



## Town of Bernardston Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: March 20, 2013

**Select Board Members Present:**

Virginia M. Budness, Chairman  
Louis J. Bordeaux  
Robert R. Raymond

Others Present:

Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair  
Beth Roberts, Finance Committee  
See attached.

Chairman Virginia Budness called the meeting to order at 6.02pm.

Virginia announced the meeting was being broadcast live by BNCTV this evening.

**Warrants** (week ending March 15, 2013)

Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$36,082.53. Motion by Lou to approve. Second by Bob. Motion carried.  
Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$31,742.70. Motion by Lou to approve. Second by Bob. Motion Carried.

**Minutes**

Regular Meeting of March 6, 2013 – Motion by Bob to approve. Second by Lou. Motion carried.

**Calendar & Announcements**

Virginia read aloud the following:

- Board of Assessors, 3.30pm Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Town Hall
- Finance Committee, 6.30pm Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> at Town Hall
- Special Town Meeting, 7pm Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at the BES gymnasium.
- Recreation Commission, 6pm Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall

**Permits**

Virginia read the list of permits issued in February 2013.

**Appointments**

6.05pm Ken Elstein - HCOG

The Board asked Ken to speak to them about the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) and its role in providing less expensive electricity to residents and businesses. The Town benefits from the HCOG's bulk purchasing program and the Finance Committee is interested in extending the same program to the private sector. The program has saved public entities in excess of \$2million over the last 7-years. Ken stated that 36 towns in Hampshire and Franklin County have joined the HCOG purchasing group at present. Town meeting action is required to participate. The HCOG proposal is before the state level at the moment pending approval. The HCOG would be in the business of delivery of power not the distribution which would stay with WMECO. There would be zero impact on the Town budget should the Town join the program. Filing and legal costs remain with the HCOG.

*BOS Meeting*  
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*(cont.)*

6.20pm Atty Tom Reidy – Kringle Candle

Attorney Tom Reidy met before the Board to ask for consideration to accept MGL Chapter 138 Section 33b. This would allow on-premises liquor license establishments to legally sell alcohol between 10am-Noon on Sundays. At present, the sale of alcohol is prohibited prior to Noon on Sundays and specific public holidays.

Virginia said she had surveyed some businesses in town and received a favorable response. Bob said he would be willing to allow the people decide by putting the issue before Town Meeting. Motion by Bob to place an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant seeking passage of MGL Chapter 138, Section 33b, second by Lou. Motion carried.

**New Business**

Highway Superintendent

Virginia stated the Highway Superintendent Gary Wetherby has compiled upwards of 6-weeks compensatory time over the winter and was concerned he would not be able to a) use the time and or b) compromise the effectiveness of a small highway crew by taking so much time. Motion by Bob to pay Gary Wetherby 80-hours in lieu of compensatory time, second by Lou. Motion carried.

School Privacy Database

Lou brought up a concern about information protection in school systems. Specifically, he is concerned about a non-profit company called Inbloom that seeks to obtain various forms of demographic data on school systems for state reporting and educational structure purposes. However, Inbloom has admitted the data may not be secure and could be vulnerable to identify theft or manipulation. Lou said this is not the type of intrusiveness he feels is appropriate. Bob and Virginia agreed and felt that the PVRSD and legislative leaders should be aware of the Board's displeasure. The state Secretary of Education is speaking at the next Selectmen's Association meeting March 28<sup>th</sup>. Lou will have an opportunity to express his and the Board's concerns at that time.

COA Job Description

The COA has submitted a revised job description for the Board's consideration. The new description details roles and responsibilities in addition to education and experience qualifications. Virginia said the new description with qualifications might lock the Town into paying a certain pay scale that is unobtainable. Bob was concerned about the Town pricing itself out of qualified help going forward. The Board agreed to take the matter under advisement.

Board of Selectmen Annual Report 2012

Bob had offered revisions to the draft annual report. Motion to accept the revised BOS annual report for 2012 by Bob, second by Lou. Motion carried.

New England Relay

The NE relay group is seeking permission to allow runners through town in June 22 & 23 2013. No issue with the Police Chief. Motion to approve by Lou, second by Bob. Motion carried.

*BOS Meeting*

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(cont.)

#### Municipal Conference

State Senator Stan Rosenberg is hosting a municipal conference for towns within his district in Franklin and Hampshire counties, Saturday April 6 in Northampton. All 3 members agreed to attend.

#### MassDOT RT 5 Bridge

MassDOT has informed the Board of work planned on the bridge crossing Shattuck Brook on RT 5 and is seeking input from the town relative to historical or environmental concerns accordingly. The state is in the preliminary stages of scheduling repairs to this bridge.

#### Town Counsel Budget

Motion by Lou to reduce the Town Counsel budget for FY14 from \$15,000 to \$7,000. Second by Bob. Motion carried. Legal fees have been kept in check in recent years and the reduction is prudent.

Annual Town Meeting warrant – Motion by Bob to ask all departments to submit Annual Town Meeting articles by April 30<sup>th</sup>, second by Lou. Motion carried. Mark Fitzpatrick will be contacted to be Moderator in the event Bill Pratt is unavailable.

### **Old Business**

#### BES Chimney

Bob said this project is no longer on the PVRSD radar for maintenance repair. He suggested the Town proceed since we have quotes in hand. Motion by Lou to repair the BES chimney with funds taken from the BES capital account, second by Bob. Motion carried.

#### Town Officials Appointments

Motion to rescind an earlier vote appointing Cathryn Thomas to the Cushman Library Trustees through April 30, 2013 by Bob, second by Lou. Motion carried. Motion by Bob to appoint Cathryn Thomas to the Cushman Library Trustees through May 2014, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Virginia read a list of 1-year appointments to the Fire Department for approval with each being voted in the affirmative. Motion by Lou. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

### **Administrative Assistant Report**

Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant reported the following:

Lawn maintenance bid award – a total of 8 bids were received. After discussion with the Highway Superintendent, it is recommended to award the bid to Doug's Landscaping of Greenfield at \$35 per hour and a not to exceed cost of \$4,750 for all work at all locations. Motion to award the bid to Doug's Landscaping by Lou. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

*BOS Meeting  
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(cont.)

Charity Lot plan update – John Lepore would like to host a community meeting on April 15 at the BES cafeteria at 7pm. Flyers will be distributed accordingly. John is looking to get 50 or so people to join together and brainstorm about possible futures uses of the Charity Lot.

Annual Report – most departments have submitted reports. Bid deadline for publishing is March 27 at 3pm.

Congressman Richard Neal hours – A representative from Congressman Richard Neals’ staff is asking to hold office hours in Bernardston on May 16<sup>th</sup> between 3-4pm. Bob said either Town Hall or the Senior Center would be good locations. The Senior Center would be given first option to host.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Lou made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 8.08pm. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman      \_\_\_\_\_, Member      \_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Virginia M. Budness      Robert R. Raymond      Louis J. Bordeaux