



Town of Bernardston  
**Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: September 21, 2011

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

Others Present:  
Jane Dutcher, Finance Committee  
Brian Brault, Bernardston-Northfield  
Cable Renegotiation Committee

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.04pm.

**Warrants**

The payroll warrant is approved for \$26,215.98. Motion by Bob, second by Stan. Motion carried.

The vendor warrant is approved for \$308,630.61. Motion by Bob, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

- Special Meeting September 14, 2011. Motion by Bob. Second by Virginia. Motion carried.

**Calendar & Announcements**

Bob read aloud the following:

- Board of Health, Wednesday, Sept 21, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Planning Board, Thursday Sept 29, 6.30pm at Town Hall
- Zoning Board of Appeals, Thursday Sept 29, 6.30pm at Town Hall

**Appointments**

Brian Brault – Northfield/Bernardston Cable Renegotiation Committee.

Brian Brault met with the Board to discuss the final stages of the cable renewal contract talks with Comcast. High points include a 10-year term, extension to houses on Couch Brook Rd, Haigis Branch Rd, Fox Hill Rd, a lower density to house ratio of 15 homes per mile, and a senior discount. Programming still remains the prerogative of Comcast with no input from the Town. Brian lauded Virginia's efforts as the representative from Bernardston. Bob and Stan both expressed their appreciation for the efforts of Brian, Virginia and the entire committee over the past 3-years.

**New Business**

Hillcrest Drive – Mark Evans of 117 Hillcrest Drive has informed the Board of a safety hazard on his road. Hillcrest Drive is a dead-end road and frequently large tractor trailer trucks have to back down the road in order to reverse direction. Mr. Evans feels this poses a safety hazard to pedestrians, especially children. He is suggesting the Board install

a "dead-end" or "no thru road" sign to inform drivers before entering Hillcrest

*BOS Meeting Minutes 9/21/11 (cont.)*

Drive. The Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to install an appropriate sign at the junction of Hillcrest Drive and Rt 5 as a warning to truck drivers.

Thank You letters - Thank you letters were signed and sent to Ike Snow and Jessica St. Armand.

Treasurer – Chairman Bob Raymond read aloud a letter of resignation from Treasurer Christopher Roberts effective October 1, 2011. Chris cited personal conflicts preventing him from continuing in the position. Assistant Treasurer Susan Malley will assume the Treasurer duties pending an appointment by the Board after a search for an Interim Treasurer though the next election in May 2012 . The Treasurer's term does not expire until May 2013. The Board considered an advertisement for an interim Treasurer as drafted. Terms of the position include serving thru May 2012, \$15-\$17 per hour, approximate hours per week 10-15, not a position entitled to benefits and submissions to be received by October 19 at 4.30pm. Virginia stated the Treasurer Chris Roberts should also be sent a letter of thanks for his service to the Town. Motion to approve the advertisement by Bob, second by Virginia, the ad is to be placed in The Recorder for Monday Sept 26 and again on Saturday Oct 1, 2011. Motion carried.

Planning Board – The Planning Board has requested office space for their clerk to conduct business. The Town Clerk's office is a probable site and the Town Clerk has agreed for space to be used. A telephone line would need to be installed at the location. Jane Dutcher suggested the Planning Board share the telephone with the Town Clerk and conduct work hours when the Town Clerk is not there. Virginia stated the idea of boards and committees seeking space is nothing new and it is a function of not enough space in the Town Hall and has been a problem as long as she has been a Selectman. The Board agreed to allow the Planning Board to set up in the Town Clerk's office and share a telephone line.

Agricultural Commission - Paul Bocko of School Rd was appointed thru March 2014. Motion by Bob, second by Stan. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

PVRSD Lease Agreement – PVRSD Superintendent Dayle Doiron responded to the Board's proposed amendments to the lease renewal challenging the validity of the amendments subject to the District Agreement. The Board will send the letter on to Town Counsel for review with the expectation of seeking an answer by October 19. The Board also decided to extend the lease another 30-days until October 30, 2011.

### Land Lease Bid

The Board reviewed the advertisement for leasing of land off of South Street for the purpose of pasturing animals and raising hay. No change in use was proposed. Bids will

be received by 3pm, October 19, 2011. Advertisements will run in The Recorder October 5 and again on October 12. Motion to approve the ad and timeline for acceptance of bids by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

BOS Minutes September 21, 2011 (cont.)

Chittenden Bank – The Board has received a reply from Chittenden Bank regarding the error made to an employee regarding a deduction oversight for many years. Chittenden Bank reaffirms their position the Town is at fault per the service contract. The Board will seek advice from Town Counsel on the matter.

Town of Leyden Transfer Station Cards – Approx 50 cards effective 10/31/11 will need to be made up to account for Leyden resident’s use of the Town transfer station at \$50 per card.

**Administrative Assistant Report**

Hugh Campbell reported the following:

- a. RFP Verizon – the contract for telephone services expires February 5, 2012. Hugh suggests an RFP process that may incorporate internet and web hosting services as part of the proposal. The Town’s current telephone bill for all offices and buildings is approximately \$850 per month or \$10,200 per year.
- b. Surveillance Equipment Grant – Hugh is working with Chief Palmeri to apply for a grant from the Town’s insurer MIIA for the purchase and installation of a surveillance video and audio system at the Police Station.

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

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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