



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
April 18, 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. Hazard Mitigation Planning: Jamie Caplan updated Board/Residents on the status
 - a. Provided a prioritized list mitigation actions
 - b. Next Steps:
 - i. Residents review the plan online or via hard copy (available in several locations) and submit comments
 - ii. Plan will go to the State for review
 - iii. Once approved the plan will go to FEMA for review
 - iv. Once approved by FEMA the plan will be approved pending adoption by the Selectboard
 - v. The plan will be good for 5 years. However it should be updated/ reviewed yearly or post disaster.
2. Wired West: Jim Drawe Treasurer
 - a. Update on status:
 - i. Currently in negotiations with MBI
 - ii. Reviewing, tweaking financial model
 - iii. Reviewing operating agreement
 - iv. State Department is requiring that the ownership change from WW to the Towns, even though the participating towns have voted to belong to a co-op.
 1. This will impact the administrative ability
 2. The Towns will own and lease the equipment to WW and WW will be responsible for maintenance and support.

3. Some assets will require inter-municipal agreements to serve some customers on town lines
 4. MBI will do the purchasing and engineering and then the titles will be turned over to Town assets.
 - v. WW convinced MBI to all the towns to be connected in a ring as it is self-healing as opposed to having a hub in Springfield. This way we will be feeding all of the bandwidth into the ring and each town draws what they need to save on operating expenses.
 - vi. Proposal still going back and forth but meeting regularly and moving forward.
- b. Impact of Towns who have dropped out on those remaining:
- i. MBI point of view that only 4-5 towns are economically viable to do it alone. They are planning to do a wireless study which will cost approximately \$600,000 of funding earmarked for the last mile project. Mr. Drawe – would prefer that this money be spent on the project itself.
 - ii. Senator Rosenberg is planning to meet with some of the Selectmen to hear their opinions. – Mr. Dolby expressed interest in going.
- c. Mr. Drawe has asked the Governor about the \$50 million earmarked for this project, how it has been spent so far and plans for future spending.
- d. Town's next steps:
- i. Send letter to the Governor – to be signed tonight
 - ii. WW is putting together an online petition for subscribers to sign.
 - iii. Town election – vote on debt exclusion
 1. Mr. Drawe - 24 towns have passed the debt exclusion thus far, the more that pass it the stronger the message to the Governor that we are ready to proceed.
- e. Mr. Montanaro – if we pass the debt exclusion for \$1.7 million, how do we get billed for the project?
- i. Mr. Drawe – the new Governor and MBI want to spend the state money and the town money together. Quarterly we will go to the towns and do a proportional ask for the amount needed to pay the next quarter's bills. Towns will have a seat at the table to have control over change orders and design.
 - ii. RFP process engineer will submit the price and MBI will pay 1/3 and the towns will pay 2/3. WW will ask the engineer for the draw schedule.
 - iii. Make ready work has to be paid up front to the power company and Verizon. We will be doing a poll survey prior to start to get an amount, and then we will come up with a draw schedule.
 - iv. Dated plan – will get from the design engineer company.
 - v. Insurance while engineering – bond carried by construction company.

- vi. Plan to charge equally throughout the project and once WW starts to generate a profit, will put that back in the project so that all towns borrow less money.
3. Minutes: Mr. Dolby motion to approve minutes from April 11, 2016 as written, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote. (Mr. Montanaro left the meeting and did not vote)
4. Disposal of Insulin Needles: change in state policy and the transfer station will no longer accept the needles as of July 1. They cannot be disposed of in Westfield either. Mr. Levakis will follow-up with BOH.
5. Town Administrator Search Committee: Cara resigned. Board decided to continue search on their own and dissolve the committee.

Old Business:

8:15 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to adjourn, Mr. Levakis second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:
Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member