



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
February 22, 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. Ann Fisk- Blandford Ski Area Liquor Licenses
 - a. Mrs. Fisk submitted request to the Board for a liquor license for the annual wine tasting and snow shoe hike on April 2, 2016. Board reviewed and signed.
 - b. Mrs. Fisk submitted request to the Board for a liquor license for the annual Open House/ski sale/beer garden on October 22 & 23. Board signed and reviewed. Discussed possibility of holding a 5k race on that day as well. Less than 100 people expected.
 - c. Discussed holding a practice drill with the Fire Department and Ski Patrol
2. MIIA Representative Michael Garrold
 - a. Discussion regarding increase in assessment of several town buildings. (first assessment done in about 10 years) Board asked Mr. Garrold to have an outside agency perform another assessment. Mr. Garrold agreed.
 - b. Mr. Levakis will provide Mr. Garrold with a list of values for the Water Pump Station.
 - c. Mr. Montanaro asked that Mr. Garrold break out the costs for the Old Town Hall and provide him with a copy. Mr. Garrold agreed.
3. Fire Chief:
 - a. Fire Department Building - Status of & repairs needed.
 - i. Of the items suggested to repair by MIIA only one has been fixed (the section of roof)
 - ii. Water continues to leak in under the garage doors.
 - iii. There is an engineer scheduled to assess building and advise what is fixable and what is beyond repair.
 - iv. To put a modern fire apparatus in the garage we would need to install larger doors.

- v. Mr. Montanaro- next steps are to set the ground work to have the budget prep done, find a suitable property, get a design ready that reflects what we can afford, construction, demolition. This has risen to the top of our priority list.
 - vi. Mr. Dolby and Chief Harvey will look into the new Tolland Fire Station plans.
 - b. Fairgrounds: will schedule inspection in April with the Building Inspector.
 - i. Some significant issues last year have been corrected. However they still have several concerns about the general conditions of the fairgrounds.
 - c. Fire Apparatus:
 - i. One of the trucks is 30 years old and it is strongly recommended that it be taken out of service at 25 years. It is a manual which is tough for training. In some instances there hasn't been a driver available and we have been unable to take it out. Having an older truck can increase residential fire protection for residents.
 - ii. Proposing \$450,000 for new apparatus to the Finance Committee. (discussed temporary housing at the Highway Garage)
 - iii. Had a demo vehicle out here last week, cost would be \$350,000.
 - iv. If had to choose, Chief Harvey would choose a vehicle over a new building to better assist in saving lives.
 - v. Have received some grants for equipment.
4. Old Town Hall - Sale of.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro - should we look for a realtor to list the property?
 - b. Mr. Levakis - first we have to reconcile the situation regarding the parking lot. Cara will look into have a real-estate attorney review deeds.
5. Minutes: Mr. Montanaro motion to approve minutes of February 16, 2016 as written, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote. Mr. Levakis abstained as he was absent.
6. Pay Increase Policy: Proposed by Mr. Montanaro
 - a. Stating that the Selectboard sets the pay rates for the new and old employees.
 - b. Mary Kronholm- under Ch 78 of Mass Gen Law the library trustees have the authority to do all of the hiring and firing for the library, it is not up to the Selectboard.
 - i. The Selectboard will review this law and send the new policy to Town Counsel for review.
 - ii. Mr. Montanaro- it may be common practice, but I am under the impression that ultimately it's under the responsibility of the Selectboard. I am not trying to propose a mass change in how we operate. Regarding the Board of Health, Town Counsel clearly

stated that the Selectboard is the official hiring authority and set the pay rates.

7. Dale Miller: concerns about open meeting laws regarding Finance Committee meetings.
 - a. Finance Committee has met for the last couple meetings at the house of the chair as she is currently disabled and unable to leave the house. Without her presence they are unable to make quorum as another member is out of town.
 - b. Mrs. Miller presented a letter of complaint regarding the meeting she attended last week at the chair's house.
 - c. The Board had Cara check with Town Counsel to ensure that the meetings were following the open meeting law. As long as the house is open to the public and press and meetings are posted correctly they are fine.
 - d. Mr. Dolby- it's not a conspiracy, it's an attempt at an accommodation as we need the Finance Committee to work on the budget.
8. Town Clerk: received information from Attorney General, 2 new bylaws have been approved. Will be posted in 5 places and included in our bylaws.
9. Conservation Commission: has not submitted a budget to the Finance Committee yet. It will be level funded if they haven't received anything by next week.
10. GTAC: meeting was held Wednesday. GTAC is asking the 6 towns to send a letter to the School Committee asking that they don't assess the towns above what we can afford. (Blandford provided them with a number we can afford for FY17 last week) Currently the 1.3% assessment is above what we can afford. Board agreed, Cara will send letter.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro motion to support the statement presented by the Huntington Finance Committee that the School Committee level fund the assessment for FY17, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
11. Highway Strategy Session: Mr. Curry
 - a. Mr. Curry presented the Board with DOT Chapter 90 paperwork to sign for reimbursement Shepard/Sperry Roads totaling \$86,000. Saved \$13,000
 - b. Road Strategy: Mr. Curry put together some figures using last year's prices.
 - i. Birch Hill Road: paving, grinding, re-shaping about 1 mile not including any other work, drainage, survey, buying property, etc cost \$205,785. Total cost would come to just under \$1,000,000.
 - ii. South Street: 1.5 miles paving, grinding, re-shaping (not including drainage, culverts etc) \$308,677 (plus another \$10,000 to fix until the end.)
 1. discussed getting price to grind up and go back to gravel and fix drainage.
 - iii. Chester Road: 2.5 miles \$540,000, 1.3 miles \$280,000, .7 miles \$151,000 (no drainage included)

- iv. Expecting about \$260,000 in Chapter 90 funding.
- v. Board agreed to do .7 mile section of Chester Road and include drainage work
- vi. Mr. Montanaro: need a number to go to the Town with. Would like to have it in the budget.
- vii. Herrick Road: discussed renting a small paver to do an overlay to last a couple more years. Mr. Curry will put together a price.
- viii. Mr. Curry showed the Board his visual plan for outlining roads done and working on.

Old Business:

1. Highway Garage Status:
 - a. The Building Inspector drafted a letter to the Contractor and Engineering firm listing the items that are not up to code and asking them to please address the issues.
 - b. We are holding about \$40,000 in payments.
 - c. An outside engineer will be reviewing the impacts the situations that are not up to code and determine how they will affect the building.

9:49 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to go into executive session not to reconvene to discuss discipline of a Highway Department employee, 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

William Levakis - Member