

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
June 10, 2024
7:00pm
Pudvah Hill Rd Site Visit
6:00pm

Pudvah Hill Site visit: Josh Goss (chair), John West, Nicky Cribb, Todd Cosgrove met with Jamie and Holly Curtis and Nathan and Kristin Tuttle at the bottom of Pudvah Hill Rd and walked and drove up the hill as Jamie pointed out places that he felt the road and ditch needed work. He said there were 14 children who go to school and 4 teachers live on that road and go up and down the road a lot. He said there is more traffic than there used to be. Jamie said that he is willing to use his excavator if the town pays for the material. He said that there is insufficient ditch on the side. On the walk up the road, Jamie pointed out that the gravel was too big. John said that it's the same gravel that is on his road. The board said that the road looked good and firm especially after having the sap trucks run up and down it this spring. Josh explained that the division of the State that manages Better Back Roads came to Bakersfield and inspected each road, telling the town what was needed and where. They flagged roads in order of priority of their need to bring the road up to State standards and Pudvah hill is not one of the roads that they thought needed work done on it as a priority. The priority roads must get worked on first. He said it was all about the crown and soil types. He said that Pudvah was pretty much ledge and erosion isn't as high on ledge as a road with the same slope that has sandy soil. Jamie said that this road needs more of a ditch. Josh said that the state would disagree with you as they don't like big ditches. Todd said that we just need to keep the ditches that we have clean. The ditches on the side of most of the road were dry even though there had been heavy rains earlier that day. There was some slow running water toward the top of the hill in the ditch and a small puddle deep in the ditch where a culvert diverts water under the road. Josh said that they would check to see if this was to be a 3-rod road, because if it is, there is no room to put in a wider ditch. Jamie said that every year, we have to pull stone in and fill in. Josh asked if the stone helped this year and the residents said yes. Jamie said if you put material on the road, it's not going to go anywhere. Jamie said that he felt discriminated against because of his maple business on a hillbilly road. Josh said that it is not the fact that you sugar up here, it's just in recent years the amount of sap that you haul up here has increased and the roads weren't built for such large trucks. Jamie said there is more traffic up there in general with kid's sports, etc. He said that 10% of the kids from school live on that road. The residents spoke of putting material on road themselves. Josh told them to just to make sure that they get a permit to work in the roads right-of-way as it's illegal to work in the ROW without a permit. He said Mac can ok that and make sure you don't disturb anybody's water line or anything. Jaime said that a little bit of gravel to put in the potholes and everybody would be happy, and they would work on the road if the town would reimburse them for material. Josh said that we have

other sugar makers in town that put material on the roads to help the roads recover from their trucks and they don't get reimbursed when they put material down. Todd said that Mac might be able to give Ben blanket permission to maintain that section of the road. He just cannot put in a culvert as that affects a Class IV Road. Jamie thanked the board for coming up so they could bring their concerns to their attention. He said that the road is a work in progress for the future. Jamie asked if the crew could plow the roads earlier in the morning in the winter. Josh said that Mac has a prioritized system for the roads by class and by travel for plowing in the winter. Witchcat and Joyal to Boston Post, Sand Hill and Cold Hollow are all roads that all funnel to a point so the buses can go through.

Regular Select Board meeting was called to order by Josh at 7:16pm after the site visit to Pudvah Hill.

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

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests attending: Alex Barkley, Tom Jamison, Mac Newett, Alan Cook, Dan Forand, Sherry Westcom, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept the previous minutes on May 22, 2024, as written, Lance seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 3-0. Todd and Nicky abstaining as they were not present at the previous meeting.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner's order #3&4-2024	\$5530.46
Select Board's order # 14-2024	\$1200.46
Select Board's order #04-2024	\$412.75
Road Commissioner's order #9-2024	\$45.33
Equipment repair	
Select Board order #Brigham order	\$1700.00
Select Board order #15-2024	\$21,939.14

Finance- Tom Jamison met with the board and gave them updated reports. He said that the Quick Books Upgrade was all upgraded. Tom said that he used his credit card to get it loaded and the reimbursement was on the warrant. He said that the town credit card is still on the Quick Books account so that the automatic upgrade for next year will go on the town card. He said that the 600.00 payment for Jan and Feb was for the town and library and the upgrade will look like we are over budget, but you have really paid 5 months into the next year. He said that the library used to pay for their portion of the usage fee but now it's just one fee for all accounts and there is no obvious yours and ours anymore, it's an umbrella subscription. The board said they like the format for the report. Lance asked Tom to check into the amount of the Schwab disbursement for the Margaret Cutting Fund so that the trustees would know now much they would have for the scholarship awards.

Alex met with the board to update the board on the grant application for the Solar Beacon Crosswalk sign to place on Rt 108 between the school and the library. Alex shared the grant application with the board to look over for corrections. Alex asked the board if they knew when the crosswalk had been installed. The board said in 1952. They said the current bump outs on the sidewalk were done in 2021. Alex said there were 145 students at the school and the library has about 1100 adults and 560 children visit per month, which means that 30-60 people cross Rt 108 by the library every day. Alex said that the whole request would be for \$13,000.00 and our percentage would be about \$650.00. There will be a Section 1111 permit which would say that the town agrees to monitor the equipment. Alex said he included the wages for the Road Crew to install the posts and the fuel for Mac to go pick it up.

