

Bakersfield Special Budget Meeting  
Monday, Jan 10, 2022  
6:00

Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Josh Goss.

Members present: Josh Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, Brenda Churchill, Gary Denton, Terri Gates

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests attending: Maria DeRosia, Mac Newitt, John West, Josh Pryor, Dan and Katie Forand, Tami Brennan

Warrants signed:

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Selectman's order #01-2022          | \$3832.22   |
| Road Commissioner's Order #1-2022   | \$588.44    |
| Road Commissioner's Order #1&2-2022 | \$14,152.49 |

Josh wanted to start by going back to the BCA expenses from the meeting on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>. Kathy said we were going to have more elections this year. There will be three: the town, the state and the primaries. BCA spent around \$1200.00 for one year. Josh said that Kathy thought if we changed the budgeted amount from \$500.00 to \$1500.00, that should cover us. Josh said that we need to have that corrected for the percentage.

Josh said that last week we didn't go over wages because Terri said that we couldn't discuss wages. Wages will be discussed at an executive session with the affected parties, Mac, Dan and Mark.

Maria said she looked into the insurance on town buildings and found out that we usually pay for the upcoming year in December, but the insurance company has changed to a quarterly payment schedule. The premium is \$21,296.50, spread out over quarterly payments.

Maria checked out the balance on the Park Loan and found that we had just paid the last payment, so the balance is 0.

Mac said that the Memorial Day Fund includes the 32 small flags for the cemetery, so if we change the Memorial Day fund from \$600.00 to \$750.00, that should cover things. Josh said we can still check with the legion for flags.

Josh said that he had spoken to a Select board member of Sheldon about School Generator Service plans, and they are to look into a shared, more reliable districtwide service agreement for their school generators. So, all the schools would be serviced at the same time by the same people and hopefully for a better price.

Lance said that the Fire Dept Contract we are working on is for our fiscal year 2022 budget and the Fire Dept contract written by the Fire Dept is for their fiscal year 2023. That's up 10,000.00 which \$83,814.00.

The board then turned their attention on the Road Budget.

Last year we voted \$300,000.00 Winter Work and Dirt Work, and we spent \$396,846.56, which includes the FEMA costs that will be reimbursed. The Repair fund is in there too. These were kept track of separately but in the Town Report it's all the same.

Total expenses for the Equipment Repair fund were \$28,239.38, which also includes \$3157.02 to pay part of the TAN loan, so the balance remaining is \$9399.38. We only budget what it will take to bring the balance in the Equipment Repair Fund up to \$35,000.00, which would be \$25,600.62 for the 2022 Budget. This included repairs to the loader/grader/Trucks/screener/chipper/tractor/snowblower/York Rake/etc. Lance said that a lot of the equipment that we have is older than dirt.

The Equipment Fund- Terri asked if we are thinking of getting a smaller truck. Josh said that we have discussed it. Gary said that instead of a truck, the town should buy a backhoe. He said that the crew needs a backhoe. Lance said that he agreed with Gary. Lance said that if the guys are willing to use their own trucks and be reimbursed in mileage, it would cost us less. Mac said that by the time you buy a truck and pay for insurance, etc, you are spending a lot. Josh said that just putting a plow on the front would be \$15,000.00. Lance said that there may be money from the FEMA reimbursement, since we've already paid for a lot of the gravel, so we may be able to spend a bit of it on equipment for the town. The Equipment Fund was budgeted at \$15,000.00.

Equipment Earnings- Josh said it looks like we haven't done that for 3 years. Mac said that we don't do that anymore because we never had money left over. Josh said to scratch that line item off the list.

Telephone- Costs have increased over the years- all landline- doesn't include the pagers. The expense is up the \$150.00. Asked if it could be the FEMA calls. Mac said no, they had to make FEMA calls at the Townhall to use the WIFI. The extra charge was just to have the phone at the garage, no caller ID or extras. Mac said it would be great to have internet down there. Then we could use cell phones, and we could check weather from the garage. Josh asked if they wanted to budget \$1000.00 to do Comcast which would be phone and internet. Brenda to look into the elevated charges. Mac said that he also thinks that there were also late fees, etc. for checks that were received late or misplaced. The bills got all mixed up.

Josh said that we should add a Budget line item for the Pagers. All the crew carry pagers. We paid \$597.60 for the year contract. Maria said that we paid in

March. Josh said that we can look into a longer contract if the Road Crew was satisfied with the pager service. Josh said that if one person can get a hold of Mac to clear a road that needs it, it's worth it. Mac said that it works good with Dan and Mark. He's able reach them when they are up in the woods and can page them when they are needed pretty quick.

Terry said that she hasn't been able to tell the difference on Boston Post between Enosburg and Bakersfield.

Electricity- Josh said that Terri said that the rates would be going up 4%. We spent \$1509.06, so the board raised the budget to \$1650.00 for 2022.

Heating Fuel- We spent \$2738.15 for 2021. Clarence Brown told Josh that the town is getting the bulk rate. Last year we paid \$1.77 a gallon and the last bill we received was at \$2.76 a gallon. John West said that if you pay within 10 days or have it automatically charged to a credit card, they take some off your bill. Lance said that the cost for oil is definitely going to increase. Lance proposed \$4000.00 for heating fuel and the board agreed.

Streetlights- We spent \$153.76 in 2021 and budgeted \$175.00 for 2022.

Water- \$360.00 for the North and South garages. This is a set amount, so it stays at \$360.00.

Social Security/Medicare- is a % of wages and is up around \$500.00/year. Put that at \$13,000.00

Health Insurance- Premiums went down a little- but still a set fee. \$36,000.00

Disability- set fee- \$300.00

Simple IRA- Maria said that it is set but will change a little. \$5200.00

Clothing Allotment- It's \$500.00 for each crew member per year, so \$1500.00 total. Terri asked if it had to be used by a certain date. Mac said that it was for use during the fiscal year.

Mileage- Previous budget was \$2000.00. Josh said that we were down significantly. Mac thought that \$1500.00 should be enough.

Shop Expense- Mac said this was for odd bolts, etc., all things that we don't bill out. Toilet paper/paper towels. Spending was \$3,140.87. Board budgeted \$3000.00.

Diesel- We spent \$21,305.97. Josh said to round it up to \$25,000.00. Lance said that diesel had gone up significantly. Mac said that this would be the

biggest expense. We use almost 9000 gallons of fuel a year. Mac said that we use strictly low sulfur. Josh said that diesel just went up .15 in one week. The board calculated the projected cost and came up with \$29,350.00. Josh suggested budgeting \$30,000.00 and all agreed. Terri said that if the price drops, we should talk about prepaying. Lance said we should do that for both fuels.

Equipment gas- \$50.00/year. Mac said that is for gas for the chainsaw.

Salt/Chloride/Cold Patch- We spent \$21,217.09 in 2021. Mac said that we don't use the Cold Patch much. The Chloride is our biggest expense. The report showed that we spent an average of 23,500.00 over the last 5 years.

North Building- Mac said the roof needs paint, as well as the building, and it needs a new front door because the outside layer of the double paned glass got blown out. Josh thought \$500.00 would get us through the year and all agreed.

Chainsaw Expense- this is put into the repair fund. Mac said that we need a new pole-saw which will come out of the New Equipment Fund.

Gravel Pit- We spent \$320.00 on permit fees, which will go up. Josh said \$500.00 and all agreed.

Skinner Hill Gates- these are put in place, so nothing needed for 2022.

Guard Rails- Mac said that they added another 50 ft. of guard rail on Waterville Mtn. Rd. It was 18.00/foot. We had \$4000.00 for this item last year. Josh said we could scratch this item this year. Mac said it might be nice to have a fund to use as needed for when we need guard rails installed or repaired, and keep it replenished with just what we use like we do the Equipment Repair fund. He said that the guardrails over by Cahill's are looking kind of shabby. The board discussed budgeting \$5000.00 this year, and then replenish each year. This would be held in a separate interest-bearing account. Then the board discussed already having the budget raised by \$10,000.00 for the Fire Dept contract and \$10,000 in Diesel fuel, so they decided to scratch this for this year.

