



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
February 16, 2016

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

Open Meeting:

7:00 p.m. Mr. Dolby called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting may be recorded.

New Business:

1. Finance Committee – Eric Mcvey

- a. Gateway Assessment FY17 – at the GTAC meeting last Thursday the Blandford Finance Committee informed the other towns what the town of Blandford will be able to afford. Blandford's assessment may be lower next year.
- b. Unfunded Mandates – The School Committee is holding off on seeking these until the law suit is settled. In the meantime, can Eric McVey start to file for unfunded mandates created by the Worthington withdrawal on behalf of the town? Board agreed. Mr. Mcvey will get a list of unfunded mandates from Stephanie Fisk.
- c. Budgets- have not received final budgets from Highway and Town Clerk.
 - i. Highway has sent the preliminary budget; Mr. Montanaro asked for some changes, final draft will be sent tomorrow.
- d. Police Cars- new vehicle funded from capitol account. Cars are parked at officers' homes at the moment. Board will revisit.
- e. Library Pay rate Increase – The trustees voted to increase all library employees' rates by \$1.00 to bring the lowest paid employee up to minimum wage. The trustees had the Treasurer pay these new rates last pay period retroactively back to January 1st.
 - i. Mr. Montanaro - the BOS sets the pay rate, we need to review this and set a precedent. Asked the Treasurer to set the rates back to what they were prior to the change and hold off on the raise until it is voted on by the Selectboard.
 - ii. Mr. Dolby asked Cara to have the Trustee's present at the next Selectboard meeting to discuss.
 - iii. Discussion about number of library employees. Finance suggesting hiring one full-time librarian for less money instead of having two present for every shift.
- f. Town Mowing – discussed consolidating all mowing accounts to one contract. Board agreed. Discussed having the Cemetery Commissioner manage it. Finance will look into.

2. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve meeting minutes of February 1, 2016 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.

Old Business:

1. Highway Garage Project Signoff- The Building Inspector drilled to check for ladders in the mortar and found none. Against building code. Mr. Peterson is thinking about the best course of action for the town to take and will get back to the board next week.
 - a. No word yet from Clayton Davenport or EDA with when they plan to fix errors and complete the job.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro motion to require performance bonds for all contracts over \$20,000 in the future, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
2. USDA Grant – no information yet.
3. Fairgrounds – Board sent a letter to have the Union Agricultural Society schedule an inspection with our new Building Inspector. Bruce Cooley requested that it be postponed until April when the picnic tables are out of the barn. Also plan to discuss land for new Fire Department
NOTE: Discussion regarding possible land for Fire Department next to cemetery on North Street.
4. Special Town Employees: table until Mr. Levakis is present
5. Status on BRD reimbursement from FEMA: Cara follow-up with Treasurer.
6. Generator: Mr. Montanaro gave Cara information on 2 companies. We already have a contract with Kinsley.
7. Generators at Salt Shed: discussion can we use these at the Town Hall to make it an emergency shelter. Will have to look into pricing to set-up wiring and switch. PVPC Hazard Plan grant money possibly available.
8. Hazard Mitigation Plan:
 - a. Mr. Dolby working on \$18,000 match grant through hours as opposed to reimbursement.
 - b. We don't currently have an Emergency Management Director appointed.
 - c. Consequence of not having a Hazard Mitigation Plan in place is if we were to have a disaster when FEMA reimburses us to fix the damage we have to replace it to the prior state as opposed to repairing it in a manner to eliminate the problem.
 - d. Will require significant work to look at the culverts and bridges and identify areas for service disconnect.

8:40 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session not to reconvene to discuss ongoing union negotiations, Mr. Montanaro second, Cara called roll call vote, Mr. Dolby - yes, Mr. Montanaro - yes unanimous vote.

Submitted by:
Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk