

Bakersfield Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, June 14, 2021
7:00pm

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

Members present: Josh Goss(chair), Lance Lawyer, Gary Denton, Terri Gates, Brenda Churchill

Members absent: none

Residents/Guests present: Audrey Haselton, Mac Newitt, Megan Buckley, Deanna and Rodney Allen, Melanie Riddle, David Minkoff, Brodie Haenke, Sam Cribb, Dan and Katie Forand, Mike Burns, Linda McCall, Tami Brennan

Gary made the motion to accept the minutes as written for the May 24 Regular Select Board meeting, Lance seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Gary made the motion to accept the minutes as written for the June 7 Special Select Board Meeting, Lance seconded the motion, and the motion was carried by a vote of 5-0.

Warrants signed:

Selectman's order #13-2021	\$8,925.16
Road Commissioner's order #2&3-2021	\$15,465.09
Road Commissioner's order #8-2021	\$655.11
Road Commissioner's order #FEMA	\$16,087.50

Finances-

Audrey provided the board with a Profit and Loss Report. She told the board that it was not 100% complete and that there should be some additional information compared to what Abbey provided but she was still working her way through the system. She said that taking the laptop home to allow her time to play around with the system has helped. The board asked if she had the needed passwords and Audrey said yes, that Kathy had helped her with these and she was going to have to go in and completely reset it but, being the end of the month, she wanted to wait, since she wanted to be able to access everything. She said that Kathy has been really helping and when she is standing beside me, I can do anything. Terri said that it was a priority to get those passwords changed. Audrey said that before she goes changing a lot of passwords, she wants to make sure she knows what she's doing so she doesn't go blocking herself out of areas. Audrey thought that she was probably giving the board more than then want in the report. Josh said that Audrey could probably just bring the report with the most updated information from the last two months, but if that's difficult you can continue to print off the whole year. Audrey said that the range was set. Josh had a question from the front page regarding the Selectmen's Expenses which said \$36,193.00. He asked Audrey what that covered? Audrey said that she would do some research, she didn't know where this number is being pulled from. She said that it is nothing that she has entered. Audrey was also to research the ATV sticker income balance of \$1795.00, when stickers are sold for \$10.00 each. Terri thought that maybe

the category is just not titled right and that maybe the road crew salaries are in there, but the road crew salaries were listed under payroll expenses in the Road budget. After more questions for different categories, Audrey said that these are completely inaccurate, and she would work on that. Lance added that there are also no statements or balances for the trust funds...the principal balance, checking account balance and the investment balance and that the reason that the board requests these reports is so that they can see where we're getting close or overdrawn, etc. The board asked Audrey if she was able to find the Cutting Fund and Audrey said yes.

Melanie-Zoning Administrator

Josh told Melanie that the board has had some people come with a couple concerns about the Westcom Snack Shack and wanted to see if this situation was on her radar. Melanie said that she had sent out a letter a month ago. That the snack shack needed to be a mobile building on wheels and if it's technically a restaurant, it needs approval. Brian said that he received approval a long time ago. Melanie said that it took a while to find the previous approval, but she finally found the approval permit for the mobile snack shack in 2014 by the ZBA. It still needs to be mobile, and Brian said that he is working on that. Terri asked Melanie if she had done an actual inspection of what is down there. Josh said that if a building can be put on cast-iron rollers and can be winched onto a trailer, that would count as mobile, just like a roll off container. The board asked if there was anything on the permit about the structure not actually being on Brian's property, as regarding insurance. One of the concerns brought to the board was whether he can file for a structure not on his property but his mother's property. Would his mother have to be the one to have the permit and if the structure was oversized. Melanie said that a structure with a permanent foundation is different when it's movable. If it's moveable, it doesn't have the same size restrictions. Melanie said that she doesn't know the size, but the dimensions don't count because it's not permanent. Another question was about parking. Melanie said that the parking goes with the 2014 permit that says how many parking spots are required. Terri said, so basically, as long as the building is moveable, he is in compliance, and Melanie said yes. Terri asked if the board could get a copy of the 2014 permit and Melanie told them where it was filed in the Town office. Gary asked Melanie if she has done any work on the people who are living in year-round in camps. Melanie said that she didn't know where to start as she doesn't have the camp addresses. Gary said that there are two up by him, one that has been living through the year in the A-frame. It's a seasonal property and doesn't have certified septic. He told Melanie to check with Kathy for names. One resident, Tyler Perry, says that he has an interim permit and has a certain amount of time to get the septic done and he is on his second or third stage. Lance asked if the eviction moratorium has been lifted. Lance said that bottom line, this woman moved in and knew that she was not to live there full time, the septic is not adequate, the 10 foot right of way is not adequate per zoning laws, and it's on a Class IV road. Kathy has the bill of sale stating that it

