



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen Minutes
December 5, 2016

Attendance: Adam Dolby; Andy Montanaro; William Levakis

The Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes

MOTION:

To approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting on November 21, 2016

by A. Montanaro

2nd: B. Levakis

Vote: All in favor

Old Business

- **Reclassification Hearing, Board of Assessors –** This meeting is continued from November 21, 2016. The Assessors presented additional information in response to the request from the Board at the previous meeting. Information gathered from surrounding towns indicated that most towns do not split their tax rate. Blandford's single rate could potentially be \$16.95, up from \$16.41. This would increase the average tax bill about \$140, or a 4.1% increase. The Selectmen discussed what would drive the change to a split rate, which included the potential to draw more people to reside in town and potentially increasing tax revenue from a commercial rate. The Selectmen voted to stay with a single tax rate.

MOTION:

The Blandford Board of Selectmen voted in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2017 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0000, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0000 pending certification of the Town's annual tax recap by the Department of Revenue by A. Dolby

2nd: A. Montanaro

Vote: All in favor

- **Kinsley Power System Quote for generators –** Quotes totaling \$2,807 for maintenance of three generators were approved. The generators are for back-up fire suppression at the Town Hall, the Fire Department and another at the salt shed for emergency management.

New Business

- Blandford Store Retail License Renewal

MOTION:

To renew the retail license for the Blandford Country Store by A. Dolby

2nd: B. Levakis

Vote: All in favor

- Union Contract - tabled
- Emergency Services Grant Program – The Berkshire Trail Riders invited the town’s emergency service entities, such as fire, ambulance, rescue and police, to apply for a grant that can be used for equipment, training, supplies or other purposes. The preference would be for purposes related to providing emergency services to motorcyclists, but other purposes are not excluded. A copy of the grant invitation was emailed to the fire and police chiefs.
- DEP Small Town Environmental Partnership – The DEP sent an invitation to participate in an audit. The Town will pass at this point in time.
- 24 Shepard Road – The resident submitted photos of damage to grassy areas along the road from plowing activities. The photos will be forwarded to the Highway Department for resolution.
- Town Financials Closing – The books are close to being closed. The Treasurer will notify the Town Administrator when the remaining issues are resolved.
- Highway Secretary Position – The position currently allows for 10 hours per week. The position will be reviewed to determine if the number of hours needs to be increased to accommodate the amount of work required.

Citizen’s Forum

A resident, George Reichert, discussed issues that he had contacted the town to resolve, dumpster in post office parking lot is an eyesore and should be moved; adding a drive-up mail box, indicating he was told the Postmaster needs to respond to our inquiry. The resident indicated it has been two months and the issues are not resolved.

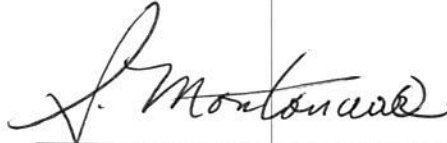
G. Reichert also brought photos of the veteran’s flags placed in the North Blandford cemetery. He requested the flags be removed as they are in bad condition. In the past, the American Legion has taken the lead in placing and removing these flags. As indicated on the American Legion website, all flags must be removed by the Legion right after Memorial Day. The Town will look into someone taking care of this.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m. to Executive Session.

Submitted by: Sue Streeter, Selectmen Secretary



Adam Dolby – Chair



Andrew Montanaro - Clerk



William Levakis – Member