



Town of Bernardston Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: April 3 2013

Select Board Members Present:
Virginia M. Budness, Chairman
Louis J. Bordeaux
Robert R. Raymond

Others Present:
Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair
See attached.

Chairman Virginia Budness called the meeting to order at 6.01pm.

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

Warrants (week ending March 29, 2013)

Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$21,805.29. Motion by Lou to approve. Second by Bob. Motion carried.
Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$39,805.29. Motion by Lou to approve. Second by Bob. Motion Carried.

Minutes

Regular Meeting of March 20, 2013 – Motion by Lou to approve. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Virginia read aloud the following:

- Finance Committee, 6.30pm Thursday April 4th at the Police Station
- Zoning Board of Appeals, 6.30pm Thursday April 4th at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, 11.30am Saturday April 6th at Town Hall
- Town Bylaw Committee, 10am Tuesday April 9th at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, 6pm Sunday April 28th at Town Hall

Permits

None reported

Appointments

6.05pm Donna Giard – COA

Donna not in attendance and the Chair passed over for the moment. Virginia returned to the COA recognizing Nancy Bordewieck in the absence of Donna Giard. Nancy recapped the COA Trustee's desire to re-structure the Director's job description and compensation accordingly. The Board reiterated they had taken the matter up at their previous meeting on March 20th stating the new description and salary requirements were beyond what the Town could handle at this time. In addition, Bob said the COA as a Town department may be in jeopardy if the school district cannot find a way to reduce its projected assessment for FY14. Virginia thanked the COA members in attendance for the time and effort with this issue, but the Board is not in a financial position to adopt the COA's proposed job description and accompanying compensation structure.

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6.15pm Planning Board Appointments

Brian Keir has been a resident since 1991 and is interested in serving the Town. Motion by Bob to appoint Brian Keir of West Mountain Rd to the Planning Board thru March 31, 2015, second by Lou. Motion carried. Eric Almeida is a new resident on South St since December 2012. He is a realtor. Motion by Lou to appoint Eric Almeida to the Planning Board thru March 31, 2015, second by Bob. Motion carried.

6.30pm Hampshire Council of Govts. – Solar Aggregate Purchasing Program

Geoff Rogers representing the HCOG met with the Board to discuss a new solar power aggregation purchasing plan they are offering to municipalities who are members of their electric aggregation program. Geoff went through a power point presentation print-out explain the program and how it works. This program is designed for municipal clients not to residential or commercial private sector. HCOG plans to buy power from Nexamp, a solar developer for supply and distribution at .79cent on the dollar. This cost saving then gets passed on the Town. It is like purchasing coupons at a discount to be applied to the Town's electric consumption costs. The Town has the option of a 5-year fixed price contract or leaving pricing to market conditions. Should the Town wish to participate in the program, Town Meeting action is required.

New Business

Planning Board Resignation – Ron Andrews submitted his resignation from the Planning Board effective immediately. Lou motioned to accept the letter of resignation with regret, second by Bob with regret. Motion regrettably passed.

FRCOG MOU Emergency Communication – The FRCOG is asking the Board to renew a 3-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) for emergency communication service (Shelburne Control dispatch). Motion to sign the MOU by Bob, second by Lou. Motion carried.

BES Use

Motion to permit the use of BES for an informational Charity Lot Public Session, Monday April 15, 7pm by Bob, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Motion by Bob to permit the use of BES by the Bernardston Recreation Commission Summer Rec Program, June 24-Aug 9, 7.30am-4.30pm, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Warrant Books – Virginia noted to the Board the warrant books containing past years' annual and special town meetings were in very poor shape. They need to be rebound. Cost for the same will be determined for future action.

Annual Town Meeting Date – Motion by Bob to set the 2013 Annual Town Meeting date as Wednesday May 29th at 7pm in the PVRSD auditorium, second by Lou. Motion carried. Thursday May 30 would be the carryover day.

USDA Watershed Program – Virginia asked the Board to consider a resolution to assist the Franklin Conservation District to restore funding to the USDA Watershed Program. The Board tabled the matter.

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MassDOT Operation Plan 2013 – Virginia announced receipt of MassDOT is formal notification of their plans for pesticide control in Bernardston and what locations will be affected.

Old Business

Annual Report Dedication – The Board reviewed a final draft of the dedication to the 250th Anniversary Committee to be published in the 2012 Annual Report. Motion to accept by Lou, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Highway Garage Electrical Work – Gary Wetherby, Highway Supt is asking for the Board's approval to accept a quote from Palmeri electric, Shelburne Falls in the amount of \$9,990.00 for electrical upgrades at the garage. Motion by Bob to accept, second by Lou. Motion carried.

King Information Systems – Article 4 of the Special Town Meeting held on March 25, 2013 was rendered invalid by the Town Accountant due to lack of specificity as what account or by what means the project would be funded. Virginia suggested asking the Finance Committee for a reserve fund transfer to correct the mistake. The vote was unanimous at the Special Town Meeting. The Dept of Revenue has approved this method of funding the project. Motion by Bob to ask the Finance Committee for \$8,000 to fund the records organization project, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Transfer Station – Gary Wetherby, Highway Supt., has gathered quotes to a) a purchase a reconditioned paper compactor at \$9,085, b) the concrete pad \$3,887 and c) the electrical installation for \$1,460 at the Transfer Station. Total cost is \$14,442. Motion by Bob to approve, second by Lou. Motion carried. Virginia said the parking situation at the Transfer Station is very disorderly. Bob recommended she volunteer to be the Parking Czar and sort things out over there.

Administrative Assistant Report

Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant reported the following:

Charity Lot Survey – John Lepore recommends a formal survey be completed on the Charity Lot as the boundaries are clearly not defined based on mapping work he has completed. A quote for \$6,000 was submitted for a survey. Bob said a survey isn't needed right now and plans for trails can be kept to the interior ensuring they are within the boundaries of Charity Lot. By consensus, the Board deferred on a survey with the expectation of revisiting the issue at a later date.

Annual Report Bid – Three bids were received for the 2012 Annual Report printing contract as follows:
Paradise Copies, Northampton \$1,096.00
SelectPrint Solutions, North Brookfield: \$1,561.00
Highland Press, Athol: \$1,963.00

The recommendation is to award the bid to Paradise Copies for the amount of \$1,096.00. Motion by Bob to award the bid to Paradise Copies in the amount of \$1,096.00, second by Lou. Motion carried.

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Annual Town Meeting Articles

The Board scheduled a mid-week meeting for Wednesday, April 10 at 9am to discuss articles received to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Jane suggested revisiting the Town Meeting approval to convert the Tax Collector, Treasurer and Town Clerk to appointed status. Bob said the townspeople have spoken loud and clear on this issue both at Town Meeting and at the ballot box against this idea.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Lou made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 7.55pm. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

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