

Regular Bakersfield Select Board Meeting  
Monday, March 25, 2024  
7:00pm

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

Members present: Joshua Goss (chair), Lance Lawyer, John West, Nicky Cribb

Members absent: Todd Cosgrove

Residents/Guests: Mac Newitt, Deanna Allen, Dan Forand, Tami Brennan

Previous minutes: John made the motion to accept the previous minutes as written, Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

Warrants signed:

Selectmen's order #	\$10,506.32
Selectmen's order #02-2024	\$75.00
Road Commissioner's order #5-2024	\$3,878.82
Road Commissioner's order #12&13-2024	\$13,822.53

Finance- reports are received on the first meeting of the month.

The board asked to arrange for regular zoning updates on the second meeting of the month.

Roads- Mac said that the exhaust on Truck #2 isn't working and it's emitting exhaust fumes so that it's getting dangerous to be in the cab. Al said there is a bad smell that leaves a bad taste in your mouth, and gives you a headache. Mac said they had it patched 4 times last month and it just won't hold. He said it's about \$12,000.00 to replace the exhaust. Mac said we won't be able to trade it in with any lights on and they won't go out. The trade proposed so far is \$20,000.00 at least. Josh said that he thinks we can sell it outright for more. Lance said that the fumes are endangering the driver. Josh suggested getting a quote from Allegiant and for now, minimize the time that Al spends in the truck. The new truck won't be ready until next winter, so we still have to make it through summer.

Josh told the board that if they get a call about the roads, to call Mac and let him know, but if they can take a ride over to the site and look themselves as well, he's done that and he's seen that the road complained about isn't any worse than most. John talked about a spot on East Bakersfield Road and two spots on Butternut. He said there is a lot of heavy equipment riding over soft roads. Josh said when they spoke to James Gregoire about instating a permitting fee for the big trucks the state didn't like that idea. We can stop a gravel truck, but we can't stop sap truck because it's agriculture.

Road Commissioner Position- The board and Mac had spoken about the Road Commissioner position being a separate one from Road Foreman. Josh said that they had talked about it being someone on the board. Mac said that he would like to see someone in town in the position. Mac was thinking that it could be Lance since he knows the roads and what we've done. Nicky said that

she would like to see if someone in town is interested although she said she has no problem with the board doing it. Josh said that we don't need someone that has a vendetta. Lance said that if it comes down to the board, he is willing to try it. John agreed with Nicky. He said the board does a lot. He said Lance is already doing a lot. Tami to post a Road Commissioner Position Ad with a brief job description asking applicant's to please submit a letter of interest by April 15, to include related work experience, knowledge and availability, to be submitted by April 15. The Road Commissioner is on call for six months through the winter and gets \$100.00/week to carry the pager and .67/mile for mileage.

Grader Sale- Mac will get a description and pictures of the old grader for Tami to post asking for a sealed bid, minimum bid accepted is \$45,000.00. Mac said he wouldn't go too low. He said that the old grader came in handy for Enosburg this week when the water pump on their grader blew.

MERP- Mac said that he has not heard anything back since the day they called with questions. John said he has had no feedback but will try to get an update.

Town Constable position- Todd was going to check on that...tabled until Todd is present.

NWCUD- Heather Jewett, the primary representative to the NWCUD for Bakersfield, and Brenda Churchill, the secondary rep, both submitted written confirmations that they were willing to continue being Bakersfield reps to the NWCUD.

John made the motion to reappoint Heather Jewett and Brenda Churchill as representatives to the NWCUD for Bakersfield. Nicky seconded the motion and the motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

Authorization for Linda McCall to reapply for the Village Center Designation. Tami to draw up a letter for the board to sign for authorization at the next meeting.

Municipal Social Media Notification Discussion- The board discussed setting up a municipal Facebook and Instagram notification account to keep residents alerted to the business of the town. Josh said that he is ok with it if no comments are allowed, just like the Fire Alert website. Nicky said that she was willing to get something set up. Only admin can post and no replies. People can follow it and it will pop up on their feed.

Lance brought up updating the town website and John agreed. It was said that Sara Jo did a great job on the Lucas Williams Foundation website. Josh said that he would reach out to Sarah Jo and see what she thinks it would cost for a redesign for a website. Tami to invite Sarah Jo to the next board meeting.

Health Officer Reappointment- Tami to reach out to Ginger Parent to see if she is willing to be reappointed for 3 years and give her the papers to fill out and sign.

Hadley from the library requested permission of the board for the library to hold an eclipse viewing event on the Town Common. The board said to have Hadley fill out a town use permit for them to sign.

New Mail- a notification to the town that employers have to pay .44% payroll tax on employee's wages to go toward daycare subsidies beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tami asked the board for a beginning date for the 3% wage increase for town employees that the board had built into the budget. The board said that the start date for the increase in wages was 3/5/2024, the day that the budget was approved.

**April 30<sup>th</sup> is the vote for the School Budget. The vote will happen at the Town Hall by Australian ballot from 10:00am to 7:00pm.**

John said that there was some interest in town to get information about how to get out of the school supervisory union, Act 46, and what that would mean. He said the board could discuss this with James Gregoire. The board asked for copies of Title 16 chapter 11 for the next meeting. Nicky pointed out that we don't have a local school board anymore to put a budget together. Josh said that we had all that and he did not think it would take long. They said it would start with a board and then it gets put on the ballot, and if the town so chooses, we go from there. Nicky said that this would require some conversation with the school, and we would probably lose federal funding. Lance said this would be an uphill battle.

Brigham Academy- There will be a discussion at the April 22 Regular Select Board meeting and Kathy Lavoie and Tim Smith will come to discuss the Brigham Residence project with the Select Board.

**Brigham Residence presentation to take place Monday, May 13 at 5:00pm,** before the regular Select Board Meeting. Lance said that it will be a presentation of what is planned and the stage that we're at. He said that we have two hours before the regular meeting must begin, so it will end at 7:00pm. Nicky had asked if the meeting could be pushed back so people who worked and can't change their work schedule could attend. Lance had said that this is when these people could come to present, and that the meeting will be recorded. Nicky asked that people be able to submit questions prior to the meeting. The board thought that was a good idea.

John said that he responded to the Fairfield Community Center and the Franklin County Suicide Prevention regarding their request for ARPA funds,

notifying them that the town's ARPA funds have been depleted and that from this point forward, ARPA is closed.

John made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Lance seconded the motion and the motion carried with a vote of 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.