

BAKER HILL ROAD DISTRICT
PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE
WILLIAM PRENDERGAST, CHAIR

20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, MA
January 11, 2023– 12:00 P.M

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

Also attending: Charles Durfee (DPW),

Absent: John Goerlach

Meeting called to order: 12:03 PM

Public Comment: None forthcoming

Minutes

Minutes of FY23 Tax Classification. Motion to approve moved by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Prendergast
Minutes of December 14, 2022. A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Prendergast. All in favor..

Road Maintenance

The Connector Road was plowed, salted, and sanded several times. The metal piece on the bridge joint lifted during plowing was temporarily repaired.

The new hotbox arrived December 21st. It will not be used until it is registered. The mower head was delivered December 28th. The final cost was \$18,732.44. The money came from the residual monies in this year's budget.

Mr. Durfee also reported that the budget for next year's road maintenance is \$139,800. This is an increase of \$20,000 to cover the increasing cost of goods. The Committee discussed an addendum to the contract to cover the increase being requested. The Committee would also like the to rectify the different ways monies left over at year end are handled by the police and the DPW. They would prefer any leftover be returned. Mr. Siegars will draw up something that will address how excess monies are managed by the Town going forward.

Mr. Sayers asked that the graffiti on Partridge Road be addressed. Mr. Durfee suggested painting over it. Mr. Siegars asked Mr. Durfee to research any type of paint that can just be cleaned after being drawn on, without having to repaint.

Mr. Siegars confirmed that a bid document will be put out by Jeff Collingwood for the road resurfacing so that BHRD can get an idea of the cost it is looking at. Mr. Siegars will look at it before it is advertised.

Mr. Durfee requested that the resurfacing contract provides that the town will get the millings. Mr. Siegars agreed to do that.

Board Member Items

Ms. Pruyne requested that Mr. Sayers contact Gateway and set up a login so the tax rate can be filed. The tax recap requires two committee members to log into Gateway and sign the submission that goes into the Department of Revenue.

Legal Issues

Mr. Siegars reported that the Appellate Tax Board matter for Target has been settled with the Town. The Road District was not included in the action.

Mr. Siegars received an email from the State Ethics Commission confirming the BHRD account that will put the State in charge of all documents and notices related to Conflict of Interest.

The meeting held with Senator Paul Mark was attended by Mr. Goerlach, Mr. Prendergast and Mr. Siegars. Mr. Siegars asked Senator Mark to try to get more funding for the One Step Program for rural areas, as now many towns are fighting for the very limited monies. Senator Mark agreed. The meeting that followed was a general discussion of the economic development of the Town.

Mr. Siegars clarified the confusion about the Town accepting the gift of \$150,000 from the Road district. He explained that there is a state law that says the Selectmen can accept a gift and it doesn't have to go to a Town Meeting. A copy of the law has been sent to the Selectmen.

Kristen Tool (Chairperson of the Police Station Committee) reported that they had used BHRD monies to pay the deposit required by the current owner of the property. Mr. Siegars asked that she make sure any checks say specifically 'the gift for the police station'. Ms. Pruyne suggested giving the town the rest of the monies now so they have it in hand when the purchase and sales agreement is signed. Mr. Siegars suggested waiting until the purchase and sales agreement is signed or the Town accepts the money and approves the property at Town Meeting.

Executive Session

Mr. Sayers moved a motion to enter Executive Session at 12:54.

Mr. Sayers moved to return to the general meeting. Mr. Prendergast seconded. All in favor. The Committee adjourned from Executive Session at 1:18 pm.

Motion to Adjourn the meeting moved by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Prendergast. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:19 PM

Future Meeting: February 8, 2023 at 12 PM. Water District Office, Bridge Street.