

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
October 9, 2023  
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm by Josh Goss.

Members present: Josh Goss (Chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Todd Cosgrove, Terri Gates

Members absent: none

Residents/guests attending: Sammy Colf, Vera Lawyer, Dan Forand, Alice Foote, Mac Newett, Brian Westcom, Tami Brennan

Warrants signed:

Selectmen's order BCC order #05-2023	\$625.00
Selectmen's order #22-2023	\$1,420,837.26
Included direct tax payment to Supervisory District	
Road Commissioner's order #18&19-2023	\$6,870.49

Finance: Sammy and Vera met with the board. Josh asked how things were meshing together and Sammy said that things were messing well, but she is in a conundrum as to the position as she has two children at home and childcare has been a larger issue than she had expected. She said that she has already been through two nannies and by the time she pays the nanny and pays gas and taxes, she is paying to be here. With the hours and pay, she can't afford to work here because of that. She said she was catching on to the job and she loved working here with Vera, Kathy and Tami. Vera said she feels that Sammy would have done a great job. Sammy also said that she didn't think that she had made herself clear to the board at her interview. She has a tentative job offer with immigration and has been hired but has no start date yet. Josh said that they had understood that she had submitted an application but had not heard back yet. Josh asked Sammy if she was saying that she was no longer able to continue with this position and Sammy said yes. Josh said that if anything changes to let them know. Vera said that Tami has the number for a resident that expressed interest in the treasurer job when she came in to pay her taxes. Vera said that all looked good with the taxes and that delinquent taxes are a little over \$100,000.00 which is about usual. Josh noted on the finance report that we had gone over budget on advertising but that we have been advertising a lot. Vera said she knows it takes time to look at the report and that the board can call her with questions anytime.

Conservation Commission- Alice Foote met with the board to tell them that they had received the assessment report from Jan Lewindowski. John asked it that included the carriage barn and the hearse house. Alice said yes, but from what happens after this does not include the Hearse house. Alice said they are delighted with how fast they had received the report and that he had said that the foundation of the barn was good except for the northwest corner since they had been told that they would need a full foundation below the frost line and he told us that would not be necessary. Alice asked if the board's previous offer

for securing matching grants, still held and for how long. Josh asked what the next step was in grants and asked if they were looking to have Alex work on one. Josh said that we have a grant writer in town as a temporary for now, who is working on a grant to get a couple of buildings updated as to heat and energy. Josh said if it works out, we'd like him to pursue others. Josh said, are we willing to help out? 100%, as far as money goes, we can't say. Alice asked him how they were willing to help, and Josh said like Lance and I are willing to help on the hearse house with in-kind work. Alice asked that if they used the grant writer would it be charged to them or to the town. Josh said it was their intention to set aside some ARPA funds to help pay for grants. Alice said that they intend to pursue other sources to help pay for things. Alice said that these people were good to work with so far and she wanted to make sure that these people get a check. Josh said, yes, that they signed a warrant tonight and the check will be sent out. John asked Alice if he is seeing correctly, that the estimated proposed work is up to \$244,000.00. He said it took the high end of the estimates. He said the work they need to do must be substantial. John asked if the quote that the report suggests is to return the building to its historic condition. Alice said that it is not the intention of the Conservation Commission to take it back to what it looked like in the past. She said they wouldn't change it drastically, but it would be repaired for community use. She said they plan on working on one section at a time with the foundations first. Todd said that some of this work can be done in kind which would bring down the amount as well.

Previous minutes- Terri arrived and John made a motion to accept the corrected previous minutes, Terri seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 3-0, Lance and Todd abstaining as they had not been in attendance at the last meeting.

Zoning Administrator position-

John made the motion to accept the resignation of Brenda Churchill from the Zoning Administrator position. Todd seconded the motion and the motion was accepted with a vote of 5-0.

Brian Westcom met with the board regarding the open Zoning Administrator position. Brian said he heard the position was open and he was interested in getting back to working for the town. Josh said that one of the issues that they've been having is with having regular office hours, and the position is now an appointed position, so you are not voted in by your peers. We would just need a set number of hours so that people could come in and talk to zoning. The board asked Brian when he could start. Brian said he was willing to start right away. Lance said we are asking you to post your hours and actually be here. Brian said he would definitely be here. He said that evening hours would work best for him. Josh said that evening hours would be better for people who work during the day. Terri made the motion to hire Brian Westcom at the rate of \$20.00/hour for the position of Bakersfield zoning administrator. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Roads- Mac set up a time with Lance to meet with FEMA. Mac said that Alan started last Monday, and all is going very well. He said that the roads held up during the rainstorm. Josh said that he received a complaint about East Bakersfield Road but he took a ride down it with the school bus and there is nothing wrong with East Bakersfield road. He said from Joyal, he took Witchcat and there was a little washboard but you're always going to have that.

