

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

20 Bridge Street, Lanesborough, MA
April 10th, 2024– 12:00 P.M

Attendees: William Prendergast (Chairman), Hank Sayers, Linda Pruyn (Treasurer), Kristen Tool (Web Manager), Mark Siegars (Attorney), Lorna Gayle (Secretary)

Also attending: Gina Dario (Town Administrator), Charles Durfee (DPW, Director)

Absent: John Goerlach

Meeting Called to Order: 12:02. pm

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of February 12, 2024. Motion to approve the minutes moved by Mr. Sayers and seconded by Mr. Prendergast.

(Mark, I did not get the Minutes portion of the meeting on Otter. I believe there were other minutes approved but I don't remember. March I would guess.)

Road Maintenance

Mr. Durfee reported 50 bags of trash were by collected the local inmates. Additionally the road was monitored frequently. LED Street lights are being installed.

Mr. Siegars would like to get an agreement with Town and State regarding which signs are necessary on the road. Signs are being stolen and Mr. Siegars does not feel all have to be replaced. The icy road signs are critical but others less so.

Website Update

Ms. Tool reported that the BHRD website was very quiet, only 21 visits in March. Also, everything on the website is up to date. Per the Mural Project the kids finished mural drawings this month and the mural painter is hoping to start in May. Mr. Durfee suggested a light grey background to paint on. Ms. Tool would like to get a light put up and there is a bit of grant money left that might cover the light.

Ms. Tool reported that drawings that the kids are doing are amazing and represent different places from all around town. The whole school is involved.

Legal Issues

Mr. Siegars received an email from JMJ expressing concern about Mr. Prendergast vis a vis his representation on the Committee. Mr. Siegars responded by email to assure them Mr. Prendergast will be fulfilling his role as Chairman.

Mr. Siegars also informed the Committee he has been appointed as the Town's Representative for the Municipal Planning Office (MPO). He will also be working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Town. He is optimistic there will be grant opportunities in the legislature after this election for both the Town and the Baker Hill Road District.

Board Member Items

BHRD and the Town Budget.

Ms. Dario informed the Committee that the Town is changing the way the Baker Hill revenue is accounted for in the budget. The DPW will now have two line items: DPW and DPW Baker Hill just as the Police Department has. Additionally any under spent funds would go to free cash rather than be refunded to Baker Hill. This provided a consistency in Accounting required by the State.

Mr. Prendergast asked that regardless of how the funds BHRD gives the Town are reported, that the BHRD monies are explained as revenue to the Town.

Ms. Dario said that there will be an Informational Meeting in front of the Town Hall is scheduled for May 28th, 2024 and she will explain if asked.

Ms. Pruyne reviewed the budget for FY25. Request to contact BMG to get property transferred. Mr. Siegars will follow up.

FY 25 Tax Rate

The tax rate for FY25 will be going down. The Committee discussed the monies needed for the Police cruiser.

Mr. Siegars expressed concern that BMG has not filled in the ring road and first responders can't get to Target.

Mall Demolition

Ms. Dario reported that BMG is applying for a permit to demolish the Mall. Mr. Siegars will look into their tax standing related to being awarded a permit to demolish.

BHRD Audit FY24, FY25 Budget

Ms. Pruyne reported that Tom Scanlon has not gotten back to her about completing last years' audit. She requested that the proposed budget be reviewed by the members for approval at the next meeting. She noted that FY25 increases the fee being paid to the Town Collector on behalf of BHRD.

Lanesborough Day

Ms. Dario announced that there will be a Lanesborough Day celebration on August 3rd. MS. Dario will attend next month's meeting to discuss funding for Community Engagement by BHRD through supporting the event.

Future Meeting: May 8, 2024 at the Water District Office, 20 Bridge Street at 12 PM.

Motion to adjourn moved by Mr. Sayers, seconded by Mr. Goerlach.

Meeting adjourned 12: