



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
January 4, 2016

Attendance: Adam Dolby, Andrew Montanaro, William Levakis and Cara Letendre - Secretary

Open Meeting:

7:01 p.m. Mr. Dolby called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

New Business:

1. Town Clerk Regarding Town Calendar:
 - a. Submitted calendar to Selectboard for review. Goal is to hold the mini town meeting 2 weeks prior to the annual town meeting. The Finance Committee stated that they will try but often don't have all the necessary information that much in advance.
 - b. During a recent absence Special Town Meeting Minute files were reviewed in the Town Clerk's office, some files in the office are privileged and the Town Clerk asked for the Board's assurance that this wouldn't happen again. Board agreed.
2. DPW: Tabled
3. Town Administrator Job Description and Advertisement:
 - a. Mr. Montanaro- working with Laurie Parent. Have identified several spots to post the advertisement. Asked the Board to allocate a budget of \$800-\$1000 for advertising to be taken out of the unused Town Administrator salary line item.
 - i. Mr. Levakis would like to hire a consultant to do the posting and search. He does not want to end up with a shared Town Administrator.
 - ii. Mr. Montanaro- feels confident that we can structure the questions and committee properly to screen the applicants well.
 - iii. Mr. Levakis will provide the Board with some prices for a consultant.
 - iv. Finance Committee- we don't have the funding for a consultant. If the interviews are done well we will be fine. The salary for the position is not high enough to condone using a consultant. We are looking to hire someone local, not have someone relocate.
 - v. Mr. Dolby- let's advertise first and if we don't get any good responses we can go the consultant route.
 - vi. The Board agreed to grant Mr. Montanaro permission to place an ad in several locations and to send a letter to surrounding towns.

- b. Benefit Package- law requires that we offer health insurance. Discussion regarding vacation time and holidays - table for now.
- 4. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes of December 21, 2015 with amendments, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote. Mr. Levakis abstained as he was absent from the meeting.
- 5. Finance Committee: presented the Board with a Memorandum of Understanding from GTAC to demonstrate the Town's sincere effort in cooperating. Provides opportunity for grant money. The document will be sent to the Governor's office as a product of the GTAC task force. Board reviewed and signed.
- 6. Mr. Cousineau: provided the Board with information regarding a 50/50 loan grant from the USDA, possible help with funding for the Highway Garage project which is almost complete. Mr. Dolby will follow-up.
- 7. North Street Bridge: the contractor working with DOT has found concerns with the supports that they will need to repair prior to repairing the pipe.
- 8. Bryan Young Regarding Hunting Fines: currently our fines for hunting without a license are very low, \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for the second offense within a 24 month period. Mr. Dolby motion to amend the hunting bylaw #9 to increase the fine to \$150 for the first offense and \$300 for the second offense within a 24 month period, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.
NOTE: if someone is hunting on private property, they can't be arrested if the land is not posted.

Old Business:

- 1. Water Commissioners Regarding Special Town Employee: follow-up on appointing Mark Boomsma as a Special Town Employee to continue working as a Highway Department Employee and as a contractor for the Water Department.
 - a. Mr. Curry-
 - i. Years ago the Selectboard agreed to have the Highway Employees work for the Water Department as Special Town Employees. The vote was not recorded with the Town Clerk.
 - ii. Mr. Boomsma won the bid, which was posted fairly, as a contractor to rent equipment and operate for the Water Department. The bid will run out at the end of the current fiscal year.
 - iii. Mr. Boomsma did file an ethics declaration with the Town Clerk.
 - b. Selectboard- concerned with details of scheduling repairs after highway department hours.
 - i. Mr. Levakis- in case of an emergency we can use outside sources. We are able to repair breaks rather quickly now.
 - ii. Mr. Curry- we can also use part-time highway department employees who hold licenses to work on breaks.
 - c. Mr. Dolby-unless there is an extraordinary cost savings, having a former Water Commissioner and current Town employee selling services back to the Town doesn't look good. Presents too many problems. As it stands now, my vote would be no. If you would like to keep the contract, please submit the bids for me to review.

9:36 Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations not to reconvene, Mr. Montanaro second, Cara called a roll call vote, Mr. Levakis - yes, Mr. Montanaro - yes, Mr. Dolby - yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:
Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member