



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
April 11, 2016

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

Open Meeting:

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

New Business:

1. Planning Board Green Community Informational Meeting:
 - a. Mrs. McCann provided the attendees with an outline of steps required to become a Green Community. See attached.
 - b. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 13 at the Town Hall.
 - c. The vote will be held at the Annual Town Meeting.
2. Finance Committee Talk Back: the Finance Committee distributed hand-outs outlining the FY 17 budget draft. See attached.
 - a. Discussion regarding the financial situation we are currently in.
 - b. Next step: mini town meeting will be held on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. The purposed of this meeting is for the public to come and have a conversation with the Finance Committee about the proposed budget. Any suggestions should be made then to give the Finance Committee time to make adjustments prior to the Annual Town Meeting.
3. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve the minutes of 3/21/2016 with amendment, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
4. Wired West:
 - a. Peter Langmore presented a resolution to the Selectboard to be sent to the Governor asking that they money be released to complete the last mile project as promised. The Governor has currently put a hold on the project.
 - i. Mr. Dolby: explained that a number of decisions surrounding the operation structure and technical background for the concept that is Wired West are being handled like a “political football”. The challenge is that MBI isn’t located out here and doesn’t understand our situation. The former director has been recently let go. The Governor has paused the program due to MBI firing a shot at Wired West without trying to collaborate and it gives the appearance of chaos. With their organizational capabilities, the Wired West project is viable and needed. This resolution is to

reinforce support from member municipalities and let them know we are ready to proceed.

- ii.** Mr. Dolby read the resolution aloud. See attached
- iii.** Mr. Dolby motion to accept resolution to the Governor regarding Wired West, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

- b.** Discussed adding Wired West question to the ballot.
 - i.** Town voted to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer \$1,760,000 for the Town’s share of associated costs at the Annual Town Meeting last year.
 - ii.** The point of a ballot vote is to give authorization to borrow the money after the money from the state has been spent.
 - iii.** Discussed wording for the ballot question.
 - iv.** Board asked to have Mr. Drawe from Wired West attend next week’s meeting to clarify how the town will pay the bills as the costs come in. We will need to have a build out plan first.
 - 1.** Mr. Montanaro - would like to include in the vote mention that we won’t pay out until we have a build out plan.
 - 2.** Mr. Dolby – the vote does not authorize the spending, therefore this does not need to be attached.
 - 3.** Mr. van Werkhoven – if the vote passes it authorized the Town to take out the bond, it does not require that they do so. The Selectboard exacts after they receive the information they need.

5. Highway Superintendent: Brad Curry

- a.** Mr. Curry has sent out for proposals for drainage for various roads previously discussed. Has received some figures but is waiting on others. He will be putting them out to bid.
- b.** Chapter 90: we are due to receive \$257,900. The paving of Chester Road will cost about \$150,000 and extra will be used for drainage. Mr. Curry stated that he is ready to have everything go out once the funds are released.
- c.** Bridges: waiting on prices, meeting this week with one contractor. Bridges on repair list are on North Blandford, Gore Road and Nye Brook.
 - i.** Mr. Curry requested that one Selectboard member attend an informational meeting with him on April 28th. Mr. Levakis agreed to go.
- d.** Truck Traffic out of quarry: Mr. Curry has had calls complaining of about 7-8 trucks using North Blandford road from the quarry per day. The Town has a by-law that requires they get a bond. “in excess of 10 tons for a 5 day period or more must post a bond for \$2,000 per mile”. Board agreed to have Mr. Curry pursue.
 - i.** We may also post a weight limit on the bridge depending on the upcoming inspection.
- e.** Staffing: Mr. Levakis would like to wait to hire another full-time highway employee until July. We should use part-time employees until then.

- i. Mr. Montanaro – it does save money but it doesn't get the roads fixed.
 - ii. Mr. Curry – would like to have a full time employee ASAP to get started on projects.
 - iii. Mr. Levakis – we are paying the part time workers now to keep up with the work. We are not saving money.
 - iv. Mr. Curry – I would rather have a full time employee as it is easier to have someone to depend on daily. It is not a big savings using part time.
 - v. Board agreed to have Mr. Curry move forward with hiring.
 - f. Gas pump – need better tracking so that the Highway Department is not left with the bill.
 - i. Key card systems are very expensive \$8,000 to \$10,000. Mr. Curry will get prices.
 - 1. Mr. Dolby- it is not that expensive of a problem. Suggestion to guess percentage and divide the price accordingly.
 - g. Pillars & Concrete in Garage – Mr. Montanaro asked that they be sealed. Mr. Curry – the floor is already sealed, will have part time workers do the pillars. Mr. Montanaro asked that it be charged separately to the Building Stabilization account.
 - h. Bobby is currently cleaning and sealing the sanders to be put away.
 - i. Mr. Curry would like to add two line items, vacation and sick time to the budget to calculate accruals. Will ask Lisa to keep complete record.
 - j. Mr. Montanaro – asked for pay scale for the department to take into account licenses and minimum wage.
6. Town Meeting Warrant: table
 7. Rec Member: Mr. Dolby motion to appoint Keri Moraweic to the Recreation Committee for a term of 3 years, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
 8. Legislature Letters: tabled
 9. Discussion of Action Ambulance: tabled. Huntington and Russell are sending out RFP's

