

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
Monday, September 26, 2022  
7:00pm

Meeting was called to order by Joss Goss at 7:07pm.

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, Brenda Churchill, Terri Gates, John West viz zoom

Members not present: none

Residents/Guests attending: Mac Newitt, Nicky Cribb, Linda McCall, Lyle Willey, Tami Brennan via zoom

Previous minutes: Motion made by Lance to postpone acceptance of meeting minutes until the next meeting, to give a chance to review the requested corrections. Motion was seconded by Brenda and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0, John West via zoom stating Aye.

Warrants signed:

Library- Nicky Cribb, from the Library Board of Trustees, met the board to request the appointment of a new trustee since they had a trustee resign a couple of weeks ago. Nicky said that Jennifer Sanchez had been attending meetings and is happy to be appointed to the office of trustee to fill the vacancy. The board asked Nicky to present it in writing and they can appoint at the next meeting.

Nicky also said that our librarian has handed in her resignation, and they are currently looking for a librarian and the posting closes the first week in October.

Terri asked what the job entails, and Nicky said you find the details on their Facebook page. She said that it would be 18-20 hours/week. Nicky said that the library is open 26 hours/week. Nicky said the qualifications don't require a degree because the state offers 150 hours of workshops which would be all paid, so it wouldn't cost anything for the librarian herself.

Nicky updated the Board on the library floor. She said it was discovered that the carpet was wet because the cleaner hadn't dried it properly. Nicky said that we don't have mold, but we have prime conditions for growing it. She said that they had a long conversation about the asbestos tile. If the asbestos is intact, then we should not replace the tiles but leave it in place. We can go over it with a luxury vinyl plank. We are checking to see if it can hold the weight of the bookshelves. Nicky said, so it's not going to cost anything near \$15,000.00. She said it's unfortunate that we are losing Cheryl as there is so much going on. Nicky said they still have not received an invoice for the inspection.

Tami asked about getting the damp carpet out of there and Nicky said that the glue has broken down, so the carpet just peels off. The luxury vinyl would be a floating floor. Terri asked about moving all the books to one half of the room and doing the flooring one half at a time. Nicky said there is not enough room

on one half for all the books. Josh asked if they were looking for bids. Nicky said they hadn't started yet. Josh said the cold weather is coming so it's a good time to get started.

Linda McCall told the board that at the last meeting the Cemetery Commission had decided not to use the upstairs in the Town Hall to overwinter the geraniums but now they have decided to use that option. She said the board gave the go-ahead at the last meeting, but she just wanted to keep them informed.

Roads- Mac had the board re-sign a road access permit for Tom Branon to work in the ROW to lay conduit. He said that David Westcom went out and marked it out and it's mostly out of the ROW. Mac said he had originally asked to do ditching. Josh said it was a request to ditch and that he had approached with Mr. Westcom and was assured that it was all done up to code. Road access on Peaked Hill for a yurt because they had lost the signed permit, it was already completed 9/26/22.

The board signed an agricultural road access permit for a sugar house for Jamie and Holly Curtis on Pudvah Hill Rd, with a culvert for ATV and access to a pump house. Mac said there was no issue. He said they are just trying to not impede traffic on that road to access the pump house and was done to Mac's approval. Mac said that they went beyond what they had to do, and he had an approval letter saying that it was done correctly. Terri asked why we don't make them have measurements and the board said they would need measurements at an intersection. Terri said it looks so big. The board said that it can't be less than 30 ft.

The board signed a road access permit submitted by Ed Robtoy for Mike and Arlene O'Rourke for the lot that was approved as a subdivision. Mac said that there was no culvert needed for a building, it's on a downward slope. Their daughter will be building up there.

Boston Post paving- Mac said he talked to Pike and starting the project is going to take a while and they asked how late we are willing to wait for the paving. They have to finish Swanton and Fairfax. Joey is thinking about the end of October, he said possibly within the next two weeks. Josh asked if he had taken into consideration corn season with the heavy trucks. He said that when the corn is ready, it's all hands-on deck, and it might be worth it to push it off and do it in May/June of next year. Pike said that he would hold to the price of the asphalt as to what it is now. Lance said he hadn't thought of the corn season, and Josh was right, we could have a grooved road. Terri asked if this would be a complete re-do or an overlay. Mac said a 1" shim and then, an overlay. It may be possible to take out the shim this year and then the asphalt in the summer. The board asked what would that do when you try to plow? Mac said if you're going slow, it shouldn't matter but there is the chance that

you could catch the wing and damage something. Josh asked for Terri's input since she traveled Boston Post so much. Terri said that waiting for summer wouldn't be bad. The board said, it would be too bad to put this money into a new paved road and then the corn trucks run over it before it's set, as they can weigh more than the asphalt trucks. Mac said he could wait to give them a definite until we know. Josh said he thought we should just wait until June. Terri asked if they were paving the whole thing and Mac said just to the Hazeltines.

The board asked Mac how far the mower got on the roadsides. They remembered that they had talked about \$4000.00. Mac said he was done Boston Post, the Cross Road and he's on Witchcat now. Josh said that he wished that he could to one more width. Mac said he can't because of the shorter arm. Josh said it was a good start and that he's doing a hell of a job for what we are paying him, but he thought next time we are going to need a bigger rig. Josh said that he wondered if we should look into a piece of machinery like Fairfield has, it has a longer reach and may be worth looking into. He said it looks good, but another 2-3 feet would be great. The board said we sold the old mower for \$5000.00 but it would have taken close to that to get it in runnable condition, and we never had a piece of equipment that could run that mower any way, it was too much weight. Lance agreed that we need to look into getting a piece of equipment. They spoke about a piece with 75 hours on it for under \$45,000.00 with a bucket but without a cab. The board said, the way things are going, it's hard to get people to bid or do the work.

