



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen Minutes
September 18, 2017

Joint meeting with Water Department and Conservation Commission

1. **OPEN SESSION** - 6:10 a.m.

Present were William Levakis, Cara Letendre; Adam Dolby was remotely participating

2. **EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING** - none

3. **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE**

- a. Amy E. Kwesell, Esq.: KP Law gave an extensive presentation of The Wetlands Protection Act. Conservation Commissioners (Concom) were present and had the opportunity to ask questions. There was a large hand out and slide presentation on the general laws, procedures, enforcement, record keeping as well as conflict of interest laws.

At 7:00 Conservation Commissioners left the meeting to open their meeting to discuss Eversource Transmission ROW Reliability Program (TRRP)

- b. Special Town Employee: Amy E. Kwesell Esq.; KP Law
Most towns designate special town employee for those serving multiple positions and roles in the town. The position, not the employee are deemed a special position. If an employee has two elected positions, the employee may hold both positions, but would have to choose for which position (s)he will receive compensation. By default, the Selectboard are designated special town employee.

- c. Water break: Russell Stage Road

W. Levakis stated that a call came in for a water break for Russell Stage Road and he acted upon the call immediately. Mark Boosman was called within ten minutes and was finished within three hours.

- d. Hilltown Collaborative Meeting update

C. Letendre and W. Levakis attending the meeting and were provided information on shared financial, IT and assessors training.

- e. Frequency of Selectboard meetings: the Selectboard decided to continue meeting every two weeks, until further notice.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Water Commissioners Employee –

Would like to have a full time salary paid employee at the water plant. Update job description and post it out for hire. They would need to be fully licensed. Water would like to know the proper way to move forward. Board needs clarification from legal. A.Dolby will reach out to Mark and send TA the response. A.Dolby wants to get back to Water by Monday.

- b. Fire Chief reappointment and term

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappointment Ed Harvey for Fire Chief for a one year term ending June 30, 2018

W. Levakis 2nd

Motion passes: A.Dolby Abstained

- c. Highway Superintendent reappointment, term and pay

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappointment Brad Curry for Highway Superintendent for a one-year term ending June 30, 2018

W. Levakis offered an amendment that B Curry's reappointment for 3 years

W. Levakis 2nd

Discussion: . A.Dolby feels that from a management perspective (nothing to do with B. Curry) a one year appointment gives opportunity for a pause and appraisal.

Motion Failed.

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappointment B Curry for Highway Superintendent for a one-year term ending June 30, 2018

A.Dolby 2nd

Motion passes. W. Levakis-voted against

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to increase B. Curry's pay rate by \$4.03 an hour effective immediately.

A.Dolby 2nd

Motion failed

W. Levakis made a friendly amendment to increase Brad Curry's pay affective date to July 1st

A.Dolby 2nd

Discussion: W. Levakis would like to amend the pay rate to take effect July 1st. It took two months to get to appointment and pay rate. However, B. Curry did not finish assessment until July 21st. TA takes responsibility for not completing the evaluations on August.

Motion failed

MOTION: C. Letendre make an motion to increase B Curry's pay rate \$4.03 retro to August 1, 2018

W. Levakis 2nd

Discussion: A.Dolby is still having challenges with giving a pay increase when performance is not stellar. His performance is adequate would like to have a strategic plan and other items addressed prior to a pay increase.

Motion failed

MOTION: C. Letendre would like to make an amendment to increase B Curry's pay rate \$2.00 retro to August 1, 2018

All in favor

Motion failed

MOTION: W. Levakis to increase B Curry's pay rate to \$2.00 an hour to take effect immediately.

A. Dolby 2nd

Discussion: Union rates for highway men are 20.50.

Motion passed.

d. Tax Collector reappointment –

MOTION: C. Letendre made a motion to reappointment June Masse for Tax Collector for a three year term ending June 30, 2020

Table the motion

e. Akuity wireless quote

MOTION: A.Dolby made a motion to accept the quote from Akuity to extend our wireless access

C.Letendre 2nd

Motion passes

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS

a. Wired West – waiting on the paperwork to be approved

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Gateway Regional School Meeting Update

Nothing was cut they are asking for the same as last year.

b. Fire Department Brush Truck

It is fixed. Had to be taken away on flat bed.

ADJOURNED: 10:37 p.m.

MOTION: C. Letendre moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adapted unanimously.

Submitted by: Jennifer Girard,

Adam Dolby – Chair

Cara Letendre - Clerk

William Levakis – Member