is not a permanent residence. Melanie said that she really needs more information and needs to be responding to something, a report or complaint filed, something to actually follow up on. Brenda asked if it would help if we put a form together that would state a formal complaint, give the address of the home and file the complaint with Melanie. Melanie said yes, that would help. The board asked Melanie what the steps would be. Melanie said that she would begin by sending a letter, if there is no response to correct, then she can issue zoning violation tickets to bring into compliance, then it would go to environmental court.

Brodie Haenke, Conservation Specialist in Franklin County, USDA office in St. Albans introduced himself to the board and thanked them for allowing him and Dave to speak to them even though they got in too late to be placed on the agenda. He also introduced Dave Minkoff of the Fish and Wildlife Service from the Lake Champlain office, who works throughout the Lake Champlain basin for clean water initiatives. Brodie spoke about a project that they've been working on for three years, the removal of the Johnson Mill dam on Witchcat Rd. They are just about finished, it should be this July or August, and should improve the aquatic habitat by improving aquatic organism passage and providing an opening for native brook trout and natural sediment transport. Brodie said that they have also been talking to Mike Rozzi, the owner of Brown's Pond dam on Rt 108, which is similar to Johnson's Mill dam and may be suitable for removal as well. Mike had not expressed too much interest in removing the dam but is interested in a study of the area. There could be a sweep of ecological benefits, decreasing spring temps, and could be good for the brook. Pender's Mill was a productive sawmill. Both dams have been in a state of disuse for a while and dams have a limited life span and there are resources to safely remove them before they fail unexpectedly.

Josh asked if there had been any studies as to what this would do to our town watershed and if removing the dam could lower the town water table and possibly impact the town's main water source? Brodie said that those were good questions, and the organization was thinking about doing a study to ask questions like that and they currently are gathering questions that the town and community have regarding the dam or its removal as the dam is slowly deteriorating. Brodie encouraged the Select Board or anyone to write down questions that they had. Gary said that years ago, in '98 or '99, an emergency outlet failed below the dam, and the pond drained in a 72 hour period, and it looked awful. He said the town put the plate back in to fill the pond again. Brenda asked if failure of the dam is immanent...if it was old or eroding. Brodie said that was another good question. The last state inspection had been done in 2001 and that this study would be updating that. He said that it was difficult to pinpoint when a dam is ready to fail. Gary said that the pond is only about 2-3 feet deep. Brodie thought that may be because it was filling with sediment. It probably heats up the water since it's so shallow. If the dam failed, the fine sediment collected behind the dam would suddenly release and releasing that much sediment would have an adverse effect on the stream

below and could affect water quality and turbidity, which could have an adverse effect on fish. If you intentionally take out a dam, you can use excavators to avoid the release of all the sediment/silt. Brodie said that they could take it to the Gervais farm and spread it on their fields. Lance said that the project of removing the sediment could take years, Pender's Mill dam is a lot bigger than Johnson's Mill dam. Brodie said that would be the reason to proceed with this study to come to a consensus of what makes the most sense to do. The owner is asking to procure some of this information and at the completion of the study, Brodie would like to share their findings with the Select Board and see what the impact would be in the case of removal or sudden failure. Terri asked if there was any chance of fixing the dam. Brodie said that if the dam was to be repaired that would fall on the owner Mike Rozzi to fix it and cover the cost, unless he sold the dam, but there is funding to remove it if feasible to do so, but no funds to restore unless it's providing power. The board asked if the dam was removed would it undermine the bridge footings. Brodie said that would be part of the study, to have an engineer check impact on structures in its path nearby. Brodie said the intentional goal would be a free-flowing stream but the beavers would probably move in and create a tiered wetland so the water level might not drop so much, and it would still be passable by fish, kind of a meandering stream that would revegetate with a wet loving species of woody vegetation. The goal is not to leave exposed sediment. It would be planted with vegetation. The Select Board said they looked forward to seeing what the study provides. Brodie said that he had recorded their questions to research. David Minkoff said the board had good questions and that they would get addressed in the study and if they came up with any more questions to get in touch with either of them and they'd be happy to come up with some answers. They are reachable at David_minkoff@fws.com, 802-497-7138, and Broderick.haenke@vt.nacdnet.net, 802-528-4280. The board had one more question about the loss of soil on Witchcat Rd after the Halloween storm in 2019. The fields ended up receiving a lot of the sediment backed up behind the dam and it settled in the field, and they wanted to know if that was a detriment. Brodie said they would have to ask the farmers about that. It could be a benefit and carry nutrients.