Old Business:

10:20 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations and possible employee disciplinary action not to reconvene Mr. Levakis second, Cara called a roll call vote, Mr. Levakis – yes, Mr. Dolby – yes, Mr. Montanaro – yes, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:
Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member

Becoming a Green Community

The town is presently in the process of applying to become a designated Green Community. Some questions you may have are as follows:

1. Why become a Green Community?
 - a. Provides grant funding to a town to implement energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy, and innovative projects.
 - b. The town would be eligible for a minimum of \$125,000 per grant. This is not a matching grant and funding of the grant is not part of the Commonwealth annual budget. We can apply for another grant once one grant has been completed.
2. What is the qualification criteria to become a designated Green Community?
 - a. Provide zoning in designated locations for the as-of-right siting of: 1) renewable or alternative energy generating facilities or 2) renewable or alternative energy research and development ((R&D) facilities or 3) renewable or alternative energy manufacturing facilities
 - b. Adopt an expedited application and permitting process under which facilities may be sited in the town and the permitting process shall not exceed one (1) year from the date of initial application to the date of final approval
 - c. Establish an energy baseline inventory for all municipal buildings, vehicles, and street and traffic lighting. Adopt a comprehensive five-year Energy Reduction Plan designed to reduce the energy baseline by 20 percent.
 - d. Purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles for town use whenever such vehicles are commercially available and practicable.
 - e. Must require all new residential construction over 3,000 square feet and all new commercial and industrial real estate construction to minimize, to the extent feasible, the life cycle cost of facilities/buildings by utilizing energy efficiency, water conservation and other renewable or alternative energy technologies.
3. Where are we in meeting the criteria to become a designated Green
 - a. We have met the criteria (a) and (b) above in May 2011 with the passage of Section 8 of the Zoning By-Law – Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations.
 - b. We are in the process of establishing our energy baseline and developing our 5 Year Energy Reduction Plan.
 - c. We are in the process of completing our vehicle inventory and developing a fuel efficient vehicle policy.
 - d. There will be an article on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on May 2nd to adopt the Board of Building Regulations and Standards Stretch Code (780 CMR 115.AA), an appendix to the MA State Building Code. There is a Public Hearing scheduled on this article on April 13th at Town Hall. **NOTE:** If adopted this would only apply to new construction not additions and/or remodeling of a home.

LET'S TALK ABOUT BLANDFORD'S FY2017 BUDGET PROCESS

Budget Process:

- Instructions from BoS – Depts. Submit based on perceived depart. Needs
- Review of submitted budgets
- Meetings with departments
- Develop a budget based on available revenue

Anticipated revenue: \$3,548,378 - 3.85% increase

Regular Budget Requests: \$3,620,956 – 6.0% increase

Recommended Budget: \$3,526,097 - 3.23% increase

Gateway Assessment to Blandford				
	FY2016		FY2017	
	Passed by Town	DESE Mandated	District Assessment	District Level Assessment
Gateway Budget	1,584,148	1,603,019	1,611,060	1,583,524
% Change from Passed by Town			1.7%	0.0%
% Change from DESE Mandated			0.5%	-1.7%

Note 1: \$1,611,060 reflected in the budget

Note 2: Four Gateway towns (including Blandford) have requested a reduction to produce a level total assessment to all towns

Vocational Education		
	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Budget
Tuition	114,462	80,000
Transportation	36,000	36,000
Total	150,462	116,000

Significant Budget Changes			
Description	FY2016 Budget	FY2017 Request	FY2017 Budget
Treasurer Salary	16,380	20,000	20,000
Town Clerk	3,619	10,000	3,619
Conservation Commission	2,000		1,000
Audit - Consulting support	20,000	40,000	40,000
Town Counsel	25,000	35,000	35,000
Town Hall Utilities	10,000	25,000	30,000
Ambulance*	22,000	23,210	38,710
Police Salaries	26,522	30,177	25,000
Fire Inspector	-	4,000	4,000
Highway salaries	143,693	177,997	141,130
Highway Total	399,566	494,962	407,303
Library Salaries	26,019	37,367	28,600
Library Expenses	18,123	30,626	19,012
Property/Liability Ins**	45,220	54,000	54,000
Fire/Police Disability	11,333	15,000	15,000
Hampden County Retirement	45,675	54,305	54,305
Worker's Comp	5,045	11,000	11,000
Group Health Ins**	58,770	61,671	61,671
Debt Exclusion Princ. & Int	58,843	64,234	64,234
Stabilization***	55,000	80,000	80,000
*) 5.5% increase plus \$15,500 for Town assessment for new ambulance			
**) Excludes Water Dept. estimated share			
***) To fund previously approved amount			

Stabilization Account 6/30/2015	
Appropriated	314,523
Actual in Account	156,107
Shortfall	158,416

Significant Issues:

1. Town financial records were in worse shape than thought possible. Past 9 months spent on FY2015 closing correcting numerous errors carried forward from prior years. Required outside assistance.
2. Stabilization Account – Should not have a deficiency in this account. We should vote to “move” \$158,416 to the general account.
3. Expect a substantial adjustment to Town cash and receivables as part of the FY2015 closing. Impact of this not clear.
4. We do not expect any Free Cash for FY2015.