



Town of Bernardston **Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: October 19, 2011

Select Board Members Present:
Robert R. Raymond, Chairman
Stanley D. Garland
Virginia M. Budness

Others Present:
Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.03pm.

Warrants

The payroll warrant is approved for \$42,607.07. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

The vendor warrant is approved for \$124,276.25. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Regular Meeting October 5, 2011. Motion by Virginia. Second by Stan. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the following:

- Conservation Commission, Thursday Oct 20th, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, Thursday Oct 20th, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Council on Aging, Friday Oct 21st, 10.30am at Senior Center
- 250th Anniversary Committee, Saturday Oct 22nd, 10am at Town Hall
- Board of Health, Saturday Oct 22nd, 9am at Bluebonnet Diner, Northampton (Training Session)
- Zoning Board of Appeals, Monday Oct 24th, 7pm at Town Hall
- Wellhead Protection Committee, Wednesday Oct 26th, 6pm at Town Hall
- Planning Board, Thursday Oct 27th, 6pm at Town Hall

Appointments

6.15pm John Lapore – (Future-Lands.com) – John Lapore has been hired by PVRSD to do some landscaping design of the school grounds and wanted an opportunity to present his ideas to the Board. He presented a map showing various landscape/land management designs including a garden, a river view-scape, a walking/biking trail system all designed to protect open space. A meeting open to the public is scheduled for Thursday December 1, 2011 at PVRSD to discuss plans and concepts for the land. Bob asked Elaine Williamson about Cushman Park and wetland delineation at the site. He said the wetlands were creeping in taking over the park. This is causing some problems with insects and septic tank leaching from surrounding homes. Elaine said that Japanese Knotweed plants, a very invasive species, were also choking vegetation in the park. Poison Ivy is also represented

well in the park. Bob asked John about the Charity Lot project underway by Tree Warden Brad

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Borderwieck. John has assisted Brad in defining boundaries of the lot so a forestry plan can be developed. John said some boundary pins remain elusive from detection, but many have been located.

6.45pm Belle Notte Restaurant – Abaz Cecujianan from Belle Notte met with the Board to discuss some recent incidents at the restaurant that required the police to respond. Chief Palmeri also sat in on the meeting. Stan opened discussion by stating he had heard that Belle Notte was getting a reputation as place not to patronize on Fridays and Saturday night because of a rowdy crowd. Abaz stated he is at the restaurant every Saturday night and has handle on crowd control with his staff. Altercations are dealt with quickly and patrons are escorted from the premises when necessary. He said state regulations call for crowd management of 1 person per 200 customers, but he employs a 1 to 25 ratio. Capacity is 300 seated and 400 standing. He also limits drinking activity (the source of 99% of the problems) between 11pm and 12.40pm. Jim Palmeri stated he and officers work closely with Abaz and only respond when needed as he controls things well without police intervention. Chief Palmeri did say the parking lot needs to be fine-tuned some to allow for adequate parking. Overall, Chief Palmeri does not need to post mandated detail at Belle Notte. Abaz's policy with problem patrons is they are asked not to return. Virginia said it is hard to predict people's behavior especially when alcohol is involved. The Board thanked Abaz for his time and wished him well.

New Business

Snow Plow Bid – Snow plow bids for BES are due for the 2011-12 winter season. An ad will be placed in the newspaper for Wed Oct 26 and bid notices will be sent to seven (7) vendors listed on file. The bid will be awarded at the next BOS meeting Nov 2, 2011.

Crop Walk – Bob reported the annual cropwalk event was a success. This year 2011 is the 25th anniversary of the event. Over 170 walkers participated.

Town Hall Siding – The Town Hall siding is complete. The Board signed a letter of appreciation to the contractor Larry Jubb of Larry Jubb Improve-A-Home for an exemplary job. Final payment and the return of the bid deposit are included in today's vendor warrant. Motion by Bob, second Virginia to sign a letter of appreciation. Motion carried.

Cable Renegotiation Committee – Virginia asked the Board recognize the efforts of the Bernardston/Northfield Cable Committee through a letter of appreciation. Motion by Bob, second Stan. Motion carried.

Rep Paul Mark – Bob announced Representative Paul Mark (2nd Berkshire District) will be holding hours at the Senior Center 10.30am – 1pm, Thursday October 20th.