Treasurer update- Josh asked Audrey how things are going, and Audrey said things are getting better and better all the time. Josh said that there had been some concerns with the previous minutes. Terri asked, then why did we approve the minutes. Josh said that the minutes were correct, but the concerns were about the content of the minutes. Josh said that Brenda had received one concern and there were others. Brenda addressed the board and Audrey, regarding concerns about the minutes of the June 7 meeting, which was a public forum, and some of the content that was said. Brenda said that some of the remarks made were pretty disparaging to the previous treasurer in reference to what was agreed to protocols and we also have the rest of the story from the previous treasurer as well and to say that they were conflicting is small because they were huge. The conflicts that you have told us versus what

we were told by the previous treasurer, lead us to have some questions. We didn't lecture, you don't work for the Select Board, you work for the voters of Bakersfield, that's clear, but when somebody has clearly stated one thing to us then someone has clearly stated something else. It's a tremendous conflict because we were on public record with all the comments and criticisms last time. It is really very fair to offer that same platform to someone else to voice their concern with respect to how business has been done and, not validating either statement right or wrong, just stating there are two parts to the story. This part from the previous treasurer is significant and that while I would say it's a 'she said, she said' issue, it really isn't because there are people that have also witnessed the issues that we've talked about and discussed that you've brought to us and a counter letter was written to the Select board, with that said it begs a question.

Terri said, I'm going to stop you right there, there needs to be an executive session. Brenda said, No, it doesn't, it wasn't last time. When we discussed it in public, it wasn't in executive session, this is public record. Terri disagreed. Brenda said that you can disagree and that's fine but the nature of this is a public thing, the voters voted for Audrey, and the expectation from them is what we as a Select Board, have to uphold. If the voter's expectation were that we would get a treasurer that would be functional and work well and get the job done. That's what their expectations were. As a board it doesn't matter, but if people are in our position or have another opinion, I do believe that is public record, and I definitely will be talking to folks that can support that. Terri, I don't know what your foundation is for executive session, if you explain it to me clearly, I would listen to that. Terri said that she would ask that we go into executive session. Brenda said, then you will explain to me why in executive session? And Terri said yes. Brenda said, that's fair.

Josh looked up the requirements for executive session and read them out to the board as follows...

Executive Session. Executive session is a limited statutory exception to the open meeting law. A select board may vote to enter into an executive session at any time during an open meeting when the topic to be discussed meets the criteria in 1 V.S.A. § 313(a). The motion must state the nature of the business to be discussed in executive session, it must pass by a majority of the members present, and the result of that vote must be entered into the minutes. No other matter may be discussed in the session and no binding votes or actions may be taken until the board comes out of the session and is again in open meeting. At the board's discretion, it may ask staff, clerical assistants, legal counsel and "persons who are subjects of the discussion or whose information is needed" to attend the executive session. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a).

Executive session is not meant to be a way to get around public scrutiny or debate when controversy is brewing. Rather, it is a way to discuss sensitive subjects thoroughly before taking action. An executive session is considered an extreme measure and may only be done under statutorily prescribed circumstances. The Vermont Supreme Court leans very heavily in favor of

conducting business in open meeting. Trombley v. Bellows Falls Union H.S., 160 Vt. 101 (1993).

The only binding action that may be taken in an executive session is related to the securing of real estate options. 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2). If a vote or resolution is required or desired on any other topic discussed in an executive session, it must be taken in an open meeting, not in the executive session. Minutes of an executive are not required. However, if minutes are taken, they do not need to be made public as other minutes are. 1 V.S.A. § 313.

Terri made the motion to go into executive session. No one seconded the motion, so the motion failed and was denied, and the discussion continued in the public forum.

