

TOWN OF BLANDFORD Board of Selectmen, Minutes March 7, 2016

<u>Attendance:</u> Adam Dolby, Bill Levakis, 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. Hazard Mitigation Planning: Jaime did a presentation explaining the process for developing a plan and reasons for doing so. A survey was distributed and filled out. The next meeting is planned for April 4, 2016.
- 2. Historical Commission Mick Brennan
  - **a.** Shepard Farm: property is subject to strict conservation easements.
    - i. In order to lease the property we have to get the easements waived for part of the property. To do so is an act of legislature. In return, the Town will have to add an equal parcel of land to our Open Space.
      - **1.** Can we allow people to occupy the property without a lease? To allow someone to farm and fix-up the estate?
        - **a.** Mr. Brennan- have asked in the past and the answer was no.
    - **ii.** The Historical Commission is recommending that Town Counsel have a real estate expert look into it to help develop an argument in our favor to bring to our Senators. The Town will note that it was not the intent of the Commonwealth to condemn the buildings. The Board agreed.
      - 1. Discussed possibly funding the costs for legal to draw this up from an upcoming logging project on the property. Will need a vote from Conservation.
      - 2. Finance asked for an estimate for the legal costs by next month.
  - **b.** Watson Park: Submitted a job list with estimates for work to be done in the park. See attached.
    - i. Funding: there is an expendable portion of the Trust Fund.
    - **ii.** There are re-occurring monthly expenses for the Park. Historical Commission would like to use extra funds to complete this job list.
    - **iii.** Mr. Dolby asked Finance to check with Brenda to get exact number in expendable account.

iv. Historical will suggest a spending policy to allow for budgeting.

- **3.** Action Ambulance Stephen Murray
  - **a.** Company had contacted the Board and asked to do a proposal. They have recently expanded to Pittsfield and are interested in reaching out to the surrounding communities.
  - **b.** Presented a list of services provided and cost involved if all 6 hilltowns join. Board asked for prices if less hilltowns were to join.
- **4.** Building Inspector needs a different certification. He is working to resolve the issue. The Selectboard are supportive of him.
- 5. Highway Department Absentee Problem: Mr. Montanaro asking the Superintendent to follow-up.
  - **a.** There was an incident last Wednesday evening. That individual has been given a written warning and has the right to counsel. Executive session to discuss action will be posted for next week.

## **Old Business:**

- 1. Library Pay Rate: Mr. Montanaro- legal indicated that the Library Trustees have the authority to set the rates for employees. What are the arrangements the Trustees plan to make to come up with funding?
  - **a.** Mary Kronholm- we plan to increase all employee's rates by \$1.00 per/hour to cover 1/1/2016 6/31/2016. Funds are available and may tap into State aid. As for next year when the minimum wage increases again, the Trustees have several solutions to present to finance next week. Prior to 2010 hadn't given raises in 3 years.
  - **b.** Mr. Dolby by statute the Trustees have the right to make the decision they did. The issue is, do we want to adopt a bylaw to give the final authority on compensation and hiring to the Selectboard?
    - i. Mrs. Kronholm you would have to hire a consultant to come up with an across the board plan.
    - **ii.** Mr. Montanaro we need to have comparability between the positions, a pay scale.
    - iii. Finance agreed, we do need a policy.
    - iv. Board agreed to speak with Town Counsel about a plan.
- 2. Special Town Employees Tabled

9:40 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, Mr. Levakis - yes unanimous vote.

Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member