

Bakersfield Town Regular Select Board Meeting  
Monday, November 25, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 by Lance Lawyer.

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

Members absent: none

Public residents/guests present: Gary Foote, Linda McCall, Cheryl Irwin, Abby Miller, Kathy Westcom, Mac Newitt

Motion made by Sam, to accept Nov. 11 meeting minutes, seconded by Josh, and approved by vote 5-0.

Warrants signed: Road Commissioner's Order #0&21-2019

Selectmen's Order # 30-2019

Road Commissioner's Order #03-2019

Road Commissioner's Order #27&28-2019

#### Brigham Academy Building-

Cheryl Irwin updated the board, that the application for the Preservation Grant to benefit the Brigham Academy Building was submitted on Monday, November 18. Lance reported having met with Heidi Eichenburg, of Lakemont Retirement, and an engineer, as they inspected the Brigham Academy building in consideration of the possibility of converting the building for use as Elderly Housing/Assisted living, as their organization has recently done with a historical building in Newport. The outside of the building would retain the historical parameters of the national register and the inside converted into individual units with one common kitchen and a community room. Gary Foote said that he was willing to sell property within walking distance from the building for the purpose of parking. Linda McCall said that some elderly residents that have had to move to elderly housing outside the town would be interested in returning to the community if such housing would be available. Lance said that this would be a way to save the building, which, if left as it is much longer, would become past saving, and he noted that many residents have voiced an earnest desire to see the historical landmark saved. If Lakemont Retirement's interest becomes serious, Lance expressed a desire to put the project to a town vote, although not legally bound to do so, after offering several informational meetings to inform those interested.

#### State Speed Limit Study-

The Select board has received the results and recommendations of the State's Speed Limit Study. The State recommends lowering the speed limit on Rt. 108, to 30 mph. from 35 mph., and no change to the current speed limits on Rt. 36. The State did recommend that we pursue stronger police reinforcement to speed limits through town. This concern will be on the agenda of the next Traffic Committee Meeting on Dec. 11, 2019, at 1:00pm, at the VTrans Dill Building, 2178 Airport Rd, Barre, VT, for anyone interested in giving testimony on behalf of the town. If an interested party is unable to

attend but would like to participate, please call Ian Degutis, at 802-371-8827, to arrange for a telephone connection, or to request additional information.

#### Road Updates-

New pictures have been taken of the progress on the following roads: Belvidere Mountain, Whitney, Waterville Mountain, Pudvah Hill, Basswood Hill, Trowbridge, Jordan and Lost Nation. Josh reported that he has received many concerns about the bridge on Goat Path and accessibility adequate for school buses, snow plows and fuel trucks. The State Inspectors condemned the bridge and the town is still waiting for the State's follow up as to the standards required before the bridge can be reopened, and the cost of meeting such standards, as well as FEMA's judgement on possible contribution. The Select board is also discussing possible alternative access, such as a land purchase to circumvent the bridge, if the bridge restoration proves to be beyond our budget.

#### Local Emergency Management Plan-

Sam Cribb is the Town's Emergency Management Director/Coordinator and is working on developing a working protocol to manage the needs of town residents in the event of an emergency, which is needed for FEMA. Cheryl Irwin said that Bill Irwin was willing assist in this development.

#### Hazard Mitigation Plan-

In view of the recent flooding, Mac and Lance discussed the development of the Bakersfield Priority Matrix, which Mac has worked and Lance will type out and forward to Taylor Newton of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, who is willing to assist us and whose deadline is the beginning of December. This consists of what the town would like to be able to do, within the next year or so, to help prevent hazardous conditions in the event of heavy rain, etc. This would also be required in order to get help from FEMA.

#### Site inspection for Proposed Electrical Access on the Town Green-

During the meeting, the Select men inspected the town green and agreed on desired locations for electrical access for lights to illuminate the monument and the flag and also the Bell Tower and continue over to the trees. Also lights on the side of the Town Clerk's office by the ramp and on the wall for summer events, as well as outlets inside the town hall building. The Select men spoke to Larry Westcom, by phone, during the meeting, and informed him of the needs, which he agreed to perform and set up with Mac to begin the following morning.

#### Meyers notification letter regarding withdrawal of Petition-

Rough draft of letter adjusted and approved and to be drafted and made ready for the Selectmen to sign at the next meeting.

Select board secretary raise-

Lance made the motion to raise the wages of Select board Secretary, Tami Brennan, to 20.00/hour. The motion was seconded by Sam, and approved by a vote of 5-0.

Work on Personnel Policy-

To be placed on agenda for the next meeting.

Josh Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm, which was seconded by Sam and approved by a vote 5-0.

The next meeting to discuss the Road Budget is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 9, at 6:00pm.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 9, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by Tami Brennan.