

Bakersfield Select Board Special Budget Meeting  
Friday, January 19, 2024  
7:00pm

Called to order at 7:00pm by Josh Goss.

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

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests attending: Tami Brennan

Kathy had prepared a copy of the warning for the board to go over and make any adjustments.

**The Informational Meeting regarding the General and Road budget to be voted on by Australian Ballot on Town Meeting Day, will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7:00pm.** The Informational Meeting will be accessible via zoom by clicking the zoom link located on the Town of Bakersfield Website Home page. This link is for listening to the meeting only. **The board will not be taking questions during the Informational Meeting via zoom. All stated questions must be asked from the floor.**

-Quick Books- Expected 2024 Expense to be \$1,830.00+, the board set the budget for Quick Books at \$2,500.00 for 2024.

-Court Cost- Actual Court Cost to be charged in 2024 is \$12,586.14. The budget for Court Cost to be \$13,000.00.

-Road Advertising- The board set the 2024 budget for \$500.00.

Lance told the board that the town is still expecting \$15,000.00 from FEMA to reimburse admin costs for Lance and Mac. He said that there should be \$55,000.00 coming from the State, which is 5% of 1.1 million projects. He said that he can't guarantee that this money will come in this year so he doesn't think it would be safe to take it off this year's budget. Lance suggested two ways to possibly manage the money if it does come in this year. Either set aside the \$70,000.00 as a reduction of the budget in 2025 or set aside the money as a payment toward our next truck. Someone asked if we could put it in the Bridge Fund and Josh said that would not be a good idea as we got slapped one year because we put money in the bridge fund and we needed to cover something where we were short so we transferred the money from the bridge fund to cover the need and we were told that we needed to pay that back since the voters allotted that money for bridges. Lance said that the FEMA payment and State money has to go toward the roads. Josh suggested that if we take half that anticipated amount off the road budget for this year, that still gives FEMA and the State until almost the end of the year to reimburse since we don't collect taxes until October, and then we could drop this year's Road budget to \$425,000.00. Josh said if this money comes in, great, if it doesn't then the state funds should compensate. Lance said that he is 90% sure that

at least the \$15,000.00 from FEMA should come in. John said that his only fear is that FEMA hasn't been paying like we anticipate. John said he liked waiting until we got all the funds and then take it off the road budget for 2025. Lance made the motion that in anticipation of the FEMA funds, that we change the proposed Road Budget from \$450,000.00 to \$425,000.00, for 2024. Todd seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The board said that, in anticipation of the Town Meeting Informational Meeting, they would request Vera or Tom to come up with a one page spread sheet for the board.

The board said that for the Regular Select Board meeting scheduled for Monday, February 26, to add Create Budget Bullet points to the agenda.

John made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Todd and the motion carried with a vote of 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.