



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Board of Selectmen, Minutes
June 6, 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. Bill Ennen Regarding MBI: Liaison for Baker Administration in the Last Mile Program. Mr. Ennen's goal is to push the State to move faster and to help towns get more information. Mr. Ennen reports to the Secretary of Economic Development, not MBI.
 - a. Part of Mr. Ennen's role today is to meet our town designee (Mr. Langmore) and introduce himself.
 - b. On May 10, 2016 Governor Baker acknowledged a restart of the MBI program with more license and flexibility. (Cara has a copy of presentation, will have it put on the town site) Gov. Baker affirmed that the Division of Local Services has a large role to play and a vote on the board to make the projects affordable and sustainable.
 - i. Flexibility:
 1. Some communities asked to use state funds to try to go wireless.
 2. Adopted a concept project should have a baseline of passing 96% of homes
 3. Adopted FCC standard of megabyte minimums
 4. If town needs to it can work to develop a pilot project
NOTE: no town will be forced to use a technology they aren't comfortable with.
 - c. Mr. van Werkhoven: where does "fresh start" leave Wired West?
 - i. Mr. Ennen: my job is to make contact with 44 towns and assess their needs. It is clear that the region needs collaboration at various times. I can't pause and figure that all out and impede on

the towns that are ready to move forward. Wired West is not my focus.

1. Mr. van Werkhoven: this town is focused on participating in Wired West and we are curious how MB sees Wired West as a solution.
2. Mr. Ennen: I can't concur or satisfy you with an answer. There has been a large amount of time looking at Wired West proposal by the state I asked to take the time instead to satisfy the state and the towns.

d. Time line:

- i. need to get into a "deep dive" process. For a town that is in great shape the start work is a pole survey, then design, then make ready work with Eversource and Verizon (always the most expensive part of the project) then proceed to construction. From start to finish about 2 years.

e. Mr. Langmore: We have passed all of the requirements for Wired West. Our town can't afford to go it alone. A Co-op is the best model for us.

- i. Mr. Dolby: We don't run any other utilities for the town. We have extremely challenging topography for wireless. A Co-op is an opportunity for the best of both worlds.
- ii. Mr. Ennen: there is no question we need a regional plan. The pressure point are towns with better financials and more technological capacity that just need to get going on the project. We need to hold on to large towns and bring the small towns into a solution. When we do the deep dive for Blandford we will go through all of the details and create a joint recommendation. At that point a 21 day clock will start to get MBI on board. The town can elect to go it alone and forgo the technical assistance, instead receiving a grant. Or they can opt to use MBI as a professional service team/general contractor to work with the Town. We are looking into examples of regional programs that work well to draw some ideas regarding a regional option.
- iii. Mr. Bacon: this feels like a forced situation. The State is holding us back. We decided to move forward with Wired West. Now this puts us further behind.
- iv. Mr. Ennen: I will ask your designee to funnel insights, preferences and ideas and MBI will give specific contacts. Either way you will need a grant and design engineers.

f. Mr. Montanaro: at what point in the process do we see a financial model?

- i. Mr. Ennen: Within the 21 day window after the deep dive meeting we will get an understanding of the affordability and sustainability of this project.

2. Bond Approval: Treasurer presented bond to be signed from the emergency storm damage funding.
 - a. \$544,980.00 of the \$725,000.00 bond will be paid down. (will cover money temporarily until receive funding from FEMA)
 - b. \$120,620.00 will be rolled over
 - c. Mr. Dolby motion to authorize the Treasurer to pay the temporary loan for the ice storm damage and to re-borrow \$120,620.00, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.
3. Library Building Fund: Mr. Montanaro motion to combine the library trust fund account, \$4,951.20 with the library building account, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
4. Payroll Increase for Highway Employees: was held back during union negotiations.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro: motion to pay 2.5% increase to date, retroactive to present and to raise the current rate of pay the same 2.5% for current Highway Employees effective immediately, Mr. Dolby second.
 - i. Discussion: Mr. Levakis: are we paying retroactively past employees as well?
 1. Treasurer: no only current, I checked with the auditor.
 - ii. The union contract, which is not complete yet, will determine what the Highway Employees will receive for raises going forward.
 - iii. Unanimous vote.

8:00 p.m. adjourn for 15 minutes for the Finance Nominating Committee Meeting

8:15 p.m. Mr. Dolby motion to reconvene, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote.

5. Maple Lane: Mrs. Wilander presented a letter to the Board regarding the Board's decision not to plow private roads this coming winter. (this decision was based on advice from Town Counsel)
 - a. Mrs. Wilander pointed out that:
 - i. The residents don't own the road (the owner is deceased)
 - ii. It is all taxable property
 - iii. The town owns property on the road
 - iv. The road has been plowed by the town for the past 30 years. And it was approved by legal back then.
 - b. The town had discussed taking the road awhile back. Part of the stipulation was that the resident on the corner cut down trees on the edge of the road to help with drainage. He had not agreed to do so and is now selling the property
 - c. Mr. Dolby: we can't just plow the road. Legal has advised us not to. I would like to figure out how to work with the residents to get to a point to take the road. I disagreed with legal's opinion but it's not an approved appropriation of town funds

