

Bakersfield Town Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2020

Meeting was called to order by Lance Lawyer at 7:03pm.

Members in attendance: Lance Lawyer (chair), Sam Cribb, Josh Goss, David Houston

Members absent: Gary Denton

Residents/Guests present: Paul Stanley (Bakersfield Fire Dept.), Maurice Lamothe (St. Albans Police Dept.), Gary Taylor (St. Albans Police Dept.), Abbey Miller (Town Treasurer), Kathy Westcom (Town Clerk), Tami Brennan (scribe)

Warrants signed: Selectman's Order #2-2020 6,127.45

Road Commissioner's Order #3&4-2020 13,981.52

Motion to accept January 13 Select board minutes, and January 21 Budget Meeting minutes **with the correction of the time of the January 28 Budget meeting from 7:00pm to 6:00pm**, made by Sam and seconded by Josh and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Paul Stanley, Maurice Lamothe and Gary Taylor presented details of the finances and improvements in the Dispatch service. Paul reported his appreciation for Moe Lamothe having taken the position of Director of Central Dispatch serving under Gary Taylor, after retiring from the State Police. His position of solely focusing on Dispatch has brought forward many improvements in the implementation of this service under all circumstances, which included hiring more people, and revamping and extending training programs. They have a new tower in Highgate and are looking to put a new tower on Georgia Mtn. (around 400,000.00) to improve reception of signal. These improved signals make for more reliable communication in the event of a problem within the system. The ability to switch to an alternate system, an improvement in redundancy, enables the Dispatcher to transfer to a reliable back up system immediately in the event of an interruption in the primary system. The Dept. is also planning a move to a larger building in St. Albans since they have outgrown the building they presently work from. These updates in service ability call forward the need to update the way that costs are figured for these services. The 60/40 system (60% city/40% other) cost division system based on usage, that they have been using hasn't been working so well as times and needs of communities change. Their new financial system charges 12.00/per person/per year for everyone in the community, based on the latest census data, which ends up being 3.5 cents per day/per person. Paul stated again that the improvement in Dispatch service that he has seen since Moe took the position in September is like night and day, with accessible, detailed, and fully trained response. Lance also commented that he has been listening to the Fire Dept. calls at home and he has noticed much improvement. In regard to finances, Paul stated that the Fire Dept. also pays for the internet service to connect to the Simulcast system. The service cost for Dispatch has needed revamping for a while, and although there is a rise in price, there should not be a rise again like this for a long while.

Paul Stanley presented his report for the Town's 4th of July celebration. He said that they are asking for the same that they did last year. He doesn't think that with the new FAA regulations that Dan will be able to do his airshow. And at present, he can't find anyone to cook the barbeque. Still planning on providing the Fire Works.

Paul also asked for a slight rise in budget consideration for the Missisquoi River Basin Assoc.

The Select Board went into executive session from 7:30-7:45.

Abbey reported that she has been playing phone tag with the VT St. Police but that she has enough information to draw up a budget line for a 20 hour/month contract, in the town report, to give the Town some regular police coverage.

The Select Board read through the budget requests of those that have been submitted, noting some budget increase requests in various areas, and also discussed wage comparisons between Bakersfield and other VT communities, to ensure that the Town is paying a fair wage to encourage good, reliable service and reduce job turnover.

The informational Budget meeting is scheduled for tonight, Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 6:00pm, and all are encouraged to attend and bring their questions. Abby will have handouts and copies of proposed budget numbers, the proposed tax rates, along with examples of the effect on residential taxes for the next 2-3 years.

The Select board also acknowledged the need to borrow money to continue town operations and Abbey will get information together regarding said loan.

All noted that if FEMA approves and agrees to reimburse monies for any of the Town's flood damage, the payment wouldn't be expected before the fall. And Lance reminded that there is still more than half of the repairs yet to be done when the weather turns enough for the damaged areas to be worked on.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:50 pm by Sam Cribb and seconded by David Houston and approved by a vote of 4-0.

Budget meeting tonight, Tuesday, January 28, at **6:00pm**.

The next Regular Select Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb 10, 2020 at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

