for the Select Board and Road Commissioner to inspect the work to make sure it is as stated in the proposal.

Josh asked Mac how many miles of Class IV roads that the Town has. Mac said that after the downgrade of The Class IV section of Skinner Hill Rd, the town has 8.36 miles of Class IV road. Josh suggested that the Select Board do site visits of all the Class IV roads and decide where we want to keep them as Class IV roads and where they want to downgrade the road to a legal trail. Kathy said that if Bakersfield decides to downgrade more than one road, it might be a good idea to do them all at the same time, so there would only need to be one hearing.

Terri had questions about mileage on the town warrant and Mac told her where they had gone and what they needed to pick up.

Lance went over the bids presented to do the FEMA work.

Contract #1- The demolition and removal of Goat Path Bridge- FEMA estimated a cost of \$284,000.00.

GW Tatro bid \$87,000.00; Hutchens bid \$89,000.00. Both were +/- estimates depending on where the bedrock is. They did 6 bores to determine the location of the bedrock and he made an estimate as to how much fill it will need.

On the upstream side, one of the wing walls had come down and fell right in the throat of the bridge. The State insisted that it needed to be removed this fall. If inclement weather moves in on the bridge, the town is instructed to make sure the throat of the bridge is clear to prevent further erosion on the side. Lance proposed that the town award the contract to GW Tatro, which is quite a bit below the FEMA estimate, but Lance reminded the Select Board that the town still needs to figure out a way to play for this until the FEMA reimbursement.

Contact #2- Cook Brook Rd. The road is washing out. The water comes right up to the shoulder and another good storm would wash it out, down to a depth of several feet.

Goodhew bid \$22,730.00; J. Hutchens bid \$9,255.00. The job should take less than a week. Lance proposed that the Board award the contract to J. Hutchens.

Lance asked for the permission of the Select Board to be authorized to sign the contracts. Josh made a motion to accept GW Tatro's bid for Goat Path Road and J Hutchins bid for Cook Brook Road, and to authorize Lance to sign the contracts for the Town. Sam seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Lance signed the contracts and Kathy notarized the signature on the contracts.

Abbey reported to the Board that she spoke with the bank today and the Town has a couple of options to try to cover costs as we wait for the FEMA reimbursement. The way FEMA has organized the restorations is to group the roads needing repair into Projects. One project can have 4 or 5 roads in it. There are 6 projects to be completed in Bakersfield. When a Project reaches 95% completion, FEMA dispenses the reimbursement. The trouble is that there could be 3 easier road repairs and one difficult road repair in a project, so while the 3 easier roads are complete, and the town has paid for them, the town won't be reimbursed by FEMA until the more difficult one is finished, some of which are not expected to be completed until next spring. This arrangement is holding up FEMA money. The FEMA money has reached the State level and that's where it sits.

One of the more frustrating parts is that the Town was continually assured that there was nothing more needed from the town for paperwork on the portal and by our FEMA liaison, Rufus. Abbey now cc's Rufus' supervisor on any emails she sends him because he has let the ball drop so many times. In the last two-weeks, Abby has become aware of an extensive workbook that the town needs to fill out that was never given to us. Abbey said FEMA works two ways, pay at the end of the project, or pay as you go. Somehow, Bakersfield is set up as pay at the end of the project, and Abbey is going to try to get us on a pay as you go plan. Also, the town asked Tyler, the engineer that's been working with the town, if we could do Goat Path in two phases and he said that he would attempt to do that.

Either way the Select Board needs to come up with a game plan because we've had the engineering bill for 30 days now and needs to be paid.

Abbey spoke with Hope at the bank and one of the town's options is to send her what FEMA has determined for numbers for our projected costs and apply for a Line-of-Credit for the full amount of what FEMA expects to reimburse. The town would draw off as needed and then pay the full amount we actually borrow when FEMA reimburses. The Town would have one year to pay the balance in full. July 17 is the towns activity completion deadline for the projects.

Abbey also reminded the Select Board of the Status of the Road account. Since the taxes have been collected so far, we owe \$152,000.00 for what the town has spent this year, and \$30,000.00 back to the bridge account, and \$5000.00 interest to borrow money as we wait for taxes, so after the town pays the warrants signed at tonight's meeting, of the \$300,000.00 budgeted, the town will have around 80,000.00 dollars to keep the Road work operating until next years tax monies in October. She said that it isn't just that the town is

spending and buying, there is no place to cut. If we continue to operate on the unsustainable system of borrowing to make it through the year until October taxes, we could be leading the town into bankruptcy.

The Select Board spoke briefly about considering selling some of the land by the gravel pit. That may give the town a boost to get us on our feet.

ATV ordinance- The Select Board reviewed the updated ATV ordinances as written. Terri said she was uncomfortable with Ordinance #10 regarding ATV parking. She felt it could be too restrictive. The other Select board members reported that they have had many residents come and require more restrictions for ATV's and some residents that want no restrictions for ATVs. The updated ordinances should discourage out-of-towners, who are not tax payers and come in and tear up the roads. That the majority of town residents are better on the roads. ATV clubs do a pretty good job. Lance said he still plans to drive his ATV from his home to the farm. Terri said that she feels that ATV's are one of the cleanest fun and that drug dealers in this town sit in the church parking lot all day. The Select board said they have to start somewhere, and they can always modify the ordinances if need be, and that at least the Town would have a written ordinance to enforce. After discussion, the Select board added the words "as listed per item 2" to the final line of Ordinance #14.

Lance made the motion to accept the Town of Bakersfield ATV ordinance as amended on October 26, 2020, with revision to Item #14 to clarify. Josh seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Tami is to post the updated ATV ordinances on the Bakersfield Town website.

The Select Board spoke about the Enosburg Ambulance service. Bakersfield pays a per capita monthly fee to subscribe. The town paid \$32,168.10 in 2019 to subscribe to the Enosburg Ambulance service and residents subscribe individually to cover family members for what their insurance doesn't cover. A town must have an ambulance service or subscribe to one. Enosburg is our cheapest option. Enosburg has reported having trouble getting payment from insurances and Medicaid. The towns have been invited to begin a conversation about establishing a Regional service.

The Select Board tabled speaking about the personal policy until the next meeting so Sam could be physically present making it easier to participate in the discussion. On the agenda for next meeting will be Personnel Policy, Employee Salaries, Budget, FEMA management, LOC options or Bond. The Select Board meeting on November 9, 2020, will begin at 6:00pm in Executive session, to discuss the Personnel Policy and Employee salaries, until 7:30pm. Then the meeting will open to the public to cover the rest of the agenda.

Sam made the motion to adjourn at 9:30pm, seconded by Gary, passed 5-0. Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.