



Town of Bernardston **Board of Selectmen**

MEETING MINUTES: December 28, 2011

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

Others Present:
Linda Raymond, Finance Committee
Paul Luther, School Committee

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00pm.

Warrants

The payroll warrant is approved for \$28,941.22. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

The vendor warrant is approved for \$488,373.04. Motion by Virginia, second by Stan. Motion carried.

Minutes

- Regular Meeting November 30, 2011. Motion by Virginia. Second by Stan. Motion carried.

Calendar & Announcements

Bob read aloud the following:

- PVRSD – Negotiations Subcommittee, Thursday, Dec 29th, 7pm at Masters Conference Room
- PVRSD – The Green Repair Committee, Tuesday, Jan 3rd, 12 noon, Master Conference Room
- Finance Committee, Monday, Jan 9th, 7pm at Town Hall
- Recreation Commission, Thursday, Jan 12th, 6.30pm at Town Hall

In addition, the following was announced:

Toast to the New Year 3.30pm – 5pm at the Council On Aging, pot luck dinner to celebrate the first day of the 250th anniversary year 2012.

Appointments

6.05pm Paul Luther, Bernardston School Committee and Building & Grounds Committee representative.

Paul began by announcing budget subcommittee meeting scheduled for 7pm on Jan 5, Jan 12 and Jan 23 at the PVRSD. Paul stated this is the public's opportunity to examine budget line items, ask questions about alternative methods of operation and become familiar with expenses. The school budget is being prepared before any revenue is forecasted. The school committee is expected to vote on a level services budget based on known and unknown variables and uncertainties. An additional meeting will take place on Feb 9 working with a ceiling of costs not a floor to determine the maximum amount of money to

be spent. On March 22, the assessments will be recommended for each town. Bob said a 5% increase in the school budget translates to a 10% increase in the Town's assessment. The lease between the Town and school for BES remains a problem. The Building & Grounds Committee's position is the lease needs to be established at 20-years for the purpose of

BOS Meeting, December 28, 2011 (cont.)

state grant funding eligibility. The BGC will meet Jan 19 at 6.30pm to discuss the lease issue. The committee has no issue with the Town using BES outside of designated hours for school use as it is stated in the lease.

New Business

Front Door Keys

Bob asked about how many keys to the front door were issued. Turnover of personnel and committee members has made it difficult to know how many keys have been issued and to whom. An inventory list on file cannot be located. The Board agreed to conduct an inventory of front door keys and keys to Town Hall offices.

Mass DOT – Burke Flat Rd Bridge

The Highway Dept had received a letter from MassDOT regarding the condition of the Burke Flat Rd bridge across the Falls River. Funding for repairs to bridges under local jurisdiction falls to the Town. Bob suggested Gary Wetherby Highway Supt., review the recommendation and report back to the Board if major funding is required and also determine how many bridges are locally owned.

Meeting with Northfield Board of Selectmen

Bob said he had been invited to the Northfield Board of Selectmen meeting, Tuesday Jan 3rd at 8pm to discuss the PVRSD budget. This was a result of Bob's letter to district member towns and finance committees.

Donation Fund – Board of Selectmen

Bob said he had been approached by a resident Alfred Deane offering a \$100 donation to the Board. The Board agreed to establish a donation fund for the BOS. Virginia asked a thank you letter be sent to Mr. Deane.

FRCOG Planning Board Representative

Stan Garland agreed to continue as the FRCOG Planning Board representative from the Town of Bernardston.

Deficit Spending

Bob motioned to request the state Dept of Revenue to allow deficit spending pursuant to MGL Ch 44, Sec 31D for emergency spending due to natural disasters. Virginia second. Motion carried.

Old Business

Personnel Policy Amendments

The Board approved the changes to be forwarded to Town Counsel.

Cushman Park

Bob publically thanked all those involved in the replacement of the clogged culvert in Cushman Park and the cleaning out for the drainage area to alleviate flooding. He said the Board will be seeking a Notice of Intent to clean out the drainage area of built up silt and debris for a 6-year period. In addition, a letter from John Lapore was received stating he was still interested in a comprehensive wetland management plan of Cushman Park including the installation of a retention pond to trap sediment before it went into the brook. *BOS Meeting, December 28, 2011 (cont.)*

Stratton Manor

The Board received notice from state Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development that an additional \$148,500 had been awarded from FY2008 to the Stratton Manor project. The total amount awarded is \$458,500 for various repairs to the complex.

Special Town Meeting

An article from the Council on Aging is submitted for approval to the Special Town Meeting warrant scheduled for January 31, 2012. The amount of \$2,821 is being sought to continue the funding of a granted position for the COA project director. Motion by Stan, second by Virginia. Motion carried.

Administrative Assistant Report

Hugh Campbell reported the following:

- Communications RFP: Only 1 vendor, Crocker Communications, responded to the Town’s RFP for phone, internet and cell phone services. A meeting with Crocker is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan 3 at 2pm to discuss the proposal.
- Board of Selectmen Draft Budget: A draft FY13 budget was distributed to the Board for review.
- Filing: Much needed filing would be completed before the end of the calendar year.

Adjourn With no further business to be discussed, Stan made a motion to declare the meeting adjourned at 7.29pm. Virginia seconded. Motion carried.

Attest: Hugh Campbell, Administrative Assistant

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