BES School Use – The following organizations have requested to use BES: Girls Scouts;

Girl Scouts of Central & Western Mass; Men's Recreational Basketball. All use forms have already been approved by Bob Clancy, BES Principal. Motion to approve by Stan, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

Franklin County Dog Control Program – The Franklin County Sheriff office is proposing to implement a county wide dog program which would include capture of stray dogs, feeding and temporary housing. It will
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not extend to wild animals. Police Chief Jim Palmeri commented to the Board he felt the Town's need was more for road kill and potential rabid wildlife. The county cost is expected to be a \$150 assessment to Bernardston which still makes it cost effective for the Town to belong if on a dog only basis. Details of the county dog program are still in the works, but Chief Palmeri recommended the Town join the program.

House Bill 1972 – A bill before the state legislature would allow for overseas military personnel to vote without written consent. The bill states that approx. \$8million would be saved. The petition has been circulated by the Woburn City Clerk's office. Motion by Virginia to support the petition, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Bus Service to Bernardston – The FRCOG is conducting a transit study of the feasibility of bringing commuter bus transportation to Bernardston, Northfield and Gill. A public meeting is scheduled for 6pm Wed, Nov 2 at the Northfield Town Hall.

Cemetery Mowing Expense – The Cemetery Commission through Babette Phelps has submitted a bill for \$1,200 for grass mowing services. There are not enough funds in the account to pay the bill. Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair took the bill to be sorted out with the Town Accountant.

Town Clerk Resignation – Judy Knight expects to be resigning from the position effective January 1, 2012. Assistant Town Clerk, Janice Leh has been in for some transition training. Virginia asked that Judy submit a formal resignation. The job should be posted in-house stated Jane Dutcher. Bob stated for the record he would need to recuse himself from any deliberation that involved Janice Leh as she is his sister.

Old Business

Treasurer – Three (3) applications were received for the Temporary Treasurer position. The Board took them under advisement and will plan to make an appointment at their next meeting Nov 2nd.

Land Lease - Bids as follows were received for lease of the two (2) parcels of land located off South St:

Parcel 1: D. William Pratt at \$500 per year for 3-years

Parcel 2: River Maple Farms at \$100 per year for 3-years.

Parcel 2: The Steel Shed \$501 at per year for 3-years.

Motion Virginia to award parcel 1 to D. William Pratt and parcel 2 to The Steel Shed for a period of 3years effective December 1, 2011, second by Stan. Motion carried.

PVRSD Lease – Town Counsel has advised to amend the term of the lease to read as a series of 5-year terms with notice by the Town given to PVRSD in advance of each renewal term. This would not violate the District Agreement in effect and also would not alter the intent of the BES lease agreement. Regarding the use of the facility, the Town already has language in place to use the building as it sees fit as long as the use does not interfere with the school hours 7.30am-3.30am. Motion by Virginia to ask Town Counsel to draft language to reflect her opinion of consecutive 5-year terms, second Stan. Motion carried.

BES Heating System – Bob reported he was speaking with contractors about replacing the heating boilers at BES. Tognarelli of Turners Falls and Doug Beck from B&G will conduct an inspection. The goal is to determine
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a reasonable estimate of the project cost. The job would fall under MGL Ch. 149 and be subject to MGL Ch. 30, Sec 30M for procurement purposes including equipment and labor between \$25,000 and \$100,000. Bob stated it appeared the burners have not been serviced in 2 years from the records kept on the burners. Virginia stated the roof also needs to be considered for replacement and suggested Larry Jubb to take a look.

Chittenden Bank – The service agreement between the Town and Chittenden Bank (now Peoples Bank) for payroll service clearly states the Town is responsible for alerting the payroll service of any errors. Bob suggested the Town can't hold the employee responsible for the error and applicable IRS penalties and interest. A firm amount owed will be determined.

Town Hall – Bob and Virginia recently conducted an inspection of the exterior of the Town Hall upon completion of the siding job. Painting of doors, windows, the rear portico and the structure on the roof all require painting. This will be considered for the Spring of 2012.

Administrative Assistant Report

Communication RFP – Hugh Campbell reported he had completed a draft of the Communications RFP he would like to issue in November with a deadline of late December/early January for proposals. Drafts were handed out to each Selectman.

FEMA – ongoing collection of data continues for the FEMA Tropical Storm Irene recovery claim. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct 25 to finalize the application.

Liquor License– Renewal information had been sent to the Town from the ABCC regarding liquor license renewals. They will go to the 8 license holders in Town.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Bob made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 8.01pm. Stan seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

_____, Chairman _____, Member
_____, Member
Robert R. Raymond Stanley D. Garland Virginia M. Budness