Brenda said that she thought it was only fair that the folks in town, who are the people whom the person in the elected treasurer position is working for, get to see the complete picture, so she asked the chair and secretary to enter the aforesaid email into the record and the documents of this meeting. Terri asked what Brenda was recommending. Brenda said that she was recommending that we enter a complaint from a constituent who was our treasurer, who is no longer our treasurer, that her complaint be registered and validated with respect to a counter point to what Audrey offered us last week. Terri said that she read Abbey's letter completely differently, she read it as Abbey did not want the letter brought into the meeting, but I could have misread it, that's why I'm reluctant to discuss it. Josh said that we're not talking about discussing it, we're talking about adding it to the minutes of today's meeting, as we do any other letters that we get in the mail.

Audrey disagreed with the letter, she said that she never said that she was comfortable because she wasn't, and that she repeatedly asked for one on one, just her and I to sit down, that never happened. Brenda said that's one of the things we can't argue, its she said, she said here. Audrey said, you wanted me to read it and tell you how I feel. Brenda said, No, I wanted you to read it and to have a copy of it, you can certainly express your opinion in subsequent meetings. Audrey read the letter and said, I'm sorry, that is not 100% true and I'm not going to, it's a she said, she said, there are things in there that are not true, I'm not going to discuss it. It's like killing a dead horse, I didn't mention anything to throw anybody under the bus. Brenda said, Yes, but you did so and you did throw somebody under the bus. It's pretty clear that you said one thing and did another. You said that you didn't want to throw anybody under the bus and then you proceeded to throw her under the bus.

Josh said whether the statements are true, we asked Audrey to come and tell us what she needed. And that's what we'll continue to ask. Whatever you need to get your job done from this point on, that letter makes it very clear that Abbey our former treasurer is no longer going to be a resource, so from this point on, if you need more information or more training, you come to us. We will help you get it to do the job to the best of your ability. We are not accusing anybody of anything, you got to speak your piece, we wanted to make sure that she got to speak hers. Audrey said, It's fine...we agree to disagree. Josh said

the board wanted to make sure that she knew. All of the information is on the table, nothing is being hidden from anybody, we just want that to be clear. Audrey said, that's fine, I kind of got the just of that this afternoon. Audrey said she is going to keep working on these reports so she can find where the discrepancy is. Josh said, Good, because if the town sees that the Select Board has spent \$41,000.00, they're not going to be happy. Terri asked Audrey if she had the board's emails so she could send them the report before the next meeting. Audrey said that she could get them from Kathy.

Roads-

The bids came in for the culvert on Jordon Rd. The lowest came in at \$200,687.00 from Goodhue. The other bids were \$279,000.00 from Gillian and then another bid came in at \$290,000.00. Mac is the Representative of Record with FEMA. Mac and Lance are now the financial contact in charge with FEMA now that Abbey has submitted her resignation. Mac said that there is a bid meeting tomorrow morning at the Town Hall, at 9:00am, for Goat Path Bridge. Terri questioned Mac on a repair charge on the warrant. Mac said that the grader had a flat tire, and the \$331.00 charge was to change out 2 tires at the same time. Josh and Gary said that was a really good price for that.

Mac and Lance are hoping to work on the FEMA workbooks right after the bid meeting, to put material and labor for Waterville Mtn and Whitney Rd. Mac and Lance had a concern that the amount of labor and materials would add up and put the project into the large job category. They have another meeting on Thursday. On Jordan Rd, they've gone through all the hoops and that includes the culvert on Trobridge, so they are through FEMA. Whitney just has one more piece of paper submitted tomorrow so we should see some FEMA money soon. The three should come back fairly quick and they can hopefully hash out the workbooks fairly quickly. Goat bridge should at least have the footings in by fall.

The money that comes in from FEMA will go toward the FEMA loan and not toward the operation of the town. The board needs to approve the bid contract and Mac signs it as the representative for the town.

Gary made the motion to accept the low bid of \$200,687.00 from Scott Goodhue for Waterville, Whitney and Jordan. Lance seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The board received a resignation letter from Courtney Skar from the position of Auditor. Lance made the motion to accept Courtney Skar's resignation as auditor, Gary seconded the motion, and the motion passed with a vote of 5-0.

