



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

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of June 24, 2015

Select Board Members Present:  
Robert R. Raymond, Chairman  
Andrew Girard  
Stanley Garland

Others Present:  
See attached list.

Chairman Bob Raymond called the meeting to order at 6.02pm.

Bob announced the meeting was being broadcast by BNCTV.

**Warrants** (*week ending 6/19/2015*)

Bob asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$47,265.77. Motion by Andrew, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Bob called for a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$71,748.80. Motion by Andrew to approve, second by Stan. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Regular Meeting of June 10, 2015. Motion by Andrew to approve as written, second by Stan. Motion carried.

**Calendar & Announcements**

Bob read aloud the calendar and announcements. In addition, two cards with notes were received. The first from former Selectman Virginia Budness who stated she is keeping up with happenings in Bernardston through rebroadcasts on BNCTV. Virginia resigned in November 2014 to relocate to Delaware. The second from the Town of Erving Cal Ripken league baseball team stating their appreciation for the improved fields at Pratt Field.

**Building Permits**

None.

**Citizen's Concerns**

None.

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**Appointments**

6.05pm– Dianne Cornwell, COA Director

Dianne presented a proposal for the Senior Van Driver compensation to be increased from \$12.97 per hour to \$15.13 per hour. The proposal is made part of the minutes herein. The driver is Betty Stafursky. Dianne cited increased responsibilities with electronic scheduling/dispatching in advance, on-call ridership demands and changes in her job description. The FRTA range for a driver is \$15.13 - \$16.47. Northfield ridership is almost equal to Bernardston. Northfield's assessment is not equal to Bernardston's, but Dianne is hopeful this will change for FY17. Bob asked about other COA employees seeking raises if the driver rate is increased. Andrew suggested the matter be tabled until the next meeting to give the Board a chance to ponder the proposal. Bob and Stan agreed.

6.27pm – Paul Luther, Town Clerk

Paul Luther reported on the polling results for the Franklin County Tech School election for their capital roof borrowing measure held on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Questions 1, 2 & 3 passed by 36-10, 40-6 and 37-9 margins respectively. The voter turnout was 3.2% with 46 total voters. The low turnout was due to a few factors mainly that it was a one-off election not connected with state or federal elections. It was also held during the summer which is not typical for elections.

Paul presented a plan to establish a non-compensated 3-member committee in addition to a consultant to deal with issues related to the Town website. Formerly, Selectmen Lou Bordeaux managed the website. The plan is made part of the minutes herein. Paul suggested himself as Town Clerk, the Town Coordinator and a member of the Board of Selectmen make up the committee membership. The committee would meet only a few times a year and develop recommendations to the Selectmen for website management. Stan volunteered to represent the Selectmen on the committee. Motion to approve the Website Committee by Stan, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

6.38pm – Jan Ameen, Executive Director – Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

The Selectmen tabled signing of a 5-year agreement with the Springfield Recycling Facility and an annual hauling memorandum of understanding with the FCSWMD at their June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting until they had an opportunity to speak with Jan Ameen. Bob expressed disappointment at the revenue rates proposed by the SRF contract at \$10 per ton. Jan stated the market has bottomed out for recyclables and \$10 per ton is the best option available. The Town is coming off a 10-year agreement when revenues from recyclables were far better during the past 5-years. She stated the shift towards single stream recycling has effectively killed the marketplace.

Similarly, the cost for annual hauling through Waste Management was the least expensive of the haulers offered the FCSWMD bid. Administration fees are built in to cover FCSWMD costs. As a non-profit, the goal is break even on revenues and expenses.

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Motion by Andrew to sign a 5-year contract with the Springfield Recycling Facility, second by Stan. Motion carried. Motion by Andrew to enter into an MOU with the FCSWMD for hauling expenses in FY16, second by Stan. Motion carried.

7.03pm – John Lepore / Judy Kromholz – Master Plan Steering Committee

Master Plan Steering Committee members John Lepore & Judy Kromholz appeared before the Board to seek a formal endorsement of the work conducted so far by the Master Plan Steering Committee. The committee has met monthly on a regular basis since inception last October 2014. Sections 2, 3, 4 & 5 are complete. There are 9 total sections to the Mater Plan. The Board was briefed on the process taken to date and the role played by students at the Conway School. Stan said the work to date has been terrific and would like to see more public participation at community meetings. Andrew said he would like to see more economic development planned for the Town. John stated that without a sewer system, any economic growth would be limited in scale. Judy said the next phase of the plan include a community meeting in September to issue a survey to residents. The Board signed a formal letter of endorsement for the MPSC work so far. The Planning Board issued a formal endorsement at their meeting on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**New Business**

FRCOG Accounting Services

The Board considered a 3-year renewal agreement for Accounting services and software at an annual cost of \$22, 917 for FY16. Motion by Stan to renew, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Franklin County Sherriff Department Dog Control Agreement

The Board considered a 1-year renewal agreement for dog control and adoption services at an annual cost of \$500 for FY16. Motion by Stan to renew, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Resignation

Police Chief Jim Palmeri reported he had received a letter of resignation from part-time officer James Loynd who has accepted a full-time position in the Town of Erving. Motion to accept the resignation with regret by Stan, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Town of Leyden

Bob raised the issue of Leyden children attending the Summer Recreation program hosted and managed by Bernardston at BES. Leyden residents send their children to the program at the same cost as Bernardston residents, but are not charged additional expenses to supplement towards covering the overhead. Bob suggested a letter to the Leyden Selectmen to request a contribution of \$1,000. A letter will be drafted for the next Board meeting.

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#### Police Detail Agency Account

Stan asked for the Board's consideration to increase the Police Detail agency account from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to cover outstanding detail owed to police officers. Chief Palmeri has provided a detailed accounting of funds owed from contacting vendors. Motion by Stan to increase the Police Detail agency account from \$5,000 to \$10,000 effective immediately, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

#### Roads

Stan said the Highway Department continues to perform an outstanding job on the Town's roads given the manpower and financial resources at their disposal. However, he would like to see a summer schedule of projects provided to the Board. In addition, Keets Brook Rd has a number of low hanging trees that could be trimmed to improve visibility and Eden Trail may need additional grading. Finally, Stan said he is not opposed to a portion of Fox Hill Rd being closed in winter. Hugh Campbell will follow up with Road Boss Gary Wetherby accordingly.

#### **Old Business**

##### BES Gym Roof Project

The Board has learned the .80mil membrane material in Light Grey color is a special order and will delay the gym roof project by 4-6 weeks. The .60mil thickness in Light Gray is available immediately and the job could start post haste. Discussion ensued regarding the benefit of waiting for the .80 mil thickness compared to the .60mil thickness called for by the base specifications. An alternate for a .8 mil thickness was included in the bid specifications and Board opted for the same. Andrew argued the benefits of waiting for the .80 material including an additional 5-year warranty for a total of 20-years. Bob said urgency is needed since the roof leaks with every rain event and he is fearful of the gym floor being ruined. The color White was offered by Stan as an alternative to Light Grey which was called for in the specifications. CGKV is of the opinion that White is not the ideal color for the project. The Board agreed to request the Architect, CGKV, in the morning on June 25<sup>th</sup> if .80 mil thickness in White was available in stock. If so, the Board would proceed accordingly. If not, the Board will reconsider the .60 mil in Light Grey. The contractor is ready to start pending the Board's decision on color and thickness.

#### **Town Coordinator Report**

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

- Highway Department Truck Bid – Bids were opened at 2pm today. Bids were separated by cab/chassis and equipment. A bid result sheet was handed to the Board. Highway Supt., Gary Wetherby will make a recommendation at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting for an award after the bids have been properly scrutinized.

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- Culvert/Bridge Survey – The Highway Dept will continue to inventory all culverts and bridges in Bernardston. The FRCOG/MassDOT and Umass have expressed interest in major culverts and bridges prone to flooding and in the Deerfield River Watershed.
- Stantec – Inspection of the Turners Falls Rd bridge and Fox Hill Rd conducted June 8th will not incur a cost. Detailed proposals from Stantec are forthcoming including recommendations and cost estimates.
- BES SPED Rooms – No results were to be had from additional inquires of alternate flooring vendors. Motion by Stan to award Earth First the job for \$2,915, second by Andrew. Motion carried. Earth First was the contractor in 2013 for the BES tiling project. The Town has excess tile available. The cost is for carpet removal and labor.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Andrew made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 8.02pm, Stan seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Robert R. Raymond

\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Andrew I. Girard

\_\_\_\_\_, Member  
Stanley D. Garland