



Town of Bernardston
Board of Selectmen

MEETING MINUTES: July 27, 2011

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

Others Present: Finance Committee
See Sign-In Sheet

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.01pm.

Warrants

The payroll warrant is approved for \$35,451.62. Motion by Bob, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

The vendor warrant is approved for \$28,157.77. Motion by Bob, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Regular Meeting, July 13, 2011. Motion by Bob. Second by Virginia. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the following:

- Zoning Board of Appeals, Thursday July28, 7pm at Town Hall
- 250th Anniversary Committee, Thursday, July 28, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Board of Health, Wednesday, August 3, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Board of Selectmen, Wednesday, August 3, 10am at Town Hall
- Board of Health, Thursday, August 4, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, Thursday August 11, 6.30pm at Town Hall

Permits

No permits.

Appointments

6.05pm John Wiegand.

Bob gave background on the Library fountain run by a 1hp pump. The pump costs \$100 per month to run 24 hours a day and historically has operated between April and September. The Board had decided at their July 13 meeting to operate the pump 4-hours a day. John talked with Bill Shores about the timer on the pump to regulate the hours of operation. John believes the timer is broken so the pump runs all day or not all. Batteries were replaced in the timer and now the pump operates 7.30-8.30am, 12.30-1.30pm and 4.30-6.30pm. Jane said when the pump shuts off the reset button needs to be pushed. John would rather the pump be on during the more visible times of the day; 10am-2pm and then 4pm=6pm.

6.15pm Public Hearing – School Rd

Bob read the public hearing notice. Bob provided a history of the School Rd and the

flooding that has plagued the road for numerous years. The sidewalk is in disrepair, the narrowness of the road, snow piling up on either side of the road in winter, and poor to zero drainage adequacies. The Town owns the sidewalk and tree line on the north side of School Road. The Town is seeking a STRAP grant from the state to fund repairs and drainage mitigation of the road. An article will be placed on the next Special Town meeting on August 18, 2011 to seek an appropriation for the engineering and design work. This would demonstrate a financing match to the grant application.

Linda Laflamme, 13 School Rd said the worst hazard is the constant ponding of water. Pedestrians get showered with water as they walk to Bernardston Elementary School. Her basement sump pump is going all the time.

Jerry Clough, 6 School Rd said the road is not safe for 2 school buses to pass.

Bob reminded the audience of the importance of BES as not only a school but a designated place of emergency shelter during bad weather and evacuating students from BES to GCC if there is an incident at Yankee Atomic plant in Vernon, VT.

A letter from Paul Bocko and Stephanie Ciccarelo, 24 School Rd was read into the record as they were unable to be present during the hearing. They agree the road is in very poor condition and needs repair, but would rather the trees on the north side be left untouched.

Jeff Collingwood, engineer from Stantec was asked about the scope of the work. He said that proper drainage is key to improving the flooding conditions and the tree line may have to be removed to the north side of the road. This is inevitable to allow flow of water to drain toward South St and across. Meetings with residents would be called before the project would begin and the design would call for a minimum impact but allow for maximum effectiveness to solve the problems of flooding.

Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee Chair asked about the expiration date of plans and how long the plans are good for use. Jeff Collingwood stated design of infrastructure can last indefinitely. The permitting and regulations change constantly. This is where plans have to be redone to meet current regulations.

Hearing closed at 6.45pm.

New Business

PVRSD Lease Agreement - PVRSD has sent the 20-year lease agreement to the Board of Selectmen set to expire September 1, 2011 for renewal. The terms allow for a renewal and another 20-years should the Board decide accordingly. Bob motioned to table this issue until the August 10th meeting so the agreement can be reviewed. Second by Virginia.

Board of Health – Health Agent – The Board of Health has expressed displeasure with the performance of the FRCOG Health Agent. Various factors have caused the BOH to seek termination of the contract between the FRCOG and the BOH. Correspondence between FRCOG and the BOH seeking resolution to issues has been terse at best. Bob feels the relationship between the FRCOG (Health Agent) and the BOH is irreparable and termination of services is likely the best option. Brian Hervieux asked about penalties, etc. Bob said it is likely that 1-month in fees will be owed to the FRCOG at a minimum. A total of \$6,552 was

appropriated at Town Meeting last April for FY12 Health Agent services. Jane Dutcher needs to know the amount of services rendered in July so that the balance can be transferred to an account for alternate health agent services. David Lorenz asked if the displeasure with the Health Agent were policy or personality driven. Deb DeLaBruere stated the health Agent was not fulfilling his duties. Inspections have not been done, permits not pursued, and several instances of a breach of contract had occurred. Brian asked should the July bill be paid if services have not been rendered in compliance with the BOH/FRCOG Health Agent agreement? A letter was signed by the Board of Selectmen to the FRCOG to terminate the Health Agent services effective July 29, 2011. Motion by Bob, second by Virginia.

Police Chief – ABCC Compliance Checks

Chief Jim Palmeri reported to the Board of two violations by two establishments in the Town for serving to persons under age 21. A notice of first time violation was issued by the Bernardston Police Dept. Letters were signed by the Board of Selectmen to the businesses in question warning of possible license suspension should another violation be issued.

Highway Department – Surplus Property

Highway boss Gary Wetherby is seeking to dispose of two (2) trailers via a public sealed bid. Bids will be published in the recorder August 11th and bids must be submitted by no later than 1pm August 18 at Town Hall.

Administrative Assistant Evaluation

Bob reviewed the personnel evaluation of Hugh Campbell. He said he is detailed oriented and was pleased with his performance. Bob read the notes from the evaluation aloud.

Town Hall Steeple

Since there were no bidders for the steeple section of the Town Hall, Virginia suggested issuing a bid notice for painting the steeple section only. Motion by Virginia, second by Bob. Motion carried.

Finance Committee

Jane Dutcher asked the Selectmen to pay the annual dues of the Finance Committee Association. The invoice will be put through on the next warrant August 10. Discussion followed regarding the pending state Green Grants for BES & PVRSD through the state MSBA with other members of the Finance Committee present; Brian Hervieux and David Lorenz. The cost for the BES project has ballooned to over \$153,000 in what started out as a \$32,000 project cost when replacing the BES HVAC system was first contemplated. Brian Hervieux, being in the HVAC industry, offered some alternate pricing as follows: new burner at \$5,500; nine (9) new HVAC pumps at a total of \$5,000; two (2) 55-gallon drums of anti-freeze at \$1,407; boiler test kit at \$300; labor including prevailing wage rates at approx. \$6,000 for a total of around \$20,000 in cost. Brian stated he is at a loss to see why the project is now in the \$150,000 range. The PVRSD part of the Green Grant project requires an affirmative vote by all member towns. A meeting with MSBA engineers, PVRSD and member town representative will take up the matter on Tuesday August 2 at 1pm.

Old Business

Town Hall Siding Project

The low bid on the Town Hall Siding Project is Larry Jubb Improve-A-Home at \$61,960

inclusive. The bid does not include the steeple section. There is approximately \$67,000 in the account, so it appears there are adequate funds to cover the cost of the project. Terms are 50% upon award, 25% upon start and 25% when completed. The 5% bid deposit will be returned upon satisfactory job completion. Motion by Bob to award the project to Larry Jubb Improve-A-Home, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Bob made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 8.10pm. Virginia seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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