



Town of Bernardston Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: for October 16, 2013

Select Board Members Present:

Louis J. Bordeaux, Chairman
Robert R. Raymond
Virginia M. Budness – absent due to illness

Others Present:

M.J. Adams, FCH&RDA
Joanne Balzarini, Historical Commission
Jane Dutcher, - Finance Committee

Chairman Lou Bordeaux called the meeting to order at 6.09pm after a brief delay with the BNCTV television connection.

Lou announced this meeting is being broadcast live on BNCTV.

Warrants (week ending October 18, 2013)

Lou called for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$35,268.98. Motion by Bob to approve. Second by Lou. Motion carried.

Lou called for a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$33,226.72. Motion by Bob to approve. Second by Lou. Motion carried.

Minutes

Regular Meeting of October 2, 2013. Approval of the minutes deferred until the October 30th meeting.

Calendar & Announcements

Lou read aloud the following:

- Recreation Commission, 4pm Sunday October 20th at Town Hall
- Finance Committee, 6.30pm Monday October 21st at Town Hall
- Council on Aging, 12.30pm Monday, November 14th at the Senior Center

In addition, Lou announced a reminder for the Scarecrow in the Park celebration for October 26 & 27 at Cushman Park. There is also a YouTube video promotion available.

Permits

None.

Citizen's Concerns

Lou Bordeaux, Brattleboro Rd - Lou gave up his position as Chair of the Board of Selectmen temporarily to speak as a citizen of Bernardston citing concerns over a lack of enforcement of PVRSD and BES school bullying policies and procedures. Lou read a prepared statement aloud. Said statement is included within the minutes from tonight's meeting. Lou returned to the position of Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Citizen's Concerns (cont.)

Anna Patenaude, Deane Rd – approached the Board about a street light installation on Deane Rd. She said the road is very dark at night. Bob said that many streetlights were eliminated as a cost cutting measure. Lights on street corners were left on for safety reasons. Hugh Campbell will check WMECO to see if home-owners can still pay for streetlights. In addition, Anna complained about the constant truck traffic up and down Deane Rd. The road is a dead-end street in a residential/agricultural zone and this level of commercial activity should not be occurring on Deane Rd. She said the traffic is every day including weekends. Bob noted Anna's concerns and asked they be made part of the official record of tonight's meeting.

Appointments

6.10pm – M.J. Adams – Executive Director, Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

The Town was awarded a grant for \$1.1million for housing rehabilitation loans and the continuance of the Meals on Wheels program in 4 county towns. Bernardston is the lead town with Conway, Sunderland and Shutesbury. FCH&RA is the administrator of the program. MJ Adams was present to discuss the terms and conditions of the service agreement between the Town and the FCH&RA. Quarterly reports are required and a local liaison is needed to represent the Town with respect to the program. Lou announced the same to the camera seeking volunteers to serve. Motion by Bob to sign the service agreement between the Town of Bernardston and the Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, second by Lou. Motion carried.

6.20pm – Joanne Balzarini, - Historical Commission

Joanne Balzarini asked the Board's permission to remove approximately 50 old wooden chairs from Powers Institute. She said the chairs have no value to PI and would be ideal to burn at the annual PVRS bonfire prior to the Thanksgiving Day football game. Further, PI members are too old to be removing the chairs and she is asking for the Town's help. Bob suggested the Highway Dept, however the Town Coordinator offered on behalf of Virginia in absentia that the Highway Dept not be a part of any work plans to remove chairs from PI. The Board took the matter under advisement and will determine a method of disposal.

6.30pm – Edward Muszynski – Survey of the Charity Lot

Ed Muszynski was contracted to complete a survey of the Charity Lot and met with the Board to discuss his findings. The total acreage is 84.641 in area. There were no anomalies with the project. There are no right-of-ways and the driveway into the property does not encroach on abutters land. The perimeter of the lot has been pinned and blazed where applicable. Bob said he was reluctant to expend the funds from the Charity Lot at the price offered but now realized it was a very fair expense. Ed said there is an old well on the southern edge of the property that could pose a public safety hazard and he recommends it be covered. In addition, Ed recommends the plan be registered with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds. The expense is \$75.00. Motion by Bob to register the Charity Lot survey and expend the funds from the Selectmen's Expense, second by Lou. Motion carried.

6.40pm – Gail Healy & Steve Field, PVRSD

Gail and Steve discussed the scope of the BES Security Doors project. While the Town is the contracting authority and is also conducting the bidding process, the PVRS Building & Grounds Committee wants to be

BOS Meeting
October 16, 2013
(cont.)

involved. The B&G Committee has a meeting scheduled for Tuesday October 22nd. Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator, said he would prepare a draft set of specifications for the B&G Committee to review at that meeting. The bid process will take anywhere from 4-6 weeks in total.

New Business

Recreation Commission Resignation – Eric Boliski tendered his resignation from the Recreation Commission citing increased work demands. This leaves the Commission with 5 members. Motion by Bob to accept the resignation with regret, second by Lou. Motion carried. A letter of appreciation will be drafted for the October 30th meeting.

Alcohol Compliance Checks - The Chief of Police, James Palmeri reported in correspondence to the Board of zero violations by local businesses for selling alcohol to minors. Lou said that Bernardston business should be commended for their vigilance against under-age drinking.

Vacation Request – Motion by Bob approve a request to take vacation time of 40-hours by a Town employee, second by Lou. Motion carried.

Old Business

None.

Town Coordinator Report

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

- a) BES Snow Plow Bid – 3 qualified bidders submitted bids for the BES driveway snow plow contract effective 11/1/13-10/31/14:
 - 1) Doug's Landscaping, Greenfield at \$91.50 per hour
 - 2) GBR Landscaping, Millers Falls at \$86.00 per hour
 - 3) Bob Cook , Bernardston at \$100 per hour.Motion by Bob to award the contract to GBR Landscaping, Millers Falls at \$86.00 per hour, second by Lou. Motion carried.

- b) School Rd Trees – Hugh met with Tree Warden Brad Bordewieck, John Raymakers, contractor and Scott Fillion, tree sub-contractor at the site on October 7th. Brad felt the 4 Elm trees that had showed distress over the summer had improved considerably. John Raymakers offered to extend the warranty through August 1st, 2014 on the trees and reassess their health June 1st, 2014. The Board felt this was reasonable and agreed to the plan. Additionally, Bob suggested Brad be notified to trim back trees that are crowding the newly planted trees on School Rd.

- c) General Bylaws – The project is now complete. Copies of up-to-date bylaws have been distributed to all Town Dept Heads and a binder given to the Town Clerk which carries a) the bylaw, b) the article proposed at Town Meeting and c) the approval of the state Attorney General. The Town Bylaws Committee has disbanded.

BOS Meeting
October 16, 2013
(cont.)

- d) Employee Performance Evaluations – All Department Heads have been requested to provide evaluations that are specific to their department or function. The current evaluation format is generic and does not take into account the specifics of each department's characteristics. Suggestions are requested to be returned by November 15th.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Bob made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 7.10pm. Lou seconded. Motion carried.

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