Terri asked about Waterville Mtn Rd. Mac said they graded it a couple of days and then the grader had an issue. He said the blade in the front wasn't lifting and completely broke off and couldn't turn, so they didn't make it very far.

External Audit- The board signed Sullivan, Powers and Company engagement letter to perform the 2022 External Audit for \$19,000.00, with the conditions listed. Tami said that we will receive a to-do list that we have to have done, which will be sent closer to the time and the books need to be closed. The audit will take 3 days and is scheduled for the last two days of January and the first day of February.

Linda McCall and Lyle Willey told the board that they had volunteers ready to work on the Hearse House. He said they would be starting with the front porch veranda. He said it should be done before winter and snow builds up on the front porch roof. Lyle said that the roof supports are gone, and he and Larry Westcom have been talking about getting it underpinned. We want to do it legally with no liability issues and would like to get into the first side of it and get the middle beam up. He said the front porch will be pretty easy to do. Lance said that the CC has passed the Hearse House on to us. Linda said they did since it is owned by the town. Lance said that has been argued in the past but now the current CC agrees that the town owns it. John said if this is owned by

the town, then we should bring this to town meeting. The board said that at this point, we are not talking about funds, but donated labor and materials so there is no cost to the town. He said there is frustration since both organizations represent the town of Bakersfield. John said it just depends on who's paying for it. Lance said he is donating the logs and other people have offered to saw them. We're going one step at a time and Lyle said they are looking for labor and materials for the porch and to remove the floor. The board said that it has always been a CC building and now it needs upkeep and needs money put into it and now it's the towns problems. Josh said he was ready to give the go ahead on volunteer work on the building. The CC is to buy paint to repaint it. Linda asked if there would be no ARPA funds to help with that project. Josh said that there were needs that the town has, like good equipment, to be able to provide good roads. Linda said that Brenda is the ARPA coordinator and has been having meetings. Linda said that she gets the feeling that the Select Board and Brenda are on separate pages regarding the ARPA funds. The committee is to make recommendations to the board. The board talked about the need for a grader. John said that Brenda said that she is planning on having about 6 meetings, then the applications will go to the Select Board. Brenda said that she will have as many meetings needed to make sure the citizens are heard. Brenda said she has a lot of personal things going on, she said her sister has been in a coma for 1 week and 2 days and she has to go out of town. She said she will make sure that we do all that we said we would do according to the fundamental rule. John said he would talk to Mac about having him present regarding ARPA funds for a grader and a tractor, and have the committee consider what gets moved up to the Select Board. Brenda said she plans to have one meeting a month starting next month. Brenda said the total ARPA funds will be \$396,000.00. She said that we have not seen the final payment yet, it's not been allocated to the county sector yet, but we should be receiving it in the next few weeks.

Lance made the motion to support Lyle Willey in his efforts to rehabilitate the Hearse Building with the condition that if funds are to be spent, they would need to seek Select board approval. The motion was seconded by Brenda and carried with a vote of 5-0, John stating his name and saying Aye via zoom. Lance said that he would supply the hemlock logs and Josh said that the school career center has a sawmill, and they like to work with communities on projects.

John said that he had contacted 15 heating and cooling companies and he has heard back from four. Bernie Gage is coming Thursday, Brooks heating on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Robinsons, John said that a multitude said they were way too busy. John said that he received a quote from Allen Holbrook. Holbrook wasn't sure that we need to replace both furnaces or maybe with just one furnace that would be able to heat both downstairs rooms. The estimate from Holbrook is a quote to replace the one furnace or to clean them and run them. He said that Mercy said that he couldn't service them anymore because they were in such bad

condition. He gave us a quote last year and it was only good for 15 days, so it's not good anymore.

Tami said that she had spoken to the Fletcher Town Clerk about who they have work with them to digitalize their records. They said that they work with NEMRC. They have the NEMRC land records module, and they have hooked on to the NEMRC portal that acts as host for people to download documents remotely and pay for them digitally. The NEMRC land records module costs \$675.00 and the portal is around 1200.00/year and then 100.00/month, but Tami said that she's waiting for Adam Woods to get back to her because he is the one that works with Fairfield and he can tell us more certainly. The town clerk in Fairfield said that they found that to scan the documents in house worked really well since they knew when things are out of place. The town clerk said that she has heard of records coming back all messed up and it taking the staff weeks to get things back into order. She said that they scanned the most recent records and then worked backwards. Lance said that it would take hundreds of hours to scan the records. Tami said that Fairfield hired a woman to come in two days a week and used some grant money. Tami said that she and Kathy had talked and thought that we could scan for 8 hours on Fridays. Tami said she also talked to the Hyde Park town clerk, and they had used their ARPA funds to do it. Tami said that Brenda had spoken to a company that would take the records off site to scan them but hadn't gotten a quote yet. Then we could compare a bit.

Lance made the motion to adjourn, Brenda seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0, with John stating his name and saying Aye via zoom. The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Tami Brennan.