



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen Minutes
January 23, 2017

1. OPEN SESSION - 7:02 pm
Present were Andy Montanaro, and William Levakis.
2. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - a. Minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting
MOTION: B. Levakis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting from January 4, 2017
A. Montanaro seconded the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.
3. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE
 - a. Council on Aging (COA) Grant Contract was presented for signature. This is an annual grant from the Office of Elder Affairs providing financial support for COA activities.
 - b. Budget Presentations:
COA (Margit Mikuski): The budget for the year was \$2,496, and they are requesting \$2,750 for FY18. The increase would be to cover the cost of the clerical assistant. The state has allocated them \$500; they are looking for a match from the town. The State Formula Grant covers the cost of the flu clinic, subsidizes exercise classes, newsletter preparation and incidentals. The COA has started working jointly with other town departments to add events that will draw in more seniors and their families. Some past events included maple sapling plantings for the kids; pumpkin seeds for kids to grow; town hall vegetable garden and the Civil War Reenactment Dance, which they would like to do again in conjunction with the Veteran's Day Appreciation Dinner. New projects for the coming year include purchasing new bushes for Memorial Park, military flags for the town hall, preparing 50 emergency kits for seniors (warming blanket, solar emergency radio, etc.) and hopefully a bocce court and horseshoe ring. COA is looking to work more closely with the police department to obtain a drug disposal unit and a sharps disposal unit. They will apply for a grant for funding for part of the cost for these events.

Conservation Commission (Bryan Young): They are requesting \$7233.20 for FY18. Their biggest expense is gas and mileage. There are 20 active logging operations to monitor and 3 parcels for hunting. Other expenses include dues are paid to the Mass. Association of Conservation Commissions, training, a chainsaw for trail maintenance (Knittel Conservation Area and Shepard Farm).

Fire Department (Chief Ed Harvey): The department is looking to increase the Chief's hours. Due to efficiency measures, the increase will be partly offset. The Chief also proposed a pay-per-call measure. This would pay a stipend of \$10 to each firefighter who responds to a call. The average is 4 responders. Expenses include heating, training, apparatus, maintenance and repairs. The critical need is the fire station, which is inadequate for the needs of the department.

Highway (Brad Curry): A 2.5% pay increase was requested for the department staff. An extra laborer position is being requested, and overtime will be level funded. Big expense items include air compressor upgrade, a new fuel pump reader, staff clothing, backhoe and loader, other winter equipment repair and a replacement for the sander. A leasing option is being researched. Sand and salt is increasing in price by about \$5,000. New lights at the highway garage are needed to replace ones that are old and costly to run. Green Community funds may be a possibility to cover some of the cost and potentially collaborating with Eversource.

Zoning Board – Level funding was requested in the amount of \$750.

4. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Hilltown Collaborative Update – The Collaborative is seeking to apply for an Efficiency and Regionalization Grant to secure a dedicated Economic Development Coordinator. Joshua Garcia of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) and Andy Myers of Hilltown Collaborative will be invited to attend a meeting of the BOS for information and discussion..
- b. Police and Fire Insurance Renewal – The insurance needs to be renewed in 6 months. In the meantime, the Town Administrator and Treasurer will research pricing and coverage options.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

- a. Watson Park Water Bill – Tabled until a future meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Tabled

7. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. None

8. ADJOURN MEETING – 9:34 p.m.

MOTION: A. Montanaro moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Submitted by: Sue Streeter, Selectmen Secretary

Adam Dolby – Chair


William Levakis – Member


Andrew Montanaro - Clerk