Ross Allen submitted a proposal to mow and trim, and clean up debris, at Cook's Cemetery for the lump sum of \$750.00 for the year. The town pays for that and not the Cemetery committee. This charge is already budgeted. Terri made the motion to accept the proposal of \$750.00 to Ross Allen for upkeep of Cook's Cemetery. The motion was seconded by Gary and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Lance received a letter from Rhoda McLure regarding the vandalism that has been happening at the school. Rhoda said that they believe it is being done by high school students who are there after everyone is gone, however they don't have any proof. They have had multiple writings of inappropriate sayings and drawings, the baseball bathrooms have been broken into and the door, sink and toilet smashed. They have also noticed that someone has been pulling bricks out of Brigham. They have cleaned up the writing that was on top of the sign. She said that many of their students have been upset and disappointed about the damage. Rhoda said that she is working on getting more cameras put up around and she thought the town might want to do the same. She has also reported the bathroom damage to the state police. Rhoda said that she was hoping that the Select Board could work together with the school to try to prevent these things from happening.

Josh verified seeing the vandalism. The doors have been ripped off the storage area and there is nothing left inside. Terri said that she was surprised that the school's cameras have not picked this up. Lance thought that the cameras were more focused on the school's entrances. Lance said that he wished the town had a contract with some police service. Gary suggested also putting up more lighting. Terri said that she was surprised that the neighbors hadn't heard anything. Josh said that two years ago, they had a school bus stolen over there and nobody heard anything. One of the board members said that a community member had confronted some teens once and their response was, "This is Bakersfield. They're not going to do anything about it."

The board discussed the many bear sightings that have been seen in town. Josh said that he had called the game wardens and they are telling people to take down their birdfeeders and to cover their compost.

The board asked if the refrigerator that has been dumped on town property has been removed. Lance said that he could bring a tractor down and get it out of there, but then what are we to do with it? Terri suggested dumping it into the dumpster on the neighboring property. Lance said that he and Mac would tackle it on Friday.

There was a notice that the town received in the mail from the Agency of Natural Resources about failure to submit quarterly results. Kathy called Marc Doremus, rep for the town for NWSWD and he said that NWSWD would take care of that.

Lance said that the application for the grant for the Brigham Residence has been completed and submitted and resubmitted. The town assessed the Brigham Academy building for \$331,000.00 and the town is selling/donating the building to the Brigham Residence project for \$1.00, which is the equivalent of investing \$331,000.00, in kind, to the Brigham Residence project.

The board talked about the Ad Hoc position. Lance said that since the Workman's Comp Insurance and liability is so low. We could allot \$1000.00 to \$1500.00/year to cover about 50 hours of emergency work at \$20.00/hr. The town would gather a list of qualified individuals with drug screening and CDL license to operate town equipment. Then they would have a policy in place and an option for pulling someone in to help during a natural disaster, extended snowstorm or other emergency. The board realizes that this situation would rarely come up, but if it made the difference between keeping a road open or shutting it down it would be worth it. Terri said that at least the town would have the policy in place.

Lance made the motion that the board create a temporary Ad Hoc position and set aside \$1500.00/year in the budget to pay individuals \$20.00/hour for a maximum of 50 hours/year. This would cover workman's comp and liability insurance and provide emergency workers for the Road crew under the direction of the Road Foreman. The motion was seconded by Brenda and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Terri said they should put a blurb on Facebook for qualified individuals to apply to be put on the list. The individual would have to provide a clean drug screening at occupational health. Mac said that they could be included in the Road Crew random screening pool.

ARPA- The American Recovery Plan Act is money set aside by the federal government to help the country recover and is distributed to counties based on population. It has not yet been dispersed to the town of Bakersfield. The town may receive around \$130,000.00.

Abbey is going to make one last attempt to contact Jason Bapp regarding the internal audit for the months of Jan and Feb of this year before she left the position of treasurer.

The board also discussed deciding if it was time to plan for an external audit for the town in which case it would have to be researched and added to the budget vote in March. Lance said that we definitely need to do an outside audit because it has been a long time.

Job descriptions- Gary emailed the Bakersfield Select board the Enosburg job descriptions based on the union crew. The board looked over the job descriptions and noted that the three job tiers listed, Foreman, Laborer, and laborer Class C non CDL general laborer, were basically combined in Bakersfield. Mac agreed that all three of the Road crew share the same job description with Mac as supervisor/coordinator. Lump all duties into one job description for the highway crew and give the highway foreman the supervision exercise and management of timecards and approving vacation days, etc. and approves and reviews all records. The board receives the description of jobs performed and records of equipment maintenance and planned maintenance.

Next agenda...research to see if we can use some of the ARPA money to do an outside audit, the four-wheeler group, follow up on job descriptions, Heather Jewett/NWCUD, Brenda video update

Lance said that he received a phone message from ANR asking where the material went from the demolition of Goat Path Bridge. They want a response, and the board did not know where Tatro sent the concrete.

