



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of January 7, 2015

Select Board Members Present:
Robert R. Raymond, Chairman
Louis J. Bordeaux, Clerk

Others Present:
James Palmeri, - Police Chief

Chairman Bob Raymond called the meeting to order at 3.03pm.

Bob announce the meeting was being broadcast by BNCTV.

Warrants (*week ending 1/2/2015*)

Bob asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$40,200.42. Motion by Lou. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

Bob called for a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$629,342.30. Motion by Lou to approve, second by Bob. Motion carried. Bob stated the 2nd assessment to PVRs for \$519,785 and the BES roof and Highway truck loan for \$84,000 made up the vast majority of the vendor warrant expenses.

Minutes

Regular Meeting of December 24, 2014. Motion by Lou to approve as written, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the calendar and announcements.

Building Permits

Bob read aloud the residential permits issued in December through the FCCIP.

Citizen's Concerns

None.

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Appointments

3.05pm – James Palmeri, Police Chief

Police Chief Jim Palmeri reported to the Board on the following matters:

Amtrak Train Service – Passenger train service by Amtrak began December 29th through Bernardston. Speeds of up to 60-miles per hour are possible. He has clocked in radar speeds of 45 mph to date. Up to 80 mph is possible, but the sweeping curve of the track would make this unlikely. Nonetheless, Amtrak and local police have spoken with school children at BES about the new danger at rail crossings in Town. There are 3 crossings located on Cross St, Shaw Rd and Merrifield Rd.

Police Garage – The project is near completion. Internal work such as sheetrock and insulation are left unfinished pending wiring inspections. Franklin Tech needs to return to ensure compliance with the state building code regarding wiring. Jim suggested a plaque be mounted at the station naming the volunteers instrumental in erecting the garage. Material costs were funded through a grant from Vermont Yankee.

Safety Equipment Grant – Jim recently applied to the Dept of Public Safety for a \$29,190 grant to install video systems in all police cruisers. Cameras complete with audio and visual software would accompany the units. Jim said video and audio recordings take a lot of the subjectivity out of statements made by involved parties at incidents. Lou said he is all in favor of making the job of policing more safe and efficient for the local police force. Units are portable from vehicle to vehicle. Training and installation is included in the grant application.

Evidence Locker – Officer Chris Savinski recently cleaned out the evidence locker. Jim said the locker contained numerous weapons seized over the years. Jim traded the weapons into a certified used weapons dealer for \$4,500. The amount received will pay for new pistols for members of the force. Pistols now being used are averaging 15-years in age. Bob asked about tracing the guns back to the Town if they were used in future criminal activity. Jim said the dealer takes responsibility once they are traded.

Police Detail Report – The latest police detail report was provided. Bob said he cannot argue with the level of detail included in the report and commended the Chief accordingly.

New Business

FY16 Fuel Contracts – The Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative strongly suggests the Board execute buy proxies through the LPVC to lock in #2 heating oil and diesel fuels for FY16. Market pricing is favorable to the point that delivered rates for fuels could be less than \$2.40 a gallon. The Town currently pays \$3.20 for #2 oil and \$3.26 per gallon for diesel. Bob suggested the Town order more

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than the usual quota to take advantage of the lower rates. Global Montello, the Town's fuel provider, stated they would not charge a storage fee over the summer. Lou motioned to purchase 10,000 gallons of #2 oil for FY16, second by Bob. Motion carried. Motion by Lou to purchase 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel for FY16, second by Bob. Motion carried. The Town purchased 8,000 for #2 oil and 6,100 gallons of diesel fuel for FY15.

FRCOG – The FRCOG sought a letter of support from the Board for a \$100,000 substance prevention abuse grant from the state Department of Health. Lou said that given the problems of substance abuse in Franklin County, this initiative appears to be worth the Board's support. Motion by Lou to endorse the grant application submitted by the FRCOG, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Selectmen's Meetings – Motion by Lou to begin Selectmen's meetings at 3:30pm going forward, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Old Business

Master Plan Steering Committee – The Board received a request to appoint Clarissa Coffin, Rena Grover and William Hill to the MPSC. Motion by Lou appoint the aforementioned to the MPSC through October 2017, second by Bob. Motion carried.

VT Yankee – Bob read a letter of support from the Selectmen to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to prohibit Entergy Nuclear, owner of VT Yankee from obtaining petitioned exemptions to increase the emergency notification from 15-minutes to 60-minutes and decrease funding for local safety planning efforts. Motion by Lou to place on record the Boards' opposition to the Entergy Nuclear petition to the NRC, second by Bob. The letter will be copied to federal and state legislators including VT and Massachusetts public safety officials.

FY16 Budgets- Several more departmental budgets were distributed. A memo from the Town Coordinator to the Finance Committee detailed budget research required for the following:

- Electricity rates
- Property & Casualty insurance
- Landfill closing expenses
- Master Plan expenses

PVRSD Budget Meetings – PVRSD published their meetings schedule for the FY16 Budget Sub-committee as January 8th for the four elementary school budgets, January 15th for the PVRSD and Special Education budgets and January 20th for shared costs, state aid projections, and capital budgets. Bob referenced the Sub-committee members as Jeanne Milton (Bernardston,) Martha Morse (Warwick,) John Rodgers (Leyden,) Pat Shearer, Ex-Officio and Bill Wahlstrom from Northfield.

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Recycling – Bob reminded all residents of the importance of recycling. Recycling reduces refuse from the waste stream for which the Town has to pay for disposal fees. In addition, the Town receives revenue for recyclables.

Town Coordinator Report

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

- The first “kick-off” meeting of the Master Plan Steering Committee with The Conway School is scheduled for 6.30pm January 13th at Town Hall.
- RFP packages will be prepared in the coming weeks for the Landfill Closure testing. DEP has redefined the testing parameters for an annual rather than quarterly rotation.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Lou made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 4.01pm, Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

_____, Chairman
Robert R. Raymond

_____, Member
Louis J. Bordeaux