

***BAKER HILL ROAD DISTRICT***  
***PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE***  
***WILLIAM PRENDERGAST, CHAIR***

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20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, MA  
December 8, 2021– 12:00 P.M

**Attending:** William Prendergast (Chairman), Hank Sayers, Linda Pruyne, Mark Siegars, Lorna Gayle, Kristen Tool (Website)

Also attending: Police Chief Rob Derksen

**Absent:** John Goerlach

**Meeting called to order:** 12:06 PM

**Public Comment:** None forthcoming

**Minutes:**

Minutes of November 10, 2021. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Prendergast.

**Road Maintenance**

Mr. Prendergast read an email from Mr. Decelles (Highway Department) stating work that was completed between November 11th and December 8th. The road was monitored numerous times. Winter road conditions were treated on 11/26, 11/27 and 12/1. Large branches were removed from the breakdown lane.

Mr. Siegars reported that Mr. Decelles has provided paperwork from Bartlett with regard to the cost of replacing the damaged guardrail (\$3400.00) and the contact info for the insurance company of the car that hit it. The driver was not covered at the time of the accident. Mr. Siegars doubts that the monies can be secured without going to small claims court.

**Discussion Regarding the Relationship of BHRD and the Lanesborough Police Department:**

Mr. Prendergast reviewed the agreement from a historical perspective with regard to funding officers, and 50% of the police cruisers by the Baker Hill Road District for Chief Derksen.

Ms. Pruyne clarified what service the District expected from the police with regard to patrolling the connector road and the depth of the Road District's commitment to the Police. From 2005 to the present the Road District has paid 3.7 million dollars for police salaries and \$185,000 for police cruisers, and another 40,000 for public safety (new fire truck).

Mr. Siegars explained how the Road District came to be responsible for the monies designated for the police service after Pyramid left the area. It resulted in an inter municipal agreement with the Police Department. Mr. Siegars expressed the desire to reestablish a working relationship with the Police and the new Police Chief. He also touched on the work being done to revitalize the Mall property. The Committee invited the Chief to future meetings in order to stay in touch.

The Chief expressed his gratitude for the support provided. He promised to attend when he is able. He requested being added to the email list.

Ms. Pruyne explained that the police need to provide a budget specifically for the monies from the Road District. That budget is due in March. She suggested he work with the new Town Accountant to prepare the budget.

### **Website Update**

Kristen Tool reviewed the traffic and pages most visited. She requested additional materials she needs to post on the site, which will be provided. She also stated that she created a new drop down to streamline the design of the site a bit more and that a letter to the current Mall owner was added as requested at the last meeting.

### **Board Member Items**

The Committee discussed speaking to new Town Administrator and Town Accountant about how the funds Baker Hill provides to Town are listed in the Annual Report. And, also having a Warrant at the Town Meeting indicating the funds the Town receives for the Police Department, as is done with the Highway Department.

### **Tax Bills**

Jodie Hollingsworth has provide Ms. Pruyne the interest on the tax bills and she is updating that. Linda has the tax rate and she will submit that to Matt Andre before the tax bills go out. Jodie is concerned that the tax bills will not be ready in time to be mailed before January 1st. We have to follow this closely. Also, Mr. Sayers needs to apply for an electronic signature from the Assessor's office.

The problems we are having originate at the Town Hall and they will need to be addressed by the new administrator.

Mr. Siegars asked the Committee if they wanted him to write to the Town expressing their concern. A motion was moved to send a letter to the Town about the recap and revaluations an the possible missing of the deadline for sending the tax bills out by January 1st. Mr. Prendergast seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **Mall Update**

The Mall owner's lawyer has filed to restrict the Police from entering the Mall property by himself. although some reports are that the building is becoming a safety hazard due to lack or heating.

**Meeting adjourned** 1:17 pm. Motion to adjourn by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Prendergast. All in favor.

**Future Meeting: January 12, 2022** at 12 PM. Water District Office, Bridge Street.