

Bakersfield Town Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, November 11, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 by Lance Lawyer.

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

Members absent: Gary Denton

Cemetery commission in attendance: Stacy Maynard, Willie Maynard, David Spencer, Harmon Mayo, Ronald Marcotte

Public residents/guests present: Mark Doremus, Bill Erwin, Cheryl Erwin, Sharon Lawyer, Abby Miller, Mac Newitt

Motion made by Sam to accept the Oct. 28 meeting minutes, seconded by David and approved by vote 4-0.

Warrants signed: #28-2019 Selectmen's order

#19&20-2019 Road Commissioner's order

Mark Doremus brought before the Selectmen and the members of the Cemetery Committee, the request to use the town land along side of the town garage for a temporary site for the NWSWD recycling receptacles since the State road project that is to begin in the spring will make the present site unusable due to an outlet placed for drainage. Mark presented a picture/map showing the extent of the land to be affected and the Selectmen, due to the consideration of how managing recycling materials is continually evolving, believed that two years was a reasonable amount of time to expect the land to be needed for this use, unless no other remedy had been provided. Mac noted the need for gravel/fill to make the site accessible for the NWSWD trucks and it was considered that the small access drive may provide some parking during ball games reducing the amount of cars parking on the road which is a safety issue. After discussion of the inadequacy of other considered sites, the cemetery committee, while committed to the preservation of the land for future cemetery needs, agreed to approve the land to meet this need on a temporary basis with the stipulation that the town retains ownership and control of the land in use and that should the event occur that no other remedy has been found within five years, that on the fifth anniversary of the first day of operation by the NWSWD, the issue would be reevaluated at that time.

Bill and Cheryl Erwin presented the board with a grant opportunity to help in restoring the Old Brigham Academy Building. The Paul Bruhn Historic Rehabilitation Grant is a federal grant of between \$50,000. and \$100,000. dollars that would be administered by the Preservation Trust and would provide funds for the replacement of windows, replacement/restoration of doors, and provision for fire safety upgrades, keeping within historic guidelines. They noted that the initial response to an inquiry placed on the Facebook Community page received 42 favorable responses, including that of a contractor and an electrician, of those interested in voluntary in-kind participation to help restore the building and gave examples within the state

where this has been successfully accomplished. Bill and Cheryl are willing to write the grant which has an application deadline of Nov. 18. The Selectmen appreciated and agreed to support the Erwin's efforts, and to put them in contact with parties possibly interested in promoting development of the building for economic and community benefit.

Sharon Lawyer requested and was granted access to Brigham Academy school for Operation Happiness. She also brought before the board, in light of recent power outages, the Church's desire to provide warm shelter, not as an emergency shelter, but a warm place to go for specified hours during the day for those in town that have lost power and therefore heat. They proposed pre-notifying the town population of this provision in event of a power outage and wanted to confirm that this would raise no issue with town emergency plan protocol. The select board assured her that this would not interfere in any way.

Abby Miller, town treasurer, notified the board that because of the extra expenses incurred for road repairs due to weather damage and washouts, the road budget fund has dropped to \$50,000, which is an unrealistic amount available to meet road needs until October. She requested that the selectmen be prepared to authorize her to borrow from the Equipment and Bridge Fund, should that be needed to cover expenses incurred to restore and keep roads safe while they wait for any possible reimbursement from FEMA, which has given no guarantee. Sam said that FEMA has preliminary pictures and that they required a dollar amount to declare emergency which hasn't been approved. He said the governor offered assistance as well. Lance said he had told Mac to spend what he needed to open and ensure safety to roads damaged by the flooding, before the snowstorm hits and that Lance had ordered four jersey barriers to close the road to the concrete bridge by Goat Path off Lost Nation Road, that has been condemned by the state. Jordon road is still closed and Goat Path remains closed. There was some discussion of possible alternative plans to repairing the bridge if state regulations put the price way out of reach for the town, such as researching a possible land purchase to circumvent the need for the bridge.

Abby continued to express concern over the lack of adequate funding to sustain town road and equipment needs in normal conditions, not to mention the consideration of unplanned emergency expenses. She also spoke to the time gap between the approval of funds at Town Meeting and actual access to them in October, creating the need to stretch those funds approved for 12 months of expenses over 18 months. The select board asked Abby to tally up expenses spent for 2017 and 2018, as well as 2019 to date, and a meeting was scheduled for Monday, Nov. 25 at 6:00 to consider a realistic budget proposal to put before the residents at Town Meeting. Also, the need to provide adequate information to the residents of Bakersfield, prior to Town meeting, was recognized, so that they would be informed of the situation prior to discussion at Town Meeting.

The Meyer's request to rescind their petition to have Class IV Old Town Rd 22, lifted from the town maps was discussed. A response by letter from town attorney, Mike Gawne, stated that while the Meyer's legally did not have the authority to withdraw their petition, the Select Board could accept their withdrawal and were not then legally bound to do anything regarding the road. The Selectmen all agree that the location of the original road needs to be determined and documented, possibly by another survey, and that a Hearing, at which the testimony from witnesses familiar with the original road can be heard would be scheduled. Lance said that Gary Foote was born on the former farm on said hill and remembers road 22, that Larry Westcom has said that he remembers Mr. Allen cutting the road, referred to in the petition as Wood's Trail, for Rupert Hyde, and that Jeff Westcom has said that he remembers the cellar holes being on the right side of the Old Town Rd.

The Selectmen agreed to accept the Meyer's request for petition withdrawal. Tami to inform Cathy to put in the record and file that the petition has been withdrawn and that Tami would notify both land owners affected that the petition has been withdrawn, including the reference book and page in which said withdrawal has been recorded.

Josh made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David seconded and all approved by a vote of 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Hearing minutes submitted by Tami Brennan.