Mac said that the signs for Skinner Hill are in, and Mac needs to pick them up.

Gary said that since VASA has moved out, the ATV situation is a lot better. Riders are more respectful and it's quiet on East Bakersfield Rd. He did say that someone was riding and doing donuts on Basswood at about 2:00am.

Dog bites- the board to research town liability of unlicensed dogs and the liability of the town for problems that occur after the town has been made aware of the main problem. Brenda to research that. The recent dog bite report, the rabies vaccination record was located and brought to the town offices in Enosburg.

Terri made the motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Gary and the motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:34pm.

The next regular Select Board meeting to be held on Monday, June 28, at 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes recorded by Tami Brennan.

I am writing this letter in response to things that were stated in the May 24th and June 7th Town of Bakersfield Select Board meeting minutes.

I want to start this off by stating that I DID NOT have to stay and provide any training for the new treasurer but did so in an attempt to help the Town of Bakersfield. I personally do not appreciate the fact that my name is continuously being brought up at Select Board meetings whenever there is a question or an issue of the present treasurer and quite frankly find it to be very unprofessional. I have been very upfront with the board that the training did not go well at any point of this process and that there are SEVERAL things we were not able to get to. I never anticipated that training would take as long as it did and have such little progress. I had informed the Board from the beginning that I had other jobs in place of the Town Treasurer position and that I was not going to be available every day. There was a huge learning curve in regard to learning styles, and on numerous occasions I specifically asked the present treasurer which areas she was struggling with and wanted to focus on and repeatedly was told that she was feeling very comfortable and confident, and I was not advised of areas that she wanted to focus more specifically on.

One of the first things I advised the present treasurer to do was to change all the passwords to all the accounts listed in the green folder on the password list sheet. All the passwords to all the accounts are on this sheet and were shown to, and even used by the present treasurer during the course of training. There are even blank sheets in this green folder for the present treasurer to write down her new passwords after she makes her updates.

I also went through the thumb drive that holds all the files for the Town of Bakersfield with the present treasurer, showing her that each area of the Town (Trust, Road, Cemetery, etc.) had its own folder and sometimes a folder within a folder. For example, the Trust folder also has a specific folder for the Tupper and Cutting funds, and within the Cutting Fund is the scholarship information and letters with dates on them as to when the letters need to go out. Folders that the present treasurer has already used frequently to put together warrants for said accounts. Also, on the monthly to do sheets that I printed out the first week I worked with the present treasurer showing her exactly what needed to be done each month, they are listed on there.

There have been many instances during these Select Board meetings that the present treasurer has stated that I did not show her something or only showed her once and it is false – for example, end of month reports. The present treasurer worked with me to do the reports for March and April, both times the present treasurer was instructed to take notes so she would know where to look in QuickBooks and on the thumb drive and was also instructed to speak with the board as far as which reports were working for the board or if the board wanted something different. The present treasurer was also instructed to do this with the Library Trustees, so she could formally introduce herself and open the communication with other boards affiliated with the Town and the Treasurer's position to be on the same page.

Then there is the apparent issue of my children. I did not have childcare and yes, my kids came to the office with me. But I would like to point out that my kids were not there all the time, and I did my best to come in and meet with the present treasurer without my kids. Again, I was very upfront with the present treasurer that my kids would be with me most of the time and if it were an issue to let me know and I would do my best to try to make other arrangements – it was never brought to my attention that my kids were such an issue until it was brought up in a public forum.

It is very disheartening, and in my opinion, very unprofessional of both the present treasurer and the Select Board members to allow my character to be misrepresented as it has been at Select Board Meetings in regard to present issues with the Town Treasurer. I would have hoped that a member of the Select Board would have reached out to me to verify things that were being said or that one would have had the respect to not allow (or partake in) such slander of one's character in a public forum and would have spoken up when this was occurring.

I have returned the SOP binder for the Treasurer position and unfortunately did not make all the updates I had hoped. In the end I also did not feel it was appropriate for me to update the binder any further since my training was "a pain in the ass, the worst training that I've ever had from anybody". I encourage the present treasurer to use her notes and update procedures as she sees fit. The original files are located on the Treasurer Desktop computer in the SOP folder, as she has already been advised.

This letter will also serve as my complete resignation from the Town of Bakersfield. I will be stepping down as point of contact for FEMA and will not be available for any further questions or support.

Sincerely,

Abbey Miller