- d. Mr. Curry: biggest issue with the road is the second half. The measurements don't add up. Need to have it surveyed.
 - e. Mr. van Werkhoven: the Road has to be in a certain standard condition to be taken by the town.
 - f. Mr. Curry will take another look at the road and speak with the residents.
 - g. Mr. Montanaro: We also sent a letter to Beagle Club residents that we would not be plowing. If we decided to take Maple Lane, we would need a clear reason to do so.
- 6. Election Ratification: the recent town election was held on the first Saturday in May and it should have been held on the second Saturday. Town Clerk presented paperwork and wording to the Board to ratify the election.
 - a. Mr. Dolby motion to petition the Governor to ratify the results of the town election that took place on May 7, 2016, Mr. Montanaro second, unanimous vote. Mr. Levakis abstained as it pertained to him.
- 7. Using BOS Authority without BOS Approval:
 - a. Mr. Montanaro: funds were authorized to be spent by Mr. Levakis at Watson Park for sand for the volleyball court and for top soil without Selectboard authorization. Town Employee time was also used without consent. I would like to review the fact that, in the future, as you pointed out to us Mr. Levakis, the BOS should be involved in making these decisions.
 - i. Mr. Levakis agreed.
 - ii. Mr. Dolby: we don't have procurement flowing property. I spoke with Josephine Sarnelli about outlining the process. Purchases should go through a central point to handle purchasing correctly.
 - iii. Mr. Curry: we should have a Procurement Officer. (Mr. Levakis is currently the temporary Procurement Officer)
 - iv. Mr. Montanaro: I have no objection to the purchase, just the process.
- 8. Attacks on Residents in a Public Meeting:
 - a. Discussed going into executive session to discuss. Topic goes back to last week's discussion. Mr. Levakis opted to hold the discussion in open meeting.
 - b. Board agreed to move the discussion to the end of the meeting as there is a time constraint.
- 9. Minutes: tabled to next week.
- 10. Huntington Road Grading and Drainage:
 - a. Mr. Montanaro: a resident emailed me a message that had circulated 3 years ago regarding the grading done on Huntington Road at the time. When it was graded water was moved off the road using water run-outs. The water ran towards the pond. The owner of the pond claiming that it was not within environmental standards and the grading was filling the pond. Mr. Montanaro asked advice on how to respond.

- viii. Mr. Levakis: we are a Board of three, I am trying to change the way things are done, and this is more important than me ordering dirt.
- ix. Mr. Dolby: let's table this until we reach out to the departments and ask about potential problems of requiring a board vote. Asked Cara to have Counsel come in and have a conversation about other options.
- x. Mr. Montanaro motion to construct a proposal to Kopleman for a fee for their service for the year so we have a set amount.

Old Business:

1. Chapter 90 Update:
 - a. 2nd part of the project: no approval from DOT yet.
 - b. 1st part of the project: contractors did the walk through today.
2. Employee Evaluations: Cara presented a list of employees to be reviewed by the Board.
 - a. Mr. Montanaro: uncomfortable with doing the evaluations in public, recommends that the Selectboard are the first to be reviewed, specifically himself.
 - b. Cara will contact other towns and see how they do their evaluations.
3. Insurance: Cara forwarded the letter to MIIA from Tighe and Bond regarding the Water Plant assessment.
 - a. John McVeigh from Huntington is meeting with MIIA to discuss bringing the classes they hold up our way. Cara will contact him to discuss participating.
4. Town Administrator:
 - a. Received questions from Mr. Dolby and Mr. Montanaro. Cara will combine for interviews.
 - b. Have a list of top three names from all BOS members. Cara will start scheduling interviews.
5. Closing Books:
 - a. Discussed the special town meeting warrant to be posted on the 13th.
 - b. Mr. van Werkhoven will ask the Accountant for an expenditure report.
 - c. Mrs. Smith will post a joint BOS/Finance meeting on Thursday.
6. Mr. vanWerkhoven: would like a public apology from Mr. Levakis for the inaccurate statement made last week.
 - a. Mr. Levakis: that's not gonna happen in a million years. I have no apology for you. You're full of crap, just because Brad is worn down by the Board and Finance and he didn't want to say anything.
 - b. Mr. Montanaro: my concern is that you had finance on the agenda and brought Mr. vanWerkhoven on to discuss a private problem unrelated to finance. You misrepresented the item on the agenda. Then you accused him of disrupting the Highway Department when Mr. Curry said that was not the case. We do know that you disrupted the work by calling Mr.

Curry into the office off the job. You owe Mr. van Werkhoven an apology for making private matters public.

- c. Mr. Levakis: I got a call at home that Tony, as a public official was harassing Brad in retaliation.
- d. Mr. Dolby: the issue on the agenda was "finance". It was a complaint, not about Mr. vanWerkhoven as a financial officer. If there was a complaint it was about him as a private citizen and that is separate. He is not an elected official.
- e. Mr. Levakis: You're trouble makers and you'll be put in your place.
- f. Mr. Dolby: clearly we have unresolved issues for the next meeting.

9:47 p.m. Mr. Montanaro motion to adjourn, Mr. Dolby second, unanimous vote.
Submitted by: Cara Letendre

Adam Dolby - Chair

Andrew Montanaro - Clerk

William Levakis - Member