



Town of Bernardston Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: April 10, 2013

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

Chairman Virginia Budness called the meeting to order at 9.05am.

The Board reviewed prospective articles from the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for May 29, 2013 at the PVRSD auditorium at 7pm.

2013 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Planning Board – no specific article proposed as yet, but the zoning map is in error and will need to be corrected via Town Meeting action.

Kringle Candle – petition to the Board to accept MGL Ch138 Section 33b expanding alcohol hours to be served on Sundays from 10am-Noon and certain holidays as defined in the statute. If passed, this applies to all restaurants in town, not just Kringle Candle's establishment The Farm Table. Motion to place on the Annual Town Meeting warrant by Lou, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Fire Department – The Fire Chief submitted a request to adopt MGL Ch32 Section 85H ½. This pertains to disability compensation for volunteer/call firefighters injured in the line of duty. The Town carries accident insurance for injuries and loss of income. It is not clear if the statute is in conflict or otherwise with the insurance carried by the Town. More information is required before acting on the request.

HCOG electric aggregation – The Board is not convinced this is a benefit to the townspeople. The issue is complex and difficult to grasp even if the HCOG people were to explain it at Town Meeting. Motion by Lou to pass over the subject for the time being, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Recyclables Revolving Account – The Franklin County Solid Waste District is required to turn over all escrow funds to the Town to be held in a revolving account. The proposed article asks for a certain dollar amount which is yet to be determined pending further research. Motion by Bob to establish a revolving fund for the funds formerly held by the FCSWMD, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Board of Assessors – The Assessors are submitting an article to transfer funds from the Overlay account in the amount of \$4,078.84 as a result of a settlement with Verizon and the DOR. Motion by Lou to place the Assessors article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant, second by Bob. Motion carried.

BOS Minutes

April 10, 2013 (cont.)

The following were subjects reported by the DOR as recommendations for the Board to act on with Town Meeting approval.

Change Administrative Assistant title – the title should be changed to Town Coordinator to better describe the duties now performed by the Administrative Assistant. Motion by Bob to adopt the recommendation, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Board of Assessors revaluation – the Board will defer to the Finance Committee for their input on this recommendation. Currently, the 3-year revaluation is listed as line item in the budget and DOR recommends it be special article to avoid inadvertently returning unused funds to free cash.

Capital Improvements – The Board prefers capital improvement items are subject to separate and distinct articles. Motion by Lou, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Adopt a Budget Process Bylaw – the DOR recommends this process be approved by Town Meeting with the responsibility of the Town Coordinator to begin and facilitate the budgetary process. Motion by Lou to adopt the same pending input from the Finance Committee, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Modify Budget Format – DOR made several recommendations to how the warrant should be structured. Motion by Bob to adopt sections a, b, c, & e, excluding the school budget pending Finance Committee input, Second by Lou. Motion carried.

Other Business

COA - Substitute Van Driver. Dianne Cornwell asked the Board to appoint Roberta Raymond of Northfield as the substitute van driver for the COA at a rate of pay of \$11.08 per hour. Date of hire is yet to be determined. Motion by Bob to appoint Roberta Raymond to the position at a rate of \$11.08 per hour, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Dexter Nelson – the Board signed a letter to Dexter requiring him to clean up recyclable items strewn about at the Transfer Station.

Louella B. Atherton – the Board signed a letter responding to criticism levied by Louella regarding the handling of Board of Selectmen meetings.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Lou made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 10.31am. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

_____, Chair
Virginia M. Budness

_____, Member
Robert R. Raymond

_____, Member
Louis J. Bordeaux