Terri said that she received a complaint on Waterville Mtn Rd. She said that there is a hole by Seth's pumphouse and asked how they were going to fix it. Mac said there is a sinkhole there. Josh told Terri to ask Seth to take a picture and send it to us. He said he's been up there three times and looked and didn't see a hole. Terri asked if they had cleaned up by Paul Houles. Mac said not yet. Josh said it's no different than in Fairfield after the long arm mower. Terri told Mac to go up there and cut it up and throw it in the truck and throw it in the gravel pit. Mac said it's not that easy, you can't cut it up and put in the truck and get it out of there. She said just pull it out. It looks awful and we've paid good money for a piece of equipment. Mac said that they would take care of it after we get caught up on everything else.

Mac gave quotes to the board about ordering the new truck. He said that it would be about 1 ½ years before would receive it, if we get the ball rolling now. Todd asked if he had heard from other road crews as to the performance of the International and the Freightliners. He said he heard that they are having a lot of issues. Josh said the issue is the amount of use. If they are run on a regular basis, the system stays clean as things burn off. He said it's less of an issue with these trucks. Mac said it doesn't matter which you get, they are all pretty similar. Lance made the motion to give Mac permission to get this ordered, but also to continue to do research, and confirm that this is a deal where we could back out of it in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour, with Freightliner and Western Star and if he so chooses, to make an order with Allegiant or international. Terri asked if we paid the truck off. Mac said yes, we've been paying for two, so we would continue to pay for two.

Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board told Mac to make sure that our trade-in was locked in. Mac said the truck that we're going to replace is having issues. He said it only has 50,000 miles on it and is 10 years old. Josh said if there are issues with the trade-in, we can always sell it ourselves.

Class 4 roads/trail discussion- Todd presented the board with a proposed Class 4 Road and Trail policy. Mac and the board discussed different parts of neighboring town policies that they thought would work well in Bakersfield. The board is working on editing and working on wording for the Class 4 Road and Trail policy, which will be good for Bakersfield. Todd is to update the policy and bring it to the next board meeting. Mac was told to look at the roads and see what roads that we want to test this out on. Mac brought up the Class IV section of County Rd., from Pudvah Hill. He said there is one house up there that is a camp, not the class III section. Josh said that he thought Enosburg

has started the process on the one. Converting Class IV to a trail, we're not making any decisions yet, we are just beginning to consider where we can convert to a trail. The board also discussed why residents on private roads needed to pay for a driveway access permit even though the town doesn't maintain the road, and the board said it probably has something to do with the road access permit allowing a 911 address to be assigned to the property.

Speed Study Results- John gave the board a copy of the Speed Study results from the Speed Study conducted by the golf course in August. He said the report showed the fastest speed was 169 mph, which indicated a problem with the reader, other than that the speed test is accurate. It showed that school buses traveled at around 61 mph, and that could also be farm vehicles of around the same size, but the speed is correct. Most people were going 55+ on this road by the golf course, it was mainly construction vehicles and farm vehicles that were going faster. John said there have been a total of 5 accidents on the road in the past 13 years. John said that without a cop up there patrolling, you can set the speed at whatever you want. Terri said if you start thinking about what your ticket is going to be. Josh said that the posted speed limit is now 50 mph and people are going 60 mph, so if we set the speed limit to 40 mph, then they may go 50 mph. Put a 40 mph sign at each both ends of Boston Post, coming from both ends. Lance asked how far apart speed limit signs need to be. Todd said that the state statute so it there is no minimum space limit between signs. The board said we will need 4 signs, 2 heading north and 2 heading south. Todd said that the state police have those speed carts to put up to make people realize and be aware of their speed. Terri made the motion to change the speed limit on Boston Post Road, from Rt 108 to the Enosburg line from 50 mph to 40 mph. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

New Mail- the board received the first letter requesting funds to be approved at town meeting. The Franklin Senior Center is requesting \$1,000.00.

The board received an email regarding a donation of money, to be given to Linda McCall for the purchase of park benches for the town green from Garry Montaque. The board said that they can't make a motion for Linda to receive funds for the town. Garry can either donate money to the town for the purchase of park benches or he can purchase park benches and donate the benches to the town. Tami to reach out to Linda and explain.

There was an email from the head of 911 that said they want to change the 911 addresses on King Rd because the numbers are out of sequential order. We talked to Matt Hull and the GPS comes up correct. The Fire Dept is aware of it and they have no issues with it, so we are going to notify them that we are not interested in changing any addresses at this this time.

The board got paperwork on the State's intent to repair the bridge on Rt 108. The board said the state is just letting us know they are going to be doing the road work on Rt 108 to repair a culvert, changing a round culvert to a square one. We can expect there to be just one lane of traffic for a while. The specs were provided in the paperwork.

The board said they have not yet made an official decision as to if we are staying with BC/BS for the town health insurance or changing to MVP. The board to have Terri contact MVP and ask them to send us the packet for enrollment, and Tami to add Insurance discussion to the next Select Board meeting agenda.

The board asked Tami to contact the interested party for the treasurer position and see if she would be willing to meet with the board next Wednesday at 5:45pm.

Todd made the motion to adjourn, Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.  
Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.