



Town of Bernardston  
**Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: August 3, 2011

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

Others Present: Finance Committee  
Jane Dutcher, Brian Hervieux

The Chairman opened the meeting at 4.03pm.

**Special Town Meeting Warrant, August 18, 2011**

The Board discussed the proposed warrant for the scheduled STM on August 18, 2011 at Bernardston Elementary School (BES).

Article 1

No discussion. Article approved as proposed.

Article 2

Stan objected to Article 2 as it stated the jurisdiction of the Green Grant project was through the School Committee. Jane stated the project would be under their control based on MSBA guidelines. Bob acknowledged Stan's concern. The total cost estimated to be \$229,589 of which Bernardston share would be 56.26% reimbursement from MSBA. Brian Hervieux offered information related to cost of HVAC equipment and parts that indicated the cost of the project is grossly inflated. He feels the Town is better off seeking its own bids for the project. Amendments to the language in Article 2 were approved by the Board as follows: a) remove verbiage referring the School Committee, b) insert the total of \$229,589 as the total project cost and c) revise introductory language to refer to borrowing only, removing any reference to raise and appropriate, transfer, etc.

Article 3

Discussion about Article 3 included leaving the School Committee reference in the proposed article since the project related to the regional school of which Bernardston is a member. The cost of Bernardston's share is defined as \$125,245. Jane Dutcher said the Town of Warwick is waiting to see what Bernardston will do before they act on their share. Leyden has already approved, but it isn't clear if additional money needs to be appropriated. Should Bernardston not pass Article 3 or Article 2, the Town is obligated for the costs incurred for design and work completed by the engineering consultants to this point. Article 3 amended as follows; a) revise introductory language to refer to borrowing only, removing any reference to raise and appropriate, transfer, etc. b) insert the total of \$424,559 for Bernardston's share of the total project cost and c) add a clause and the end of the article stating the vote, if approved, is contingent upon the PVRSD obtaining the grant from the MSBA.

Article 4

This article achieves the Board’s goal to shift Town retired employees or those employees eligible for retirement enroll in federal Medicare upon reaching the age of 65. No amendments proposed by the Board or Finance Committee to Article 4.

Article 5.

Stan did not want to cover retirees with the scope of benefits as provided by MGL Ch 32B Sec 9A. Accepting the statute means accepting all of the benefits the statute requires. Stan said the Town should be providing health insurance only, excluding dental and life insurance as the statute provides. Language was removed referring to MGL Ch 32B Sec 9A and the references to benefits with the exception of health insurance.

**Paul Grover – COBRA Insurance**

Motion by Bob to have the Town fund the COBRA premiums for firefighter Paul Grover in amount of \$516.88 per month for September and October, 2011 from the Charity Farm account. The payments would be sent to Paul’s employer. Second by Stan. Motion carried. Hugh Campbell stated the MGL Ch 41, Sec 111F and Ch 41, Sec 100 may be of some help to Paul in offsetting his income loss suffered as a result of being injured on duty. There may also be an AFLAC type of insurance product that may be suitable for Town firefighters to purchase voluntarily to mitigate against the loss of living expenses should a serious injury occur while on duty.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Bob made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 5.37pm. Stan seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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