Road signs- we spent \$2,233.99 in 2021. Mac said we needed a lot of Road signs this year, but that a budget of \$500.00 for 2022 would be fine.

Roadside Mowing- The crew will do the first cut at least. They can use the sickle bar and stand it up but that will only get to the very edge of the road and the equipment isn't going to last very long using it that way. The board discussed budgeting \$3000.00 to hire someone. Maria said that Kurt Roberge has an extendable arm, just like the State does. Maria said that he charges \$80.00/hour for the 72" wood ditch bank mower, and \$95.00 for the rear

mount boom mower, so to run the two machines at the same time would be \$160.00. The board discussed doing 2 50-hour weeks, roughly 100 hours total. Josh said there are two side of the road so it would be around 40 miles. Josh said that \$3000.00 would be a drop in the bucket to do the whole thing. Terri said that we've had a lot of complaints about people not being able to see ahead on the roads this year. Josh said that we could plan to do a three-year rotation that would keep the growth back. Mac said that we could pick the worst spots to be done the first year. Josh purposed \$4000.00 budget for 2022, and then plan on a three-year rotation. We can tell better what we will need after the first year. All agreed. Mac said that what they can't get way off the road, the road crew will get to and cut the brush.

Culverts- We spent \$7554.54 for culverts this year. Mac said that they currently have some culverts in stock. Josh asked if \$5000.00 to operate would be good and Mac said yes.

Miscellaneous- Could be for writing checks...Mac said pretty much everything comes out of Shop Expenses.

Terri asked if we bought the old Fire Station. Lance said that we did not buy it, it was gifted to the Town.

Sand/Gravel/Stone- This item is grouped with Ditching/Drainage. Josh said to rename this category 'Aggregate'. Someone asked if the seeder is grouped in with that. Lance said that the seeder is coming to the town with a matching grant of which the town will pay \$1500.00 and that would come out of New Equipment.

TAN- Tax Anticipation Note- is determined by the total budget. How much we borrow from the bank as we wait for tax collection day to pay for the items budgeted.

Bridge Account loan- We borrowed in 2019 and paid it off in 2020, so scratch as a line item.

York Rake- item into the Repair fund. We own the York Rake and we got new teeth for it this year.

Insurance/Telephone Line Repair- that was from back when we broke the telephone line- It had a \$1000.00 deductible. Delete this line item.

Contracted labor and Equipment Rental- money to rent the excavator. It may be quicker to contract out some of the ditching. We may be able to buy some equipment with FEMA money. Terri proposed that we budget \$10,000.00 and the rest of the board agreed. The excavator rents for \$5000.00/month.

Storm water operating fee- for the operating permit- the same every year.

Gravel Pit- \$40,000.00 payment

FEMA LOC- newly signed for 2022- we can borrow if FEMA money doesn't come in time for the bridge project. We shouldn't have to budget for FEMA.

Maria gave the board a rough number for the Road Budget...about \$332,809.36. The TAN loan and the Equipment Fund being separate. Last year the town voted in \$300,000.00 for Winter and Dirt Work. The board said that they are right where they need to be to account for the increases. Josh said that last year, we banked on State aid for a certain amount of money. He said we are at \$332,000.00, and if we ask for \$325,000.00, we should be ok. Josh said we know we need \$332,000.00 to operate, if we don't get any state aid. Lance purposed that they ruminate on that. Josh said that he thought they had some great numbers, and they have another budget meeting on the 19th, and they have to have everything in no later than the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The next budget meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 4:00. The first hour will be an executive session for reasons of discussing personnel wages. The board told Mac to discuss with the crew and then join them in executive session.

After the executive session closes, the public budget meeting will begin.

Brenda made the motion to adjourn. Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.