



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of April 15, 2015

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

Others Present:
See attached list.

Chairman Bob Raymond called the meeting to order at 3.31pm.

Bob announced the meeting was being broadcast by BNCTV.

Warrants (*week ending 4/10/2015*)

Bob asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$40,325.54. Motion by Lou. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

Bob called for a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$685,635.86. Motion by Lou to approve, second by Bob. Motion carried. Bob stated the PVRSD assessment of \$520,000 plus and the CDBG disbursement for over \$136,000 consisted of a large majority of the Vendor Warrant.

Minutes

Regular Meeting of April 1, 2015. 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 residential building permits issued by the FCCIP for the month of March.

Citizen's Concerns

None.

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Appointments.

3.35pm – Ken Elstein, Hampshire Council of Governments

Ken Elstein from the HCOG appeared before the Board to discuss aggregate purchasing of electricity for the private sector. The Town enjoys a contracted rate of .09 per kilowatt through the HCOG. Town Meeting would need to pass an article to permit the Board to enter into an agreement with the HCOG to provide bulk electricity to residents and businesses. The supply part of the electric bill may be subject to market pricing through 3rd party entities, but the delivery portion is not. Eversource will still control the delivery part of the bill. All residents and businesses will be included if the Board contracts with HCOG unless they opt out. There are no penalties should a resident or business choose to leave the HCOG program. There is no impact to the Town's budget. HCOG representatives will be available to attend Town Meeting on May 19th to field questions and concerns.

3.40pm – MJ Adams, Franklin County Housing Authority

MJ Adams from the FCHA requested the Board to sign a contract with LDS Consultant Group who had been chosen by the Town of Sunderland to conduct a low income housing market study. Bernardston as the lead town on the CDBG award must approve all contracts within the 4 town consortium that also includes Conway and Shutesbury. Motion by Lou to award a contract to LDS Consulting for no more than \$11,000.00 to conduct a low income housing study in Sunderland, second by Bob. Motion carried.

New Business

Time Off Request – Motion by Lou to approve a request for time off by a Town employee, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Surplus Property – Police Chief James Palmeri requested the Board declare a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus and place it out for public bid. A draft notice is supplied complete with details about the vehicle and the terms and conditions. Bids would be due on April 27th. An ad will be placed in The Recorder for April 20th. Motion by Lou to declare the 2004 Ford Crown Victoria as surplus and be made available to the highest bidder, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Police Training – Police Chief James Palmeri provided a memorandum to the Board regarding some police training that took place on April 11th at BES. The training included response conditions to and active shooter situation. Trainers from the STOP team of the state police organized the event.

FY16 Chapter 90 Allocation – Governor Charles Baker's office released a notice to the Town for its FY16 Chapter 90 allocation through the Mass DOT at \$185,865.00. This is a similar amount the Town received for FY15.

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FRCOG – Two items were issued by the FRCOG for Board consideration:

- a) Selectmen’s workshop regarding a process for getting expensive project through Town Meeting set for April 16th 7pm-9pm;
- b) An invitation to take advantage of free traffic counting services.

Both members of the Board are unavailable for the 16th and traffic counting services will be offered to the Highway and Police Departments.

In addition, Stan Garland reported that the FRCOG in conjunction with Rep Paul Mark’s office is in favor of Entergy, parent company of Vermont Yankee, keeping their safety protocols in place now that decommissioning is in progress. Entergy wants to curtail many of the safety training now in place with surrounding towns since the VT Yankee plant is no longer in operation.

Pan Am Railways – Pan Am Railways issued a formal notice to the Board they will be conducting herbicide spraying along the railroad tracks beginning May 1st and ending July 1st. Bob read the notice aloud including the chemicals used in the spraying.

Pratt Field Usage – Kelly Muese, 5th grade teacher at BES requested use of Pratt Field on May 1st between 9.30am -2pm to conduct an outside Science Fair which includes rocket launchings. A rain date is set for May 4th. Motion by Lou to approve, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Cross St Culvert – Douglass Weiss, 12 Cross St is seeking permission from the Board to do stonework on the culvert that abuts his property and traverses under Cross St. The culvert lies in the Town right of way. Highway Supt., Gary Wetherby, stated he has no immediate roadwork plans for Cross St that would impact the culvert. Motion by Lou to approve subject to the condition that if the culvert needs replacing or the road above needs work and impacts the proposed stonework, the Town will not make Mr. Weiss whole, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Old Business

Pratt Field – Three (3) bids were received for renovation of 2 baseball fields at Pratt Field. They are as follows:

Snow & Sons, Greenfield, MA. \$4,890.00
Falltown Landscaping, Greenfield, MA. \$6,900.00
Mowry & Schmidt, Greenfield, MA. \$5,790.00

Motion by Lou to award the bid to Snow & Sons, Greenfield for \$4,890.00 contingent on approval by a Special Town Meeting vote April 15, 2015, second by Bob. Motion carried.

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BES Gym Roof – a quote for architectural services related to replacing the BES gym roof was received from CGKV architects, Cambridge, MA at \$9,900.00. CGKV was the architect on the BES roof project in 2012. Tighe & Bond’s proposal came in at \$23,400.00. Motion by Lou to award a contract to CGKV in the amount of \$9,900.00 for project oversight of the BES gym roof project contingent on approval by a Special Town Meeting vote April 15, 2015, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Motion by Lou to approve a quote from Titan Roofing, Springfield, MA for \$3,000.00 to conduct roof cut samplings of the BES gym roof, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Town Coordinator Report

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

- 1) 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant– Draft #3 was handed out to the Board including comments made to Town Counsel for review. More discussions with the Finance Committee Chair will take place to further refine the warrant over the next 2-weeks. Bob asked about a couple of formatting issues such as the value of leaving in a FY16 recommended column and a FY16 requested column. For the most part, each column is identical.
- 2) PVRS Member Town Administrators meeting – Hugh Campbell summarized a meeting between the municipal administrators of Bernardston, Northfield, Warwick and Leyden regarding the definition of capital vs maintenance expenses. Discussion ranged from the Town’s taking sole financial responsibility for its school buildings to selling each to the PVRSD alleviating the Town’s from any direct expenses. No consensus was reached and it does not appear the conflict over the definitions will be resolved any time soon.
- 3) FY15 Oil – As reported at the last meeting on April 1st. the Town has exceeded its oil contracted quota at \$3.20 per gallon. If Town department budgets will allow, it would be a good idea to top off tanks before the heating season ends at the current market rates which are below \$2.30 per gallon.
- 4) Master Plan – The next Master Plan Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 5th to review sections 2, 3 & 4 of the Master Plan completed by the Conway School of Landscape Design.
- 5) John Wiegand memorial bench – The library pond has a fairly steep slope from its edge to the water line. As such, location of a 6’ bench would need to be carefully chosen. Excavation and a concrete pad may also be prudent. Total costs could be in the \$1,000 range.

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Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Lou made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 5.03pm, Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

_____, Chairman
Robert R. Raymond

_____, Member
Louis J. Bordeaux