



TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Water Department, Minutes
June 18, 2015

Attendance: Gordon Avery, William Levakis, Brad Curry, Cara Letendre - Secretary

Open Meeting:

4:35 p.m. Mr. Levakis formally called meeting to order, provided notice that meeting will be recorded.

Posted Agenda Items:

1. Solar: Mr. Avery quote from Endless Mountain Solar services.
 - a. M.G.L. pertaining to Ch 30 B, doesn't have to go out to bid. However project has to be ready to go within 15 days of accepting.
 - i. Mr. Levakis: like to see the benefits from other companies as well.
 - b. Discussed details of quote. S-Rec money kicks in after 3 months, we would receive funds after 6 months.
 - c. Cara will contact Mr. Shuzdek at Rural Water regarding funding. About \$225,000 needed. Looking for 50/50 grant or grant loan.
 - d. We are currently paying about \$35,000 in electric bills annually. We will reduce our costs by about 40% with this program. However we would need to put 40% down initially. Discussed length of loan.
 - e. Mr. Avery will let seller know we are waiting on loan information.
 - f. Green Community: discussed revisiting this to help with funding. The Planning Board would need a letter from the Selectboard requesting them to move forward in this direction. Mr. Levakis will follow-up.

Old Business:

1. Billing and Collecting: Mr. Levakis proposal to bring billing and collecting back in to the Water Department due to problems and lack of response with current system. It is budgeted for FY16 at an hourly rate.
 - a. Mr. Avery: how many additional hours will that entail? Mr. Levakis: some hours will overlap and there will be some additional evening hours but overall it will cost us about the same as we had budgeted for. Because Cara is here all week, people will have more opportunities to pay their bills.
 - b. Cara will contact the bank to set-up remote access to SoftRight and the check scanner.
 - c. Mr. Levakis motion to pull the billing and collecting out of the tax collector's office and moving into the water department, Mr. Curry second, unanimous vote.
2. Plumbing: Mr. Messinger on North Blandford Road has needed a meter set-up for over a year now.
 - a. Mr. Curry will work on compiling a list of 3 plumbers to have on call.

- b. The Water Department will supply the parts.
- 3. Hydrants: plan to do a test flow, pressure check.
 - a. Will have water employees do this and at the same time rate and flush the hydrants.
 - b. Plan to create a map and color code flag markers for Fire Department use.
 - a. Field Commissioners: work as a supervisor on breaks, coordinates companies etc. Mr. Levakis will get details to Mr. Avery. NOTE: Gordon will observe break repair for now until comfortable stepping in.
- 4. Tax Collector: looking into hazard mitigation grant to fund North Street break.
- 5. Meter Scheduling: Cara scheduling with Norene St. Martin
- 6. Union Agricultural Society: soon to have lien placed on property as unable to pay for 4 services.
 - a. Mr. Levakis recommended going back to original billing. Board agreed.
 - b. Mr. St. Martin will help hook-up the meters before turn the water on.
- 7. Mr. Levakis: begin employee reviews.

New Business:

- 2. Contractors: Cara is compiling a list of contractors who will rent equipment along with rates.
 - a. NOTE: Cara will compile list of employees with licenses held.
- 3. Herrick Road Clean-up: will revisit FY16
- 4. Fire Usage Tax: Board asked Cara to continue research and re-approach Town Counsel.
 - a. Discussed billing the Town for water used during roadwork.
 - b. Mr. Avery will research a hook-up charge for contractors and new residents.

6:15 p.m. Mr. Levakis motion to adjourn meeting, Mr. Curry second, unanimous vote.

Submitted by:
Cara Letendre

William Levakis - Chair

Brad Curry- Clerk

Gordon Avery - Member