



**Town of Bernardston**  
**Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: August 28, 2013

**Select Board Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Gary Wetherby, Highway Supt.  
Linda Raymond, Finance Committee

Chairman Lou Bordeaux called the meeting to order at 10.03am.

**Transfer Station Attendant**

Highway Superintendent Gary Wetherby, Selectman Virginia Budness and Town Coordinator Hugh Campbell interviewed 3 candidates for the Transfer Station Attendant position on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is their recommendation to hire David Kozma of Gill for the position. Motion by Virginia to appoint David Kozma to the position of Transfer Station Attendant effective August 23, 2013 at a rate of \$10.50 per hour, second by Bob. Motion carried.

**Bernardston Elementary School**

BES principal Bob Clancy forwarded a receipt in the amount of \$769.89 for the purchase of 11 carpets for use at BES. Bob Clancy is seeking reimbursement in the amount of \$500. A reference to the Selectmen minutes from August referred to Virginia suggesting the Town pay \$500 towards the total cost which represented approximately 50% of the total quoted cost of almost \$1,000 provided by Bob Clancy. Virginia stated her intent was to have the Town pick up half of the cost. Lou met with Bob Clancy on Friday August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the carpets and his notes indicated several items such cleaning responsibilities, maintenance, storage and size, but nothing about paying exactly \$500. Motion by Bob to pay \$384.95 representing 50% of the amount spent by Bob Clancy, second by Virginia. Motion carried. The funds will be taken from the Town Building & Renovation account.

**BES Use**

Brad Curtis has applied for time and space at BES for basketball under the moniker Brad Curtis Basketball. Bob Clancy, Principal of BES has approved the request. Motion by Virginia to grant access to BES for Brad Curtis Basketball on Wednesdays 5.30pm-7.00pm effective Thursday August 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 30, 2013, second by Bob. Motion carried.

**COA Director/Fire Alarm System at Powers Institute/Charity Lot**

Lou requested these items be further discussed at today's meeting given some spirited conversation about the same at the Finance Committee on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was sentiment among Finance Committee members that the COA was not participating through proper departmental budgeting channels. The COA advocated for an

*BOS Meeting*  
*August 28, 2013*  
*(cont.)*

increase to the COA Director's position based on the Selectmen's acceptance of a revised job description. Approximately \$4,000 was returned by the COA to the General Fund but many other departments also return funds at the balance of the fiscal year, and Lou asked if they too deserved raises based on monies returned. Bob expressed concern over the setting a possibly negative precedent if Department Heads are granted increases mid-term rather than justifying increases as part of the annual evaluation and subsequent budget development process. The Finance Committee is against the increase to the COA Director salary. The Board briefly revisited the 2-1 decision to approve an additional fire alarm system to the attic area of the Powers Institute building. Bob reiterated his position that he felt the building did not warrant the additional expense based on frequency of use and content. The Charity Lot survey also was re-introduced by Lou. He felt the necessity of a survey was a means to an end for the future use of the Charity Lot before any further work on the property could proceed. He hopes the Charity Lot will be made available to students at BES for education programs. In addition, the lack of an official survey may lead to border disputes and legal entanglements that may impact the Town to a greater financial degree than the \$6,000 authorized to conduct the survey.

### **Cushman Library**

Lou passed around photographs of the interior of Cushman Library from his most recent visit. The photos showed a considerable amount of clutter and disorganization. Stairs were blocked and books were piled up indiscriminately on desks and tables. Additional discussion took place regarding receipts from the sale of books and vacation schedules. Bob recommended Lou draft a letter to Library Trustee Chair Beth Watrous and ask about the unkempt interior of library, the disposition of receipts from the sale of books, the legality of selling books purchased with Town funds and who has knowledge of the Library Director's vacation schedule.

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant**

The Board reviewed and discussed proposed articles for the upcoming Special Town Meeting:

Article 1: Motion by Bob to recommend raise and appropriate, second by Virginia. Motion carried. The Board agreed to remove any recommendation references from local committees regarding passage of the article.

Article 2: Motion by Bob to recommend raise and appropriate, second by Virginia. Motion carried. The Board agreed to remove any recommendation references from local committees regarding passage of the article.

Article 3: Motion by Bob to recommend raise and appropriate, second by Virginia. Motion carried. Motion by Virginia to insert the amount of \$1,472.00 and add effective October 1, 2013 into the article, second by Bob. Motion carried. The Board agreed to remove any reference of the Board of Selectmen, but leaving in the non-recommendation by the Finance Committee.

Article 4: The Board agreed to remove any recommendation references from local committees regarding passage of the article.

Article 5: Remove the last sentence as it appears verbose and confusing in context.

Article 6: Remove the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> sentences; repeated wording.

Article 7-16: Add "Town of Bernardston Zoning Bylaws" where applicable to make it clear to the public about what is being amended. Bob asked if the Town really had to vote on an amended table of contents. It seemed over the top to him. Lou added the Board is in favor the medical marijuana moratorium article. No petitioned articles were received from PVRSD regarding security doors at BES or the PVRHS. Hugh Campbell will follow up with Gail Healy regarding the same.

*BOS Meeting*  
*August 28, 2013*  
*(cont.)*

**FY14 MIIA Loss Prevention Grant**

Officer Chris Savinski proposed the Board consider an application for a \$5,000 loss prevention grant from the Town' property casualty insurance carrier to purchase exercise equipment for the Police and Fire departments. Motion by Virginia to approve the application, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Virginia made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 11.31pm. Bob seconded. Motion carried.

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