



Town of Bernardston **Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: November 2, 2011

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

Others Present:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.01pm.

Warrants

The payroll warrant is approved for \$30,546.64. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

The vendor warrant is approved for \$459,775.44. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Regular Meeting November 19, 2011. Motion by Virginia. Second by Bob. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the following:

- 250th Anniversary Committee, 10am, Saturday Nov 5 at Town Hall
- Board of Assessors, 3.30pm, Wednesday Nov 9 at Town Hall
- Board of Health, 6.30pm, Wednesday Nov 9 at Town Hall
- FRCOG Public Forum – Bus Service to Bern, Gill & Nthfld. 6pm, Wednesday Nov 9 at the Northfield Town Hall.
- Bernardston Fire & Water District, 6pm, Thursday Nov 10 at the Water House
- Planning Board, 7pm, Tuesday Nov 22 at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, 6.30pm, Tuesday Nov 22 at Town Hall

Permits

Occupancy permit – Antonio's Pizza, 1 South St.

Appointments

6.05pm - Pole Hearing

Verizon has submitted a joint pole petition for Fox Hill Rd with WMECO – job #9ADV4X. No representative from Verizon present or abutters to the property. Motion by Stan to approve the petition, second by Bob. Motion carried.

BOS Meeting, Nov 2, 2011 (cont.)

6.15pm – Helen Johnson – DCR Service Forestry

The Board invited Helen in to discuss the progress of a forestry plan for the Charity Lot. Tree Warden Brad Borderwieck was not present for the meeting. The Charity Lot is approximately 100-acres in area and has been in the planning stages for a forestry plan for almost 2-years. The Board is concerned about the lack of progress in developing a forestry plan. Helen stated she had walked the property with Brad. The northern boundary has not been defined. Helen said writing forestry plan is not a difficult process and it has to be done by a licensed forester. Issues such as thinning the forest, replanting removed trees, habitat protection, timber inventory and a management plan were discussed. Virginia asked how the process can be moved along. Helen said she did not know why the project has seemingly stalled. Bob said the Board of Selectmen have jurisdiction over the Charity Lot and ultimately it is up to them to act going forward if the plan is not being developed in a timely manner.

New Business

BetterStart Program – Bob read a letter from Jennifer Glazier, fundraising Chair for the Bernardston Elementary School Betterstart Pre-School program. She is asking the Board to consider to partially fund the Betterstart's efforts to purchase playground equipment for 3-5 year-olds. The equipment at BES now is not rated for children that young. The total estimated cost for playground equipment is \$25,000. Bob asked how the Board felt about the request. Virginia asked how much money Betterstart is looking for as a Town contribution. Stan said BES is in need of many structural repairs. No further discussion taken at this time.

Franklin County Selectmen's Association- Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 5.30pm, Nov 17 at the Franklin County Tech School, Turners Falls. Virginia declined to attend. Bob and Stan will attend. Roast beef is the choice of meal.

BES Usage – The Edge men's basketball club is seeking permission to use BES. Motion by Bob to allow, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Police Detail Revolving Fund – Chief Jim Palmeri has written to the Board asking for the establishment of a revolving police detail fund. His objective is to provide timely payment to offices who work details. As of now, there is a delay in payments up to 5-6 weeks and this has discouraged officers from working. Virginia stated the issue may require a Town Meeting vote. Bob stated that this type of fund because of mismanagement by a prior Police Chief caused havoc as approx. \$5,000 was never recovered. Stan said he was not opposed to the idea if managed properly, and he has complete faith in Jim. Administrative fees can be built into the billing but it is unclear if current details account for administrative costs.

Old Business

Treasurer – Three (3) candidates for the Temporary Treasurer position were held during a Selectmen's meeting on the morning of November 2, 2011. The Board has appointed

Susan Malley as the Temporary Treasurer pending the outcome of the next election. Susan is completing Christopher Robert's two (2) year term who was elected last May to complete Joy Grover's three (3) year term.
BOS Meeting, Nov 2, 2011 (cont.)

Snow Plow Bid – BES snow plow bids were submitted at 3pm Nov 2, 2011. Bids were opened by Hugh Campbell and witnessed by Jill Watrous. The results are as follows:

- a. Byrne Towing, Greenfield \$89 per hour
- b. Bob Cook, Bernardston \$89.95 per hour
- c. GBR Landscaping, Millers Falls \$84 per hour
- d. Doug's Landscaping, Greenfield \$90 per hour

Virginia made a motion to award the bid to GBR Landscaping at \$84 per hour, second by Bob. Motion carried.

COBRA Paul Grover – There was discussion regarding paying Paul Grover's health insurance COBRA payment for December. Bob stated he would find out if it is still needed. Motion by Virginia to approve payment of Paul Grover's COBRA for December 2011 contingent upon a determination of need, second by Bob. Motion carried.

BES Heating System – Bob presented a proposal from Lundgren & Sharples Consulting Engineers, Springfield, MA for design and oversight of replacing the boiler system at BES. The estimated cost of services is \$8,000. Stan said he did not understand why engineering was required on replacement of a heating system. Bob plans on giving the proposal to Brian Hervieux and George Milton to get their input.

October Snow Event – Bob brought up the need for back-up power in light of the weekend's snowfall that caused major power outages across the region. He speculated on the cost of generators for BES when used as a shelter (kitchen, gym and cafeteria), Fire and Police Stations. He said an estimate from Tognarelli could be up to \$80,000 for BES. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Town Fire, Police and Highway Departments for their response during the storm and the cleanup in subsequent days.

Administrative Assistant Report

Communications RFP – Hugh Campbell asked for the Board's permission to release the RFP for communications. Deadline for receipt of RFP's is December 22, 2011. Approved.

MassWorks Application – no word yet from the state as the success of the Town's application to fund reconstruction of School Rd and improvements to the intersection of Bernardston Rd, West Mountain Rd, and South St.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Bob made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 7.15pm. Stan seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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