

Town of Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting  
June 8, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Lance.

Members present: Lance Lawyer (chair), Josh Goss, Sam Cribb, Gary Denton, David Houston (via zoom/phone)

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests present: Mac Newitt, Kathy Westcom, Clem Paquette, Richard Backer-NWSWD, Paul Stanley, Matt Hull, Marc Doremus, Jerry Brown, Tami Brennan

Motion to accept the May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes was made by Lance, seconded by Sam, and approved by 5-0 vote.

Warrants signed:

Road Commissioner's Order #2&3-2020	\$7,353.99
Selectman's Order #14-2020	\$5,525.99
Road Commissioner's Order #5-2020	\$335.20

Discussion began with questions concerning the NWSWD purposed renovation on the existing site of the old fire station. The Select board had invited Clem Paquette to attend the meeting to review the proposal and voice any questions or concerns he had as the nearest neighboring resident to the site. Clem had questions about whether the NWSWD was planning on using closed containers or open and expressed the need for open containers to be removed the same day as collection, lest it produce an odor and draw flies and animals. He thought that a closed container could wait until Monday to be picked up. Also, to ensure that the NWSWD not encroach upon his land. He also shared the experience of not being able to access his driveway because of the line of cars waiting to use the disposal site and had questions regarding State enforcement of Compost collection. Lance showed Clem the sketches that Richard Backer has sent to the Select board of the proposed renovation site and Richard assured Clem that the NWSWD planned to go back to the covered box with hatches and they had altered the access plan to allow for two cars, with customers using face masks, to use the service center at a time, which should speed things along and avoid blocking his driveway. He did say that there was piece of town land that Clem has been mowing that the NWSWD may need to cut into and Clem knew of the place mentioned. Richard didn't know of any compost collection enforcement by the State at this time. Richard said the plan involved moving the outhouse and cash register into the old fire station building, removing the cargo box and installing a 20ft storage unit, painted green, which would be the closest item to Clem's house. Clem said that the plan, as spoken, sounded ok with him. The motion was made by Josh, seconded by Sam and accepted by a vote of 4-0 (David had been disconnected due to technical difficulties), to give Richard from the NWSWD the go ahead to proceed with the renovation project. Richard gave Clem his business card and assured him that he would welcome any feedback at any time regarding the site. Richard would like to have the site completed by the end of July and that

NWSWD would have 2 or 3 staff on the site during collection for around 6 weeks to help with customer transition.

Paul Stanley and Matt Hull attended to discuss the possibility of offering the vacant space next to the new Fire Dept. to the contractor awarded by the State to complete the Town drainage/sidewalk project. The project is slated to begin this fall and be completed by next fall, 2021. The project description for contracts is to be posted in early July and contract bids open at the end of July. At the end of August, the contracts are awarded and executed by mid to the end of September. The Project will affect street drainage from Larry's Tree Farm down to the Jolly Quick Stop. The Select board thought that the lot next to the new fire station was a larger, more easily accessed space to offer the contractor and would cause less disruption to the NWSWD disposal site. Ultimately, the chosen contractor will choose the site he wishes to lease, to set up his base of operations. The length of the time needed is expected to be approximately one year. If chosen, the site next to the new Fire Dept. would probably need some site prep and maybe a fence to keep children from being harmed on equipment or materials. The Fire Dept. expressed the need to still have a path of open access to the building that the Fire Trucks could use to come and go freely, but were open to considering and discussing the contractor's needs and plans with the chosen contractor and the Select Board at that time.

Paul Stanley also shared a project that he has been working toward of putting up a set of lights that illuminate a sign posted on Rt. 36, warning of the upcoming four corners at the junction of Rt 36 and Rt 108. He said they've had a couple of calls and one accident at the site. The State has replied to him requesting a letter from the Select Board stating their agreement to the project. Lance instructed Paul to write a letter describing exactly what he was proposing and to submit it to the Select board to be approved and signed.