Todd made the motion to sign the endorsement letter for the cross-walk beacon, John seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

John made the motion to accept the grant contract with Alex of Forward Written as written, Lance seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. Alex said that the proposal deadline was really tight for this grant and that he usually would like a month to write a grant. He said that he would make a spreadsheet with possible grants for the board to look over and would like to hear about town needs. Alex is planning on updating the board at the second monthly meeting each month.

John made the motion to submit the Solar Beacon grant, Nicky seconded, and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

John made the motion to approve the Rt 108 road closure on July 6 for the 4th of July parade. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Road report- Mac said that it's been dusty so not a whole lot of grading. He said they put some stone down on Waterville Mtn Rd. Mac said that they start doing some chloride down tomorrow. We are expecting some rain this week so that will pack it down nice and hard.

Mac said that we now have two trucks with issues. Al's has a particulate issue and Mark's truck has come down with a cough. The board said that we need to have Clark come and get the truck.

The board talked about the truck replacement timeline. Mac said that a truck order has a two-year timeline. The board discussed looking into a smaller truck, a 550. Josh said that St. Albans uses one to get up French Hill as it's easier to do steep roads. It would also be less fuel. Todd and Josh to look local if possible and get 3 quotes. Josh said that he knows of a grant for improvement and technology that might help, and he will send it to Alex to see if we might qualify for that. Lance said we do have \$100,000.00 in the new equipment fund. Al said that the loader is starting to show its age and that's a very important piece of equipment.

Pudvah Hill Rd Site visit- Josh said the board walked up Pudvah Hill Rd and heard the concerns of some of the residents. He said that for the most part the questions were answered with the State inspection report from Better Back Roads and Pudvah Hill Rd is not flagged as a priority road. He said that there were a couple of places that could get hit with the grader. He said it was a little rough at the beginning and Todd mentioned that it had just rained. He said that the residents have been respectful by not spinning out. They said that up near the class IV section of the road there is no ditch anymore on the side. The ledge up by Tony's, where it is dug back the other way, is sitting on a ledge and there is not a whole lot that you can do. Josh said that if we haul the truck and excavator up there, he would like for there to be more for them to do. It could easily be cleaned up in a day but it's not a priority via State Standards. Josh said that if it's a 3-rod road then there wouldn't be any room unless you dig into the banks. John said that there were some trees to clean up in the ditch that came down in a recent storm and we need to pull the sides into the middle and put some chloride down to stiffen it up. And to put a swale at the top and take out some of those small trees to do a quick fix until it comes to the top of the priority list on the state list. John said that while walking the road you could see that the road was pretty tight, very few potholes and the road wasn't muddy or sloppy. Josh said he felt that it was a good meeting overall. He said that he felt like all felt that they were heard.

The Milton Cat report on the generator was received by the board and is to be shared with Vern at the school.

Tannerite Concern- Todd said that you can buy part A and part B, but it's not legal for you to mix them together without having an explosives license and then you have to apply for a permit from the fire dept in order to deploy Tannerite.

Nicky said that the letter of concern to be sent to the resident suspected of deploying Tannerite, is really based on neighbor hearsay, so we are not certain of who was responsible, therefore, we can't send the letter to a specific person. The neighbors said a name, but no one witnessed the person set off the explosion. The board decided to post a general notice at the normal locations and the website stating the law regarding Tannerite and explosives.

The town hall roof has been fixed. The shingles on the porch roof need to be replaced. The board said that can be tabled for next year and we can include it in the budget.

Tyler Technologies- The board signed the contract for the Town wide reappraisal to begin 7/1/2024.

Lisa Stone submitted a bill for flowers for the town common and said she would need to buy a few more.

Adam Woods road access- Mac checked and gave the final ok, so the board signed the final approval for the road access permit.

Tami asked the board for permission to use the town credit card to book a hotel room for two nights because of lister training more than 50 miles away. The VT Dept of Taxes will reimburse the town for the hotel stay after we have paid for it and submit the receipt.

Nicky made the motion to approve Tami attending lister training and the use of the town credit card for hotel accommodations to be reimbursed by the state. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Lance said that he had an interview with Cassia Haviland- Village Trust Initiative Director regarding a grant for Brigham Residence that could cover 1/7 share of 10 million which could help pay for the community area in the Brigham building. He said that this grant can be applied for each year and Lance thinks that it is unlikely that we will be using it this year and thinks we should wait until next year to apply for it. John said that if there is not a use-by date, he would prefer to get it and bank it to gather interest. Nicky asked Lance if he knew if there is to be a community area. Lance said it is planned and required by Preservation Trust and National Parks as part of this building is to be used for community use.

The TV monitor purchased for public view at town meetings is too small for people to see in the back row. John said that he had a person who would be willing to buy this one and then we can purchase a larger one.

Josh made the motion for John to collect the funds for the present TV monitor and purchase a 55" TV monitor, not to exceed \$300.00. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

Todd made the motion to move to Executive session to review Road Crew applications and invited Mac and Al to stay. John seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board entered Executive session at 8:47pm.

Todd made the motion to exit Executive session. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0. The board exited Executive session at 9:20pm. No decisions were made. Interviews to be scheduled for Road Crew candidates.

John made the motion to adjourn. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

