



TOWN OF BLANDFORD  
Board of Selectmen, Minutes  
January 11, 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. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of January 4, 2016 as presented, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
2. MIIA Insurance Rate Increase:
  - a. Increase of appraisal of several town buildings creating an increase of \$13,916 in annual premiums.
    - i. Appears that the switch of three buildings to cash value is cause for the majority of the increase.
  - b. Board asked Cara to have a MIIA representative attend next BOS meeting to answer questions and provide alternative options.
3. School Committee Unfunded Mandates:
  - a. School Committee is having their counsel review the letter before sending it to their auditor. There is some concern that it may affect the current lawsuit. Should have an answer by January 22nd.
4. GTAC Task Force: recommended that all towns Selectboards and Finance Committee's as well as a DESE representative meet directly with the School Committee and provide numbers that each town can afford for the budget.
  - a. Hope to schedule for February 11, 2016. Will decide at next GTAC meeting.
  - b. School budget for next year is expected to be about \$300,000 less than this year's budget. They are in the beginning phases of putting it together.
  - c. Consultant: expect about 4-6 months before the consultant recommended by DESE is involved in the budget process.
5. Highway Department:
  - a. Mr. Montanaro sent a letter to Mr. Curry asking for a three week update on progress. An update was due on December 31 and it is now late, out of compliance.
    - i. No significant progress with goals and objectives routine.
    - ii. Board asked Cara to send Mr. Curry a letter to meet in executive session and to have Mr. Curry provide a 3 week progress plan.
6. Minimum Wage:

- a. As a municipality we don't have to comply with the new minimum wage laws.
  - b. Note: 6 library employees currently earn less than \$10.00 per/hour.
    - i. Mr. van Werkhoven: will consider in the budget process going forward. Asked Mrs. Kronholm to calculate how much an increase to minimum wage would cost this year.
    - ii. Mr. Montanaro: recuse self as wife works at the library.
7. Books closed: no new information, not closed as of yet.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Highway Garage: the Building Inspector is not ready to sign off on the final inspection yet. He has several concerns.
- 2. Special Town Employees Water Department: Tabled.
- 3. Special Town Employees Town: Tabled
- 4. USDA Grant: Tabled.

7:45 Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations not to reconvene, Mr. Levakis second, Cara called a roll call vote, Mr. Levakis - yes, Mr. Montanaro - yes, Mr. Dolby - yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:  
Cara Letendre

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Adam Dolby - Chair

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Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

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William Levakis - Member