Mac said they are waiting for more chloride to arrive to lay down on the roads to reduce dust. The delivery keeps getting pushed back because of the delay of rail transportation due to COVID. The purchase of a second tank that would hold 5000gal, which will cover between 8 and 9 miles, costs @ \$4700.00 and would make it possible for the town to store more chloride on hand and have more to spread which would reduce the effect of delivery delays. Mac also said that Russ Clark at Clark's truck center, who did last truck repair on truck #2, after it had just ended its warranty, was going to try to get it covered under an extended warranty through International. He was told that it would not be, but that Clark's was going to cover the cost of the repair for us, so the town would receive a refund of our payment of \$2100.00. Mac also said that he had received a bid from Tatro's of \$204,000.00, to fix Waterville Mtn Road. If it required blasting with new culverts it would be \$6000.00 more.

He also heard from Rolfus of FEMA, regarding status and the need for site inspections or not.

Open operations at the Town Clerk's office were discussed in regards to Government imposed limitations on operations due to COVID. Kathy reported that the state order limited no/low contact business operations to a required 200 square feet per person, which would only allow 3 people in the town clerk's office at a time, this includes office staff. Presently, the researchers make an appt. with the town clerk to ensure there isn't more than one to two people researching at a time. Those who have researched by appointment have reported that that is the practice of all the town offices that they have been accessing. Kathy also noted the reduced space in the vault and the need for people using the copier, log books, etc, which the state mandates be sterilized between use. Lance read from the VLCT the state regulations for the Town Clerk. Under the Handbook heading, 'O. Office hours and access to records', it states, "There are no state statutes mandating the office hours of a Vermont municipal clerk. The Clerk, therefore, has the authority to set these hours, which are usually determined by the amount of work to be done. In smaller municipalities the clerk may not even have regular office hours or a conventional office. However, the files and records maintained by the municipal clerk must be available for public inspection, upon proper request, at all reasonable hours." Also, under the heading, 'R. Relationship with the Select Board', he read, "The duties and responsibilities of a municipal clerk are defined by statutory law. As long as the municipal clerk maintains his or her records in a lawful manner, the selectboard does not have the power to require the municipal clerk to conform to its ideas or methods of record keeping." Kathy described the current method of operating that follows the state safety guidelines and allows for customer access to records and services. Those needing access to records schedule an appt to access records and reserve adequate space to perform their research. Many people have had copies of records emailed to them as well. In addition, one person at a time is to occupy the lobby to access a service and is asked to wear a mask. Others wait outside until the previous customer has finished. Kathy has had the office open Monday through Thursday from 8am-noon. Preparation for ballot voting at the August Primary was discussed as well to ensure safe voting practice.

David Houston submitted his letter of resignation from the Selectboard, effective as of June 9, 2020, due to the fact that he is moving from the area and thus will no longer be a Bakersfield resident. The Selectmen accepted and signed his letter of resignation with regret and expressed great thanks to David for his valuable, capable and faithful service to the Town of Bakersfield. The Selectboard will post the vacancy publicly to town residents and will be accepting letters of intent until June 18, from those interested in filling the vacancy on the Selectboard, fulfilling the remainder of David's one-year term, until the next March Town meeting. Letters of intent are to be mailed to the

Town Office in time to arrive by June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 40 E Bakersfield Rd., Bakersfield, VT 05441. If only one letter of intent is submitted, the applicant will be appointed to the position at the June 22, 2020 Selectboard meeting. If multiple applicants submit a letter of intent, then the names will be candidates for a ballot, which will be warned by July 10, and voted on by ballot at the August 11, 2020, primary election. Kathy will publicly post the vacancy on June 9, 2020.

Josh and Mac attended a site evaluation by a biologist from Fish and Game, Tyler Brown, at the request of Marc, Paul and Jason Luno in regards to damage to the road that accesses their property, by beavers. Tyler was not able to make a recommendation at this time.

Sam made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

The next Regular Selectboard meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2020, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.