



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: for the meeting of October 14, 2015

Select Board Members Present:

Robert R. Raymond, Chairman
Andrew Girard
Stanley Garland

Others Present:

Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee
Paul Luther, Town Clerk
Rawn Fulton
David Powers, BOH
Stephanie Ciccarello, Green Committee

Chairman Bob Raymond called the meeting to order at 6.01pm.

Bob announced the meeting was being broadcast by BNCTV.

Warrants (*week ending 10/9/2015*)

Bob asked for a motion to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$31,697.30. Motion by Stan, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Bob requested a motion to approve the Vendor Warrant in the amount of \$19,950.10. Motion by Stan, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Minutes

Regular Meeting of September 30, 2015. Motion by Stan to approve as written, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud.

Building Permits

None reported by the FCCIP.

Citizen's Concerns

None.

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Appointments

6.05pm James Palmeri, Police Chief

Police Chief James Palmeri presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enter into Shared Animal Control Officer services with the Town of Erving. The MOU is state law compliant. Erving has a trained and certified Animal Control Officer (ACO) who will attend to Bernardston's needs at a rate of a \$60 for a 3-hour minimum call and \$20 per hour thereafter. The ACO will also conduct kennel inspections. Handling of wild animals on private property remains the responsibility of the property owner. Wild animals testing positive for rabies are euthanized with funding provided for by the Board of Health. Motion to sign the ACO MOU with the Town of Erving by Stan, second by Andrew. Motion carried. A signed copy of the MOU is included in the minutes herein.

6.45pm Stephanie Ciccarello – Green Committee

Stephanie Ciccarello, Chair of the Green Committee informed the Board the Green Communities application is near completion and she is hopeful the October 23rd deadline can be met. A recent energy reduction audit was conducted of all Town buildings by an independent firm as required by the Green Communities application with a 20% energy reduction target. The company, G&L Energy Services, conducted the survey in anticipation of receiving future Town contracts for energy upgrades. This is a permissible exemption to the Uniform Procurement Act. Stephanie asked the Board to commit to G&L Energy Services should the Town receive a Green Communities designation and subsequent grant awards. Andrew stated he would strongly consider G&L for future work but stopped short of a commitment at this stage of the process. Stephanie also asked the Board to convene a special meeting the week of October 20th to endorse the final Green Communities application. The Board stated they would do so.

New Business

Planning Board

Rawn Fulton, Fox Hill Rd expressed an interest in serving on the Planning Board. Chris Wysk, Co-Chair of the Planning Board endorsed Rawn's appointment. Motion by Stan to appoint Rawn Fulton to the Planning Board through March 31, 2018, second by Andrew. Motion carried.

Council on Aging – Substitute Driver

The COA informed the Board of an opening for a part-time substitute van driver. Details are posted at Town Hall .

BES Use applications

Use applications were submitted as follows:

- a) Fall Basketball with Brad Curtis, Tuesdays & Wednesdays 6pm-8pm October – December 2015. Motion by Andrew to approve, second by Stan. Motion carried.

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- b) Recreation Commission Basketball, Monday – Friday 5pm-7.30pm and Saturdays 8.30am-3pm November 23, 2015 – March 19, 2016. Motion by Andrew to approve, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Approval had been received from the BES Principal for use of the BES gymnasium.

DEP Grant Award

The Town has been informed of a \$1,900 grant award through the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to support recycling efforts in the Town.

Surplus Equipment

The Highway Department is requesting the Board declare the Ford F550 truck and snow plow combination as surplus and to be made available to the higher bidder. Bob read aloud the description of the vehicle and the terms and conditions for bid submissions. Bids are due Tuesday, October 27 at 3pm to the Selectmen's Office. So moved by Andrew, second by Stan. Motion carried.

New Revenue Sources

Stan stated he wants the Town to consider new revenue sources through suitable operations. Stans aid renting Town buildings, leasing land as an examples of generating revenue. His goal is to lower the local tax burden on property owners as much as possible.

Old Business

Franklin County Technical School

The FCTS announced to the Board that Brad Stafford of Bernardston has been appointed as an at-large member to the Collective Bargaining Committee.

Hampshire Council of Governments

The HCOG has formally informed the Board they will not challenge the Dept Public Utilities ruling to deny their application on behalf of multiple municipalities including Bernardston for electric aggregate rates. This does not impact the existing electric aggregate rates in effect for Town buildings. The HCOG has offered to assist the Town with alternate aggregate purchasing companies such as Colonial Power Group. Andrew felt it would be advantageous to continue to seek out ways to reduce electricity cost to residents and businesses.

Town of Leyden

In the spring, the Board had requested the Town of Leyden Selectmen to consider a \$1,000 assessment to offset overhead costs for recreation program that are open to Leyden residents. Bob

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stated that somehow the message has been perceived the Bernardston Selectmen sent a \$1,000 demand or invoice to Leyden. Bob wanted to make it very clear this was and is not the case. The letter from Bernardston to Leyden is available for public inspection and states without ambiguity the Board's position with respect to Leyden residents participating in Town recreation programs.

Town Coordinator Report

Hugh Campbell reported on the following:

Powers Institute Septic Line

There were no bidders the relocation of the septic line at Powers Institute. However, Gary Wetherby, Highway Supt., stated the problem may be with the lack of a weep hole or the weep hole is clogged in the pump chamber. No weep hole, or a clogged weep hole, would not allow excess water to recede to the pump chamber tank, and as result, is vulnerable to freezing. The pump chamber needs to be drained for an inspection. Nate Gray is qualified to conduct an inspection. Stan expressed reservations about Town personnel inspecting the pump chamber citing health and safety concerns. He said he felt better hiring a licensed professional to inspect the pump chamber. Bob concurred. Should freezing of the septic line continue once the weep hole issue is determined, then it is likely the line has a low point where water is collecting and freezing. If so, relocation, or a deeper trench line needs to be considered.

Stantec

Stantec conducted core sampling of the decking of the Turners Falls Rd bridge on October 8th. Results will not be available until prior to the meeting of October 28th.

Community Compact

Information about the state initiative Community Compact was distributed to the Board with the goal of choosing 3 priority areas for the Town to enter into a compact with the Commonwealth. The matter will be re-scheduled for October 28th.

Master Plan Community Meeting / CDBG Information Meeting

The Master Plan Community Meeting for Wednesday October 21st at BES will incorporate an informational meeting for the Town's inclusion in the FY16 CDBG application administered by the Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority. The Master Plan Steering Committee approved the same at their October 6th meeting.

BES HVAC

The Sandri Companies reported the BES HVAC ph levels were good, but the anti-freeze levels were weak. The PVRSD will handle maintenance of the system through Sandri.

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Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Andrew made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 7.32pm, Bob seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Town Coordinator

_____, Chairman
Robert R. Raymond

_____, Member
Andrew I. Girard

_____, Member